



**Minnesota Hockey District 3
Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, August 12 2020**

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|---|------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| x | Nicole Brodersen | District Director | | Association Reps |
| x | Mark Brandt | President/Scheduling | x | Mike Melsha ACYHA |
| x | Shelly Johnson | Administrator | x | Kristi Duis Delano Area |
| | | Treasurer | | Reid Paul Hopkins |
| | Cheryl Myers | Social Media/Comm. | x | Bill Robeck Mpls & Hockey Operations |
| x | Machele Whitmore | Registrar | x | Brad Butler Mound Westonka |
| x | Neil Olson | BHRA President | x | Kity Marinac North Metro |
| x | Matt Olsonoski | BHRA Supervisor | x | Kelly Greene Orono |
| | Mike Anderson | BHRA Scheduler | x | Steve Fischer OMG |
| | Chad Nicholls | Tourney Coord. | x | Paul Steenerson OMG |
| | Kendra Verbeten | HP/Tier 1 | x | Michelle Jirik St Louis Park |
| | Josh Hicks | Coach-in-Chief | x | Nicholas Cook Wayzata |
| | Ron Warren | Griev. Comm. Chair | | |
| | Rob Roy | Girls Coordinator | | Guests/Alternates Present: |
| x | Diane Margenau | Membership Devel. | | Adam Reiter, OMG President |
| | Greg Gibson | Metro League | | Bob Larson, Hopkins alternate |
| | Todd Larson | Metro League | | |
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- **Call to order TIME:** 7:03PM
- July Minutes: Motion to approve: Paul Seconded: Kelly
Minutes approved

1. **District 3 Director Report-** Will be getting update tonight regarding any return to play changes and protocols. Will follow up with everyone tomorrow with email update.
While meeting and talking with rink personnel, make sure they know about MN Hockey protocols. A USA Hockey covid waiver will need to be signed by every player. All rules will need to be followed.
MN is at 101% of where we were at this time last year with hockey registrations, so that is good news.
Tier 1/2 tryouts were completed. Thank you to Kendra and Shelly for their work. Big shout out to the coaches and evaluators during evaluations and to those now coaching. We had more registrations this year for tryouts than ever before, thank you to those that did the outreach visits to associations.

2. **District 3 Administrator Report-** Nothing major to report. Will be ordering scoresheets for the season. While rinks and associations will have covid protocols, probably good to include as part of fall coach and manager meetings as well.
3. **District 3 President Report-** With everything that is going on in regards to Covid19 we need to find out what the different protocols are going to be at the arenas that you will be hosting your D3 games at for the upcoming season. Please find out this information out so that we can discuss it under New Business.

These are the items that we would like to know:

1. Is there any special requirements besides wearing a mask, not being sick, etc. to enter the facility? For example, filling out a waiver or something of that nature.
2. Do skaters need to come to the arena dressed in their equipment where they just need to put on their skates?
3. Will the players be able to use the locker rooms?
4. Are they going to resurfaces that require more than 15 minutes to clean the benches etc....?

5. Will the referees locker rooms be available for them to use? is there any special cleaning that needs to be done in between referee teams?
Matt added that referees will need locker rooms, need somewhere to lock up belongings.

Mpls is apparently looking at waivers for everyone that enters the rink.

4. **District 3 Treasurer Report-** Still working through records. Going forward will need financial report at every meeting. We should have been doing that all along. Still looking at paying someone to fill this role, too hard to get a volunteer.

5. **D3 Associates Reports –**

- Supervisor of Officials: Nothing really new, Nicole asked if there is a plan for new officials training. Matt said there will be seminars via zoom but in person training on the ice is on hold for now. The retention of officials from last year was very good.
- Registrar: Aug 26 7:00 is the D3 registrar meeting -via zoom.
Everyone on the D3 board needs to send me (Machele) their USA Hockey Registration Number-Ideally by Monday. Also, make sure your associations know about their flex roster-ask Machele if you have questions. Want to get the D3 roster done by Monday.

Coach in Chief: no report

- Membership and Development:
Hosted a meeting via zoom and had about 15-16 participants. It went pretty well and gave a lot of info about different programs.

TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE - USA Hockey's Try Hockey for Free will be November 7, 2020 and February 20, 2021. Registration for host sites is now open. LOCAL TRY HOCKEY SANCTIONING - There has been adjustments in how local try hockey and learn to play (if designed for first time skaters) events are handled. To receive sanctioning for a local event on your own date, please submit your event information to <https://portal.usahockey.com/tool/tryhockeysignup> and select "Custom Event." USA HOCKEY POSTERS - If you are looking for promotional materials to use for the fall, check out USA Hockey's posters. They have an extended list of posters with a variety of messages. You can download and use them to promote the game in your community.

- Jr Gold:
Kelly asked what happens if high school season gets delayed or cancelled...what happens with Jr Gold? Mark said the MSHSL is planning an early October decision about high school hockey. Is there a concern over deadlines and player rules? Will players try and switch teams? Nicole said we will likely need to make adjustments as this is a fluid situation.
Waiting for High School League to announce information on a 20/21 Boys High School season to finalize JGHSL season. JGHSL Board is planning season for normal start.
JGHSL 2020/2021 *Boys High School Tryouts: Nov 9th-13th
*JGHSL Tryouts: Nov 15th-18th
*D3 Association Team declarations due to GGG: Wednesday Nov 18th, 9:00pm *JGHSL Coaches Clinic: Saturday Nov 21st, 8:00am-4:00pm at TBD
*JGHSL Coaches Clinic: Sunday Nov 22nd, 10:00am-2:00pm at TBD
*JGHSL League Scheduling Mtg: Monday Nov 23rd, 7:00pm at Schwan's Convention Ctr.
*D3 JGHSL Mandatory Coach/Mgr Mtg: Sunday Nov 29th, 6:00pm at PIC Center Ice Room *JGHSL starts league games: Monday Nov 30th
*JGHSL ends league games: Friday Feb 19th
*JGHSL Playdowns: Tues Feb 23rd-Sunday Feb 28th *State Tournament: Friday March 12th-Sunday March 14th
- Girls League Coordinator: no report
- Grievance Committee: no report
- Scheduling Coordinator: Mark will set up meeting end of month with schedulers. Remind associations to keep up on registration numbers.

- Tournament Coordinator : Waiting to get together with Mark and Nicole and maybe Neil to discuss tourneys. Nicole said the Governors recommendation is that teams do not travel outside MN.
- Social Media/Website: Working on setting up a page for association registrars to connect with the District Registrar and each other. Updates to the remainder of the website for the upcoming season will happen once the leagues are set.
- HP/Tier 1: Nicole shared that MAP had positive COVID cases and some of our players go there, sharing in the interest of full disclosure. Communication went out to families with players that attend MAP.
- Hockey Operations: no report

6. D3 Association Representatives:

Armstrong Cooper: Building out a "COVID-19" and "Back to the ICE" communication plan as many families voice their concerns regarding upcoming season. Registration numbers are down compared to last year at this time approximately 50%.

Delano: Successful finish to STP, still looking for a 12UB goalie, DAYHA board is wondering who will make the final decision on whether we have a hockey season or not - is it up to the district? decided at the state level? what does the impact of the school attendance decision have (if any) on whether there is a season? Opened registration last week. Considering East Grand Forks-Proctor approach to squirt development.

Hopkins: Arena Covid plans in place. Registration open.

Minneapolis: Branding changes. Shifting from purple/orange to some combo of white/black/silver. Park board may require a waiver from everyone entering the rink.

Mound-Westonka: Registration opens August 14th through September 3rd Adding two U15 teams to the Warrior Girl's Hockey Coop Annual golf event this Friday at Timber Creek. May end up adding a girls' team, see how registration numbers are.

North Metro Try hockey for free is going to happen, planning on a mentoring program for new and old players and families and figuring out how to train our coaches to deal with bullying and racial

discrimination (any ideas). Considering payment plan for registration fees.

Orono: Continue to progress with season. Delayed registration, but hope to have it up soon. Hired most of the coaches for the season. New jerseys for boys this year. Approved new player/parent/coaches code of conduct. Possibly in need of 1 PW goalie this year.

Osseo Maple Grove: Started a diversity inclusion position on the board.

Established a theme of "we are community", meaning to be respectful of all teams and rules.

Osseo Rink is getting new boards.

Adam Reiter, OMG president joined the meeting. Wishes to discuss the OMG request to only have one Squirt A team this year versus two. First would like to share that the diversity inclusion initiative is something I am very passionate about. I (Adam) work for Target and the Lake St store is one of my stores. We are looking for and supporting collaboration on this effort and invite other associations to participate.

Regarding Squirt A, would like the board to reconsider allowing OMG to have one squirt A team. OMG has had two teams the past 2-3 years.

Even though they have had good records, we find kids being left behind in their development. The OMG travel committee voted

unanimously to have one team. We focus on the player experience and development. D3 put out guidelines for team formation a few years ago and we have been following them and playing by the rules.

We understand the decision is final. We appealed to MN Hockey and Scott Dornfeld upheld the D3 decision. It doesn't feel good to be dictated to with respect to our program.

Paul asked why D3 feels it can mandate OMG to have two squirt A teams?

Mark responded by saying that there are a lot of factors. At squirts there is no set structure. We look at how many returning players there are, how was the prior year(s) success. This year, every association will have a squirt A team. OMG has 10 returning squirt A players. Need to look at impact, kids that played A or should play A, if get put on B now and play at the level, will dominate at B level. Paul added that if looking at wins/losses, it is not about that. If we played a team last year that didn't get a shot on goal, that isn't our fault. If associations choose to play at the AA or A level and shouldn't be, we cannot control that.

Nicole said the work OMG does on player development is exceptional, but MN Hockey asks District Directors to maintain competitive play and teams. We have a process in place and we need to advocate for what will be in the best interest of D3 players.

Paul said he asked Scott Dornfeld what associations like Moorhead, WBL, and others don't have to have two squirt A teams and his response was that their districts haven't brought it up.

Michelle said that from a smaller association perspective, it looks like playing unevenly- when an OMG parent says we are playing their "better" team.

Mike M added that from a smaller association point of view, we just want competitive play in the district. It is not fun to get beat up on at games. I would like to renegotiate how we do squirts...look at having upper/lower brackets. Nicole said we can look at how we do things, but it won't happen this year. Mike said the competition committee would be better if more transparent. We should have associations get together and put all their cards on the table. Nicole said we will have follow up on the competition committee process and improvements we can make.

Adam added that when D3 first brought out team formation guidelines, he was sitting by Mark on the board and Mark walked out of the meeting and brought back the rule book. I (Adam) would ask that you put yourself in my shoes again and remember when on other side of the table. We are approaching D3 as a partner and being respectful and I am disappointed. We should decrease the number of games for squirts in D3 and focus on development. OMG strives for the 3:1 ratio and we used to play a ridiculous amount of squirt games. We don't do that anymore.

St Louis Park: SLP has a COVID committee in place and will be meeting within the week to start planning for the season with respect to guidelines around COVID. - Locker room monitors more than likely will be coaches for this season, especially with the guidelines around COVID arrival times - Registration is open - Jersey orders are being submitting in the next couple weeks -Officials: There was a question about this year's fees for the officials and if there is an increase from last year. There was some concern about this year having an increase in fees due to COVID and many associations have lost money. There was also discussion about negotiating the cost around the ROC as it is one of our main rinks and with the circumstances we are in this year, we will need to utilize the ROC for scrimmages more this year. Also wondering where the refs rank pay wise in relation to other districts. - Special events form: does anyone know if we need to do this - for Learn to Play HP Girls: - Pulled out of all out of town tournaments and each team will have four tourneys except 15's, - Set on all levels, still figuring out 12's. 15U is merged with Hopkins/Park/Minneapolis and still working out the registration process. The 15U will MHP. - Bantam coaches are all set and still looking at numbers. There is a fine line and hoping to go on the higher side but we are currently around 50

players at Bantams but this could change. - PW's coaches are locked except for C and still connecting with all to lock in. Numbers looking good still for three teams. - Squirts: coaches are set for A - Learn to Play is starting back up Sept 15th.

Can there be an earlier drop dead date for game scheduling? Mark said trying to keep it about the same. Looked at earlier but not sure how registration numbers will be so went with holding where we are at.

Wayzata: WYHA hosted special board meeting last month to elect new board members. Registration begins August 15. Expecting consistency. WYHA is in favor of BB2 reduction of officials per recommendation from BHRA.

Need to understand expectations around this squirt discussion. Paul clarified that the discussion was not with the full D3 board but with the competition committee. Nicholas added that Wayzata has opinions around this as well.

- 7. Old Business:** need for new treasurer-have a short term solution to get invoices taken care of. Working on long term solution.
- Referees- four man at Bantam AA and 2 man at Bantam B1 is recommendation from BHRA. Would need to be changed in rules and regs if approved. MN Hockey is only allowing two officials on the ice for now anyway. D6 would like to but concerned about numbers. In a two man system, both officials can make calls.
- MHOA has approved the structure. Would be able to cover more games and tourneys. BB1 Used to be the next tier of play, but with AA and A, it is now the third. Neil said still planning to commit to having high level officials at B1 games. BHRA needs the schedule to line up as well too though. Mark said we need to make a decision. Bill asked if any concern if D6 doing differently. Matt said we do it different with Jr Gold already, doesn't impact anything else. Each district can still do as they wish.
- Matt O-motion to approve 4 officials at BAA, Nicolas seconded, vote to approve 4 man BAA system approved 8 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion accepted.
- Matt O-motion to approve 2officials at BB1, Nicolas seconded, vote to approve 2 man BB1 system approved 8 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion accepted.

8. New Business:

- a. Review 2020-2021 Calendar and Bylaws. Need absolute final calendar next month. Plan on district meetings for now being virtual.

- b. **Any proposed changes to rules/regs, get to Shelly by Aug 25.** Then will be sent to reps to review prior to Sept board meeting. Bill added with the feedback from OMG, we should be looking at defining what the competition committee actually be and what should it be doing. Mark said the District Director still makes the final call. Bill asked why have the committee then? We were not even aware a grievance had been filed with MN Hockey or that a decision was made. If a decision is going to be made exclusively by the director than that should be communicated to us. Nicholas added that if no communication than there is no reason. Bill said the committee gives feedback but then doesn't even know a decision is made. The point is that nobody on the committee even knew. We need a clear process outlined. What do we want?
- c. Overall general discussion around the need for better communication, transparency and responsiveness. Multiple association reps offered to help and take on work if Director and President feel overburdened.
- d. Covid procedures: Mark asked again for everyone to gather rink info- (see president report). Will talk with Cheryl about having a central location on the website for D3 rinks and their rules.
9. **Adjorn TIME:** 9:25pm Motion: Kelly Seconded: Mike M
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED