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MASS HOCKEY BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2019 - Sheraton Needham

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, October 7th, 2019 at the Needham Sheraton, Needham, Massachusetts.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:33pm

Bob thanked people for committee reports and district reports which were sent to membership prior to meeting.

There was great feedback regarding the Level 4 Coaching Clinic held in Falmouth the first weekend in October led by Paul Moore and Roger Grillo. There was over 140 coaches in attendance.

Bob Joyce shared a summary of the compliance. There are 87 board members of which 83 have USAH Registration Number, 77 have been Safesport trained, 80 have been screened, and 82 have filled a Conflict of Interest Form. This brings the total compliance to 75 of 87 members, 86%. Emails have been sent to all members with details of compliance by district.

After the September Meeting the Rules Committee met to review the Massachusetts Hockey Affiliate Agreement and made one minor change to add "501(c)(3)" in the second line of the affiliate agreement - so it now reads "...Massachusetts Hockey, Inc., a Massachusetts 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts...". There were no changes to the rule adopting the affiliate agreement.

A motion was made by Rick Vadnais to approve the rules proposal to add the requirement of the Affiliate Agreement as approved by the Rules Committee, seconded by Chris Mayer, and it passed unanimously.

Christopher Gong, Co-Chair of Rules Committee, talked about the process to comprehensively review the rules and bylaws.

Bob Joyce mentioned the need to create an operations manual for our business so we can pass on information to future Board Members.

A motion was made by Rick Vadnais, seconded by Chris Mayer, and it was voted to table indefinitely Rules Proposal 12&13 dealing with regulations for town and club team/organizations from the Annual Meeting.

Chris Mayer, Chair of Discipline Committee, shared a number of stats regarding incident reports and discipline matters from start of season:



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As of today (10/7/19) from starting 8/1/2019 there have been the following USA Hockey Incident Reports:

- 310 major with game misconducts
- 79 Game Misconducts
- 22 majors
- 17 Match Penalties
- 16 Match Penalties

Many of these Incident reports have more than one player reported for penalties - so the numbers for majors and major with game misconduct are actually higher!

7 of the Match Penalties are for 18U. 6 of them asked for and had Discipline Hearings.

6 of the younger players asked for hearings.

As of now, we have had 6 hearings for Match Penalties. 5 are still waiting to be heard.

We have had only 4 Helmet reports -and have suspended three, on the other one it was not possible to obtain an identification of coach. It was also mentioned about a coach from a program being on the cover of the New England Hockey Journal without a helmet on.

Kevin Donovan added the uptick in suspensions and discipline is in part due to Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play, and Respect. Also, added that there is more abusive language from players to referees, even more so then from coaches. Chris said we have much better relationships with Leagues and they are helping to enforce suspensions.

There are numerous issues with filing discipline reports due to unregistered or unclaimed players. There was discussion about summary suspension for coaches who plays unregistered players.

There are discipline hearings involving coaches at Assabet Valley for violations of emotional abuse by several players underway.

Chris Mayer added that the Positive Coaching Alliance has a lot of great information for coaches.

Greg Sophis was not present to provide a financial update. An update will be provided next month.

A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from September, seconded and unanimously approved.

Brian Ecklund, goalie coordinator, would like to have each organization name a goaltending representative so he can pass information and education materials to help organizations by November. There is a goalie advisory board so there are resources available to organizations.



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Kevin Kavanagh talked about the wonderful clinic at Falmouth for the Level 4 Coach certification this past weekend. Paul Moore is part of sub-team to rewrite coaching curriculum for USA Hockey. The first weekend in November is busy with Coaching Symposium hosted by the Boston Bruins and Mass Hockey on Saturday, November 2nd. The Mini 1-on-1 challenge will take place on Sunday, November 3rd. For the first time we'll have sled hockey division for mini 1-on-1. Player development intros kick off in November. There are over 350 intermediate nets in the marketplace now. There have been over 6300 screens have been completed to date. Contact your registrar to have redline removed for those who've completed screening.

Kevin Kavanagh added that the staff could work with Kevin Donovan to compile the stats on penalties for review with the board.

Jay O'Neil shared on behalf Tom Smith an update from the Safety Committee: The programs that we are looking to create or expand upon are the following:

- Drug Awareness
- Stop the Bleeding
- Heads Up Don't Duck/The Look-Up Line
- Concussion Program (modified concussion cards)
- First Responder
- Proper Body Checking/Hits from Behind

Jay O'Neil shared report for Dr. Ashare: Since 02/11/2019, we have processed 114 requests for medical waivers for players to play down for the 2019-2020 season. We will probably process another twenty to forty requests by the end of December. We are the only affiliate who does the waiver process. No issues in 20 years.

Bob Joyce share report on Adaptive Hockey from Nick McCummings:

- 3 sled Hockey Teams in Mass
- 2 Adult: Boston ICE Storm and Boston Shamrocks
- 1 Youth Spaulding Sledgehogs.

2 Special Hockey Programs and another ready to register with USA Hockey;
The Great Blizzard Special Hockey Team
Lyrics Champs: Somerville
East Coast Jumbos (Process of registering) players, coaches & volunteers.

We are still working towards our goal of establishing a blind hockey team and will have more info at next month's meeting.



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Tim McMahon / Secretary / tcmahon@mahockey.org

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Tom McGrath provided an update from Youth Council meeting. Membership to date is up 3% from this time last year. Nov 1st deadline for rule changes to be submitted. Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect is a point of emphasis for players, coaches, and referees. Looking at e-learning curriculum for coach's education in the future seasons. NAHA (North American Hockey Academy) is being sold and moving to Massachusetts.

Jim Maimone, chair, ADM Committee met and organized a clinic with Roger Grillo. It will be on 10/16 at Bentley College at 5pm and 6pm. Up to 20 coaches on the ice. Meeting room for discussion, all welcome to attend. Looking for some volunteers. Liz Cohen has a link to register.

Jim Maimone, chair, said the Long Range Committee meets this week on Thursday, October 10th.

Received unfortunate news that Mass Hockey Hall of Famer, Barbara Wright passed away this morning. Moment of silence called for remembrance.

No additional District reports.

Discussion about filling the Safety Coordinator role. The scope of the position is too large for a volunteer so Kevin Kavanagh are working with USA Hockey and other districts to see where this is going before we recruit candidates.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.