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MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

March 1, 2021 - Zoom Conference Call

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 1st, 2021 via zoom conference call.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:03 pm.

Bob Joyce asked for a moment of silence after the passing of Jeff Brown's father, Gerald Brown.

Mike Dargin spoke of Bruins initiatives including Learn to Play and Little Bruins. Excited to allow fans back to the Garden in late March. While many events and programs will be scaled back it they hope to continue expanding as COVID restrictions decrease.

Kevin Kavanagh mentioned that today Gov. Baker announced the move to Reopening Phase 3 Step 2. Currently this has no impact to hockey protocols as they will continue to restrict rink spectators to 2 parent/guardian and siblings. Additional changes to Hockey specific restrictions in the future is not clear now. There is some rumor that CT may leave the 6-state hockey travel restriction which may then provide for Mass teams to compete in CT If they follow the travel guidance for COVID.

In Kevin Kavanagh's Executive Director update, he mentioned there is new partnerships with Paul Vincent Skating and Driscoll Skills and Skating which will be in upcoming newsletters. Started talking with Sparks skate sharpening machines and JLG Architecture which supports rink design and infrastructure about possible sponsorships. Kevin Kavanagh reported that he is working with Liz on a website update/refresh and app updates. He is working with Mike to share membership registration data history with all programs. Kevin and staff looking at improving subsidies to programs for our key initiatives.

National Bound Team tryouts for players within district (area) are approved to commence on March 13th. Players outside our district (area) are still prohibited from tryouts till 48 hours after the National Tournament. We are working with some local programs which have a hardship regarding tryouts commencing after March 15th across the state.

Steve Rizzo mentioned dates have been selected for Player Development Camp. Kevin Kavanagh talked about changes to Player Development tryout format due to COVID mitigation protocols. We'll look for consistency between the Girls and Boys players. The location for National Development Camp is not finalized yet.



Chris Mayer issued a discipline report prior to the meeting. There was an incident between Hyde Park and South Boston involving a racial slur. After investigation, the offensive party could not be identified so additional discipline wasn't garnered, but education was mandated to both teams. Bob Joyce mentioned that there needs to be a better way to deal with these matters in the future.

There was an 18U Game between the Boston Hockey Club vs Jr. Bruins where a bench brawl occurred. Coaches for each team have disciplined players. Christopher Gong has been assigned to chair committee of (4) referees to investigate this matter and determine if additional action is warranted.

There have been issues with unregistered and incomplete or missing coaching credentials. The Valley League has been a particular problem this year with regards to complaints on referees. Shawn Crowley resigned from our Board after an incident report he claims mischaracterized him or the situation.

There have been 8 safe sport issues to date with the majority of those handled satisfactorily within Mass Hockey.

Christopher Gong has several rules proposals for the committee to consider in the next few weeks.

Stephen Palmacci is heading a committee on the process to issue program codes. He mentioned that while there is a structure for issuing codes to hometown programs but there is not one for clubs. USAH has issued 826 codes in Mass over the decades. We currently have 237 active codes. We have 105 hometown programs leaving 711 youth program, 27 colleges, and 8 disabled codes.

Steve Fitzgerald shared the nominations and conducted nominations from the floor:

- President: Bob Joyce
 - No nominations from the floor.
- 3rd VP: Steve Rizzo
 - No nominations from the floor.
- 5th VP: Jim Maimone, Chip Bradbury, Christopher Gong
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Treasurer: Chris Holden
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Director at Large EB: Ron Cincotta, Nick McCummings, David Hymovitz
 - No nominations from the floor.
- USAH Director: Steve Rizzo, Chris Mayer
 - No nominations from the floor.

Tim McMahon verified all nominees are qualified to be placed on ballot.



Chris Holden is working to get next 3 finance committee meetings scheduled. After agreement with Auditors has been completed Chris will begin working to get audit and tax work completed. Working with Finance Committee on Expense policy for employees and board members. Met with Citizens Bank to start discussion to transition from dash card to credit card. We've had \$7000 in sponsorship as Kevin Kavanagh mentioned, \$5000 from Paul Vincent and \$2000 from ProAmbitions. On cash management front he is getting details on USA Hockey Foundation Fund as we consider adding more money in this investment. New England Sport Center sent a bill for food from last 3 years of tournaments of about \$7000. Met with Joe Curnane who created the Mass Hockey/Bruins License Plate Program about good uses of funds.

A motion was made to approve the February 1st, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Chris Mayer mentioned on behalf of Dan Esdale that the Parent Awareness Committee will meet in next 2 weeks. She mentioned that committees need to work together better where there is commonalities.

Jim Maimone added that he is drafting legislation for supplemental training requirement be assessed with discipline. The ADM Committee is looking at body checking and body contact training for spring and fall.

Phil Zona reported that sportsmanship award applications are being accepted until April 1st.

Jay O'Neil expressed desire to have the Executive Board review the future of the Cheever Grant committee.

Bob Joyce mentioned Tim McMahon shared the Committee and District Reports which were submitted prior to the meeting.

Tom McGrath shared the location of the 2021 Nationals from Youth Council update which has been posted online.

Al Smith reported that District 5 elections were next week.

DJ Briggs mentioned District 7 elections are next week.

Mark Lissner reported Girl/Women's elections are next month. The virtual Women's Leadership Summit was held this past week.

Stephen Palmacci and Jean Ann Nigro are working to hold elections for club section.



Kevin Donovan reported that Referee registration and certification clinics will continue through March 10th with seminars through March 24th. Kevin mentioned that we are down 400 officials and 240 have not completed credentials. We are down to the lowest level of officials in the past 7 years. This will continue to impact us for many years.

Paul Moore is busy with new coaching curriculum and what might be virtual or in-person.

No old business.

No new business.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.