



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.
BOARD MINUTES
February 6, 2024 - Virtual Meeting

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, virtually through Zoom.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:01 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci: Welcome. Condolences to Bob Joyce and family on loss of his father-in-law John Farina. We have a program that has gotten in trouble with misappropriation of funds. The police are investigating but this is a good reminder for all of us. There was a request for E-board meeting minutes. Tim will work with Fiona to post on the website. National bound team credential verification.

2. WINTER MEETING UPDATES

Bob Joyce: National Bound Tier 1 recruitment task force will allow for conversations to take place within season but no in season recruitment. Tryouts would happen based on dates and then sign contracts based on dates set.

Chris Mayer: Legal counsel reviewed several proposals including affiliate bylaw changes requiring 2/3 majority to change and neck laceration approval for 18 and under. Billeting provisions and enforcement is being put off for now.

Steve Rizzo: Dr Stuart gave a great presentation on fact that this is neck laceration and not neck guard. Disabled hockey largest growing segment of hockey. There is a goalie shortage across the country so discussions about growing goaltenders.

Peter Giuliano: National Bound Credential consistency. Portal IT issue discussions.

Fiona Doull & Paul Moore: Talked about finding speakers and improvement to coaching education materials. Feedback from coaches was positive and updates to website promised for new season. We held 47 clinics and trained 3000 coaches. We are starting clinics in June. Will incorporate checking material from Jim Maimone and goalie material from Cam Earle.

Kevin Donovan: Additional resources in referee section. There can now be a smoother transition to bring officials back that have taken some time off at a higher level. Many discussions on where to go for IT issues as we open registration in June. Training format and



sessions are still being determined. Expect better visibility in March but hope to open registration in May and start clinics in June.

Steve Gear: New 3rd party administrator. Lots of discussion about the insurance policy.

Ray Leblanc: Focus was on sled hockey during the winter meeting.

Kevin Kavanagh: Membership committee discussed the club excellence platform and lack of IT prioritization and development by USA Hockey. We do not invest in the development of program leadership and this is an important consideration.

Mark Lissner: Girls hockey is the fastest growing segment in all youth sports.

Nicole Siglin: Neck laceration protection. Discussed how to get more compliance with concussion reporting and return to play protocol.

Karla Aguirre: There was general discussion that many affiliates would like USA Hockey to provide more direction.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: New income from player development. Expenses from winter meeting, teams' registrations for Nationals, and DE&I Warrior Team tournament cost.

4. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 8th, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

5. ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

Tim McMahon: The following positions will be elected this year: 1st VP, 2nd VP, 4th VP, Clerk, 2 at-large positions on EBoard, and 2 USA Hockey Directors. Deadline to submit name to nomination committee is February 20, 2024. I'll share the list 1 week prior to the March meeting. Nominations from the floor will close at the March 4th meeting. Elections will take place at the annual meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Several partnership renewals. Still negotiating with Brigham on multi-year newsletter sponsorship. Coming up on state tournament seasons which is one of the biggest things we do. We are looking for some volunteers to help. We do need to find a way to get the playdowns done earlier.

7. LONG RANGE



Jeremiah Tabor: Still working toward re-districting.

8. VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH)

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: no update

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: no update

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: no update

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: There was another referee assault this weekend. This makes 5 for the year. 1 was removed. 1 was suspended for a year. 2 went to hearing and were not substantiated. Fighting has been an issue in midgets and rule is proposed to increase fighting penalty.

Rules, Christopher Gong: Rules proposals are due this week. There is an 8U waiver on 10U team rule change proposal for March meeting.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

ADM – Jim Maimone: At Natick doing Body Contact Clinic with Roger Grillo. There are 6 more scheduled. Looking to incorporate into coaching education.

Player Development – Steve Rizzio: 2024 CCM High Performance Tryouts and Festivals registration open for players born in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Adaptive Hockey - Ray Leblanc: First Adaptive Hockey (Promotional) Event featuring all 6 disciplines on February 25th.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee – Dan Esdale: No update.

Sportsmanship – Tom McGrath: The 2024 Sportsmanship Application will open on February 15, 2024 and due by April 10, 2024.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Safety - Nicole Siglin: see above.

Diversity & Inclusion – Christopher Gong: Working to showcase diversity within hockey with Bruins, colleges in Massachusetts, and PWHL.



9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

10. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. playdowns completing

Dist 2. playdowns done.

Dist 3. Playdowns completing

Dist 4. playdown complete

Dist 5. playdowns complete

Dist 6. no playdowns this year

Dist 7. playdowns complete

Dist 8. playdowns complete

Dist 9. Playdowns complete next week

Dist 10. 3 playdown games left

G/W. 6 more playdown games left. 92 teams in state tournament.

Club. All quiet.

11. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Bob Joyce: See above

Steve Rizzo: See above

Tom McGrath: See above

Christine Mayer: See above

12. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: See above

Officiating – Kevin Donovan: See above

Coaching - Paul Moore: See above

13. OLD BUSINESS



Chris Mayer: Will work with Nicole and Tom on locker room policy.

14. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:25pm.