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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

February 8, 2022 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:09 PM and welcomed everyone in person.

1. President's Opening Remarks

Bob Joyce asked for a moment of silence in honor of Stephen Fitzgerald, MH Risk Manager.

Many states are lifting covid restrictions. We have not been experiencing many issues this season.

2. Drew Laine, Penalty Box Foundation

Drew Laine spoke of his organization The Penalty Box Foundation, who strive to support families that have faced adversity in hockey community. They recently supported Teddy Balkind's family and friends from Connecticut after fatal hockey accident.

3. Tryout Rule

Mark Kumpel has proposed a change to the tryout rule to separate by team designation not collect program. Christopher Gong mentioned the Rules Committee met and reviewed this proposal and recommend adoption of this rule. After discussion rule was amended to split girls/women's from youth/club by majority approval. A 2nd amendment for non-national bound players not being rostered on national bound prior to tryout date with exception for player injury was majority approved. The amended tryout rule was approved by simple majority. The rule is included below:

Annual Guide Page 29. Article II Teams, Tryouts, & Rosters

B. Tryout Requirements.

1. Tryouts for all Massachusetts Hockey Associations (Hometown, Girls/Women's, and Club Programs) shall not be held before the following dates:

a. 4:00 pm on the Monday following the second full weekend of March for all 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U teams.

b. 4:00 pm on the Monday following the second full weekend of March for all 14U, 16U, 18U & 19U youth and Girls/Women's Non-National Bound teams, subject to the restrictions on Girls/Women's Associations in Section B(2) below.

c. 48 Hours after the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Tournament for youth and Girls/Women's teams intending to enter team(s) into a National Bound level in an age classification.



2. Notwithstanding Sections B(1)(a) (b) & (c) above, if a Girls/Women's Association enters or intends to enter a team into a National Bound age classification, it must hold all tryouts for that age classification no earlier than 48 hours after the conclusion of USA Hockey Nationals.

For the purpose of clarification, and as an example, a Girls/Women's Association cannot hold a tryout for its 14U "Non-National Bound" teams, earlier than 48 hours after the conclusion of USA Hockey Nationals if it intends to enter a 14U National Bound team. The same restriction applies to all Girls/Women's National Bound levels, 14U, 16U and 19U.

3. Any Association or team that recruits a player from a Non-National Bound tryout held prior to the dates required in for a National Bound tryout set forth in B(1)(b) above, shall subject to penalties listed in B.6 below. Any player that signs a contract with a Non-National Bound team as a result of a Non-National Bound tryout held prior to the dates required in for a National Bound tryout, shall be ineligible to be moved and rostered on a National Bound team in the same Association, unless the USA Hockey Registrar reviews and approves a roster change based upon injuries or other extenuating circumstances.

4. Program Codes

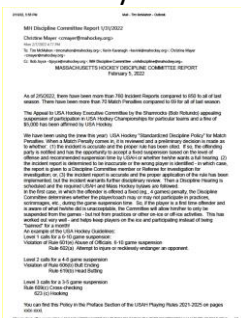
Stephen Palmacci spoke regarding the Program Code Committee efforts to review applications for new codes. There have been 2 program requests reviewed with one approved and one rejected. We don't anticipate adding more codes over the next few years as membership is not growing significantly to support additional programs. Mark Lissner asked about reducing the number of codes within MA but that hasn't been considered yet.

5. Alt. Directors & Attendance Requirements for Voting Rights

Bob Joyce mentioned that USAH is working to restructure their board of directors. As part of this change there is desire to add attendance requirements to maintain voting rights. Additionally, we need to consider removing alternate directors right to vote in conjunction of attendance requirement. They could participate in meetings and on committee. A rules proposal will be forth coming.

6. Discipline Update

Chris Mayer shared discipline report prior to meeting and reiterated details to the board.



Two rule proposals regarding fines for gamesheet label non-compliance and violation for lack of locker room monitor.

Discriminatory language issues continue to abundant and typically referred to D&I Committee.

Pre-hearing intervention meetings are helpful in addressing some discipline matters

A 3-person panel reviews match penalties to assign discipline offer within the published guidance in lieu of a hearing.

Billeting will be removed from safesport for next season.

Kevin Donovan added that with a change to the incident reporting system has caused an estimated 200 lost reports.

Bob Joyce added we are working to establish a central database for discipline matters for to tracking incidents, discipline, and associated records. This system could have some automation to make the process easier and less administrative.

7. Annual Meeting Location & Timing

Tom McGrath is working to set-up in person annual meeting for Saturday June 18th with hotels in the area. He expects to have some options available for the March meeting.

8. Finance Report & Fee Increase

Chris Holden sent the financial statement prior to the meeting.

[illegible]

Finance Committee meeting held January 20, 2022. New auditors are hard at work learning about our financials. Higher registrations than last year. He expects us to be on budget. USAH is increasing fees in 2022-2023 season due to increase insurance, loss of employees, and higher operating costs.

Here are the fee increases from USA Hockey:

6U: \$0 - \$15

7-8: \$46 - \$50

9-12: \$46 - \$61

13-18: \$46 - \$70



Mass Hockey's affiliate fee is:

18U: \$10.50 (35,189 registrations in 19/20)

19+: \$2.50 (9,867 registrations in 19/20)

Each \$1 increase in our affiliate fee would increase our revenue by ~\$45K

Chris Holden shared annual results for last 5 years:

17/18: \$131K)

18/19: (\$88K)

19/20: (\$70K)

20/21: \$325K

21/22 Budget: (\$286K)

Jim Maimone shared that USAH will come out with communication regarding these increases to share with everyone. There are no increases for Adults, Coaches, and Referees.

Kevin Kavanagh shared that Mass Hockey is on average with other affiliates for youth category but on the lower end for adult category in terms of fees.

Christopher Gong asked the question about whether we add fee to 6U.

The finance committee will review and propose any changes at next meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Kevin Kavanagh mentioned the subsidy program will be ready to go live in a next week for either soft divers (\$500 value) or \$750 credit for Pure Hockey.

10. Elections Announcement Deadlines

Tim McMahon announced the elections for 2022. The following positions are to be elected this year:

- 1st VP
- 2nd VP
- 4th VP
- Secretary
- Director at Large (2)
- USAH Director

Nominations are due by February 20th (Sunday) to the Secretary. One week prior to the March Meeting (February 28th) the list of nominations will be shared. Nominations will be accepted from the floor in the March (7th) meeting.



11. Secretary's Report

A motion was made to approve the January 3rd, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.

12. Vice President Reports

Dan Esdale talked about Parent awareness Committee's efforts to partner with New England Hockey Journal to share our message and mission.

Steve Rizzo mentioned that player development dates are set and have been communicated.

Jim Maimone shared efforts in the Pacific District where 10U play half ice games. While we aren't looking at that there is some interest in looking at some tournaments in Mass for 10U like our mini 3-on-3. Kristin Balboni shared the body contact clinic held in Amherst (District 6). A total of 6 clinics have been held so far.

Tom McGrath mentioned the scholarship applications will be out soon and are due April 1. Awards committee is accepting nominations for awards.

Christopher Gong and Karla Aguirre are working on training for offensive and hateful language. We need to make our sport a safe environment for all participants.

13. Committee Reports

No additional committee reports.

14. District/Section Reports

Districts and Girls/Womens Section are focused on play down games ahead of state playoff deadline.

15. USA Hockey Reports

Kevin Donovan said registrations for officials closed on Jan 31 but continue to follow-up on certifications post training. He believes we could be close to pre covid numbers in terms of officials.

Tom McGrath mentioned that the youth council meeting focused on national bound tournaments.

Steve Rizzo mentioned that in-person meetings at USAH was very effective with many informal discussions. Lots of interest around small area ADM play with support of NHL teams.



Bob Joyce is participating on referee committee at USAH sharing our experience and learning from other affiliates to grow the number of officials and reduce harassment toward officials.

Nicole Siglin updated that SPEC and Safety Committee discussed neck laceration guards at winter meeting. This is a rare injury with limited data. Experiments in lab are inconclusive. They are also looking to have athletic trainers/medical personnel at sanctioned tournaments.

16. Old Business

None.

17. New Business

Bob Joyce will be soliciting expertise of the board of directors through a simple questionnaire so we can unlock individual's unknown talents.

Erik Kainen discussed desire for rule proposal that would allow a player to waiver down an age group as a goalie only to support development and increase number of goaltenders.

18. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.