



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

February 7, 2023 - Zoom Meeting

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, via zoom.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:01 PM and welcomed everyone in person.

1. President's Opening Remarks

Several of us attended USA Hockey Meetings in MLK Jr weekend. So far fairly quiet.

SafeSport. USOC came out with an interpretation that SafeSport coordinators cannot be USA Hockey Directors or Affiliate Directors. Christine Mayer has chosen to remain as USA Hockey Director and resigned as the SafeSport Coordinator for Massachusetts. We have engaged Scott Gray in a contractor role to support SafeSport. He is currently investigating 1 issue.

Program Services Coordinator, Mike DiOrio, has taken another position. After our recruiting efforts we received over 30 resumes of which we found some qualified candidates. We are soliciting answers to some questions to further review the applicants.

Discipline Tracking System. Gary Gates mentioned the committee is working through minor updates. They are looking for rule verbiage so that a report could be sent upon infractions. Biran Walsh thinks we are close to going live with this season's data as of 12/31/2022.

2. VARIOUS UPDATES

- A. SAFESPORT COORDINATOR UPDATE – see above.
- B. PROGRAM SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION – see above.
- C. DISCIPLINE TRACKING SYSTEM – see above.

3. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden:

- 1. Individual Registration Fees: Currently at \$368,555.50, which is 3% below where we were at the same time last season and 4.3% below last year's full season total.
- 2. Sponsorship Revenue: \$10,000 came in this month (\$5,000 from Jeff Serowik/Pro Ambitions and \$5,000 from Erik Kallio/Pro Stride Skating)
- 3. Audit: Returned comments to the auditor and awaiting a response to close the audit.



4. Finance committee meeting in 3 weeks.



Massachusetts
Hockey Financials YTD

Steve Rizzo: How are we going to move forward with the Cheever Grant? Chris Mayer would like to see this program continue like it did prior to COVID. Kevin Kavanagh mentioned that the money went to program subsidies the last 2 seasons. Bob Joyce believes we need new energy and new ideas and this should be matter for next president to consider.

4. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 9th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

5. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Tim McMahon: We are seeking nominations for President, Treasurer, 3rd, and 5th VP, 2 at-large positions on EBoard and USA Hockey Director position. Deadline to submit name to nomination committee is February 20, 2023. Nominations from the floor will close at the March meeting. Election will take place at the annual meeting expected to be in April, 2023.

Nominations so far:

President – Stephen Palmacci

3rd VP – Steve Rizzo

5th VP – Christopher Gong

Treasurer – Chris Holden

USAH Director – Tom McGrath

Director-At-Large – Gary Gates

Stephen Palmacci has resigned from USAH Associate Registrar in accordance with Mass Hockey Bylaws Article VII.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Player Development registration opened Feb 1st with great interest and success. Navigating with Peter all the State Tournament preparations. Working to screen candidates for Mike's replacement. We have a new sponsorship with Pro-stride, skill instruction. Doing a walk through at Cape Codder for Annual Meeting this week. Pricing looks favorable.



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

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Not Present

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: Match penalties are way down in recent weeks. Believe referees may not be reporting. Using electronic game sheets to verify. John Murray is conducting many hearings and he is a great help.

Rules, Christopher Gong: Requests for rules proposals to be submitted in the next few weeks. We want to get these in front of the board early.

Safesport, Chris Mayer: When USCOS declines a matter it goes into our discipline system.

Parent Awareness. Dan Esdale is excited to get a video started. Work continues on a guide for parents.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Player Development - Steve Rizzo. Registration opened February 1st.

Adaptive Hockey - Ray Leblanc: Spaulding Sledgehogs is putting on a youth sled hockey clinic.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee – Dan Esdale: Nothing to report.

Sportsmanship – Tom McGrath: The registration form on the website has been created for release a week from tomorrow.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Long Range Planning – Jeremiah Tabor: Held committee meeting last week. Step one is state tournament redistricting for next season. Expect to have proposals soon for review. Would like to speak with each district registrar soon to discuss in more detail. Separately, committee members interested in looking over USA hockey member data by zip code and not by town/club labels. Please reach out with feedback or interest in contributing.

Safety Committee – Tom Smith: There is a pending proposal on medical waivers that will be brought up for future consideration. Nicole Siglin reached out to many districts for support when creating our proposed updated medical waiver rule which was circulated to the board last week.



Medical Waiver
proposal 2023.pdf

After some discussion a motion was made to waive the required notice period for rule proposal, seconded, and approved with no opposition or abstentions. Motion to accept and seconded. Passed without opposition or abstentions.

Diversity and Inclusion – Christopher Gong: Questioning USA Hockey why we never hear anything about D&I.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

9. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. Playdowns ongoing.

Dist 2. Playdowns ongoing.

Dist 3. 2 Playdown games left.

Dist. 4. Playdowns ongoing.

Dist 5. Playdowns ongoing.

Dist 6. No report.

Dist 7. All quiet.

Dist 8. All playdown games complete.

Dist 9. All playdown games complete.

Dist 10. All playdown games complete.

Girl's/Women's: Qualifying teams. Tournament committee meeting tomorrow. Now a section under USA Hockey.

Club. All quiet.



10. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Chris Mayer. Safesport has started to discipline parties who failed to report properly. Everyone is a mandatory reporter. Going to a 12 month certification duration instead of previous 17 months. Recommended Mass Hockey consider a role for reviewing billeting programs.

Steve Rizzo. No change to registration fees at USA Hockey in 2023-2024 season. Changes to governance at USAH passed. Player development committee met in person for 1st time in 2 years

Tom McGrath: Sent 3 proposals from USA Hockey Winter meeting to board last week. Refer to email for details.

Bob Joyce: Working on USA Hockey referee and Tier I task forces. Discussed efforts to address tryout and recruiting issues. Will send summary report soon.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: Activity is up but completing requests. Reviewing loss data from the USA Hockey Winter meeting.

Officiating – Kevin Donovan: Registrations ended at end of December. Trying to get certifications complete before system goes down. Working to get state tournaments covered. USA Hockey approved Referee fee increase.

Registrar – Peter Giuliano: New registrars have done a great job this season.

Coaching – Paull Moore: The level 5 clinic is shaping up to be a great event. Working through the planning aspects. Kevin Kavanagh is hopeful to have all the beanpot coaches on Thursday evening.

High School – John Murray: 1 team for HS section, Springfield Riffles. No Girls team.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

