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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.
BOARD MINUTES
October 5, 2020 - Zoom Conference Call

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, October 5th, 2020 via zoom conference call.

Meeting called to order by Jeff Brown at 7:05 pm.

A moment of silence for Bob Joyce's Mother Jane P. (McCarron) Joyce and Wes Tuttle, District 8 Board Member and General Manager of New England Sports Center.

Kevin Kavanagh shared we are still playing games albeit specific guidelines from the Commonwealth. We are fielding many inquiries from concerned parties. Largest Youth Hockey Organization in Toronto has stopped hockey. Quebec announced today that hockey will be stopped till January. Haverhill board of health temporary halts all youth sports activities for the next 3 weeks pending a further review. There are several teams that have reported quarantine activity due to positive COVID tests. To date registrations are at 92% of last year's rate.

Chris Mayer provided an update regarding discipline matters. So far there have been 16 match penalties and more than 90 game misconduct penalties. These penalties range over all age groups. Training on the new discipline procedures and forms was conducted last Wednesday (9/30/20) with an additional session this Wednesday (10/7/20). As usually this time of year there are significant issues with unclaimed and unregistered players which only surfaces during playing rule discipline follow-up. This create an enormous amount of work for Kevin Donovan, Chris Mayer, and others. We will seek discipline hearing for organizations that habitually have unregistered players. Chris May has been notified of billeting practice concern within Mass Hockey that is being investigated.

John Murray presented a draft of Abuse of Officials policy shared with the Executive Board. This policy restates and reaffirms Mass Hockey's directive relating Zero Tolerance Policy regarding officiating abuse. It adds additional discipline for coaches and players who receive a game misconduct penalty under the Playing Rule 601 of an additional game misconduct. This policy has been referred to the rules committee for consideration and approval by the board next month.

Mark Lissner mentioned the Girls National Bound Tournament registration is open. Committee meeting planned in few weeks. The traditional Thanksgiving weekend activities for 19U and 16U is moved to March. We need to understand implications of tournament restriction guidance from the Commonwealth. There are concern over game counts and awaiting guidance



from USA Hockey.

Dave Hymovitz said the Boys National Bound Tournament for 14U moved last weekend Feb and 15U, 16U moved to first weekend in March. Also, asked for reduction in game counts from USA Hockey.

Greg Sophis provided finance report prior to the meeting. The compensation committee met to settle Executive Director bonus payments. The Sports Engine income is for whistles and 2 sets of nets needs to be reclassified. Ron Cincotta and Jim Maimone questioned several expenses. It was asked if the finance report can be sent with more time to review. Due to the nature of closing the books at the end of the month and meeting the first Monday of the month it is not adequate time to furnish a report.

Motion to post-pone discussion of the September Minutes after Steve Rizzo raised concern that 2 items were not captured with regard to insurance and budget review was seconded and majority approved by show of hands.

In Kevin Kavanagh's Executive Director report, he shared that New Jersey was added as restricted travel state similar to Rhode Island. We'll Issue a statement regarding this development recently approved by Executive Board. The new Annual Guide Is complete and online. They were mailed this week. There will soon be a new app for the annual guide released. Kevin Kavanagh asked Jim Maimone ADM Chair to consider subsidy for shooter/tooter for intermediate nets. The transition of the background screening to USAH has been going well. We've received good feedback on the electronic whistle program.

Peter Giuliano mentioned the 14U and under State Tournaments registration link is live.

Dan Esdale informed the board that Parent Awareness Committee would be meeting next week.

Steve Rizzio reported the Boy's Player Development Intro Series planning has started.

Tim McMahon mentioned the Long-Range Committee has set monthly dates for meetings.

Tom Smith reported the Safety Committee will meet next week. Our sport has not taken the COVID guidelines as seriously as necessary to ensure our sport can continue to play.

Peter Giuliano mentioned District 11 held its first meeting September 29, 2020 via zoom with 30 participants. Topics of discussion were return to play/Covid guidelines/player safety, cancelation of 18U boys and 19U girls State Tournaments current plan to move forward with 14U and under playdowns/state tournaments unless guidelines change, USA Hockey insurance , team rosters



and claiming of players and coaching education. October meeting will have vote on out of town players.

Charlie Bradbury reported District 2 September meeting was held on September 16th via zoom and several roster exemption waiver requests were voted on and allowed. Doc Ashare is now a District Alternate Director. Issue with Cape Ann Youth Hockey and tax filing. The next District meeting will take place on Monday October 12th via zoom.

Paul Crowley mentioned District 4 is meeting via zoom next week. Issue with a program and parents that is being resolved.

Ryan Scott mentioned that District 6 scheduled approval of out of town rosters on October 13th. In the case of a tie the motion would not carry.

DJ Briggs reported District 7 is holding a Zoom meeting next week. Temporary status is allowed 1 time only, once in a lifetime. You still need to do modules, safesport, and background screening.

Mark Lissner mentioned Girls/Women District has meet already. There has been some concerns over 1 spectator limit at rinks. There is no approval process for the merger of club teams

Jean Ann Nigro mentioned Club District all quiet but asked if Flex team designation is correct for rosters. A flex team is for those where no age restriction would be necessary.

Steve Palmacci mentioned there have been a number of issues with USAH registry. We have 1385 teams which is 1/2 of last year.

Chris Mayer shared that the USAH Legal Counsel is performing activity to rewrite bylaws. She has joined the Screening Committee this season.

Jim Maimone mentioned that there is no update from USAH Nomination Committee.

Tom McGrath said the next USAH Youth Council meeting is scheduled on October 13th. We have submitted desire for reduced game counts for consider to Nationals. In addition, we have requested that consideration be made for game counts prior to the roster being approved due to issues with system causing delays in approval of the rosters.

Mark Lissner reported the Girls Women's Section met last month. The IIHF Girls Hockey weekend was pushed out from Columbus weekend.



Nick McCummings reported that there are 2 disabled sled teams are practicing. He has found a way to move forward with blind hockey. Special hockey is very strong right now and working on USAH registration.

John Murray mentioned the High School Section has been meeting regularly to determine if and when there would be a National Tournament. Looking to move national dates from St. Pats weekend to include Mass Hockey High School teams,

Nick McCummings reiterated the need to follow State guidelines regarding reopening hockey amid COVID.

Rick Vadnais questioned whether coaches and referees must wear masks and whether 1 parent/guardian per player was a state guideline or not.

Tom McGrath asked if we could reconsider 19U and 18U playdowns in March? Peter Giuliano added that he would revisit this later in the season. Jim Maimone asked about MIAA rule considering playing for multiple teams in the same day.

Jeff Brown, co-chair of the Rules Committee, presented a new COVID-19 Policy statement shared with the board prior to the meeting that specifies Mass Hockey's position with regard to the Commonwealth's EEA guidelines for reopening youth sports activities. This policy provides additional guidance regarding face coverings during a face-off draw. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by majority by show of hands.

The Board then adjourned to Executive Session at 9:30pm to discuss a financial matter. The Executive Session concluded at 11:18 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 pm.