

## DRAFT- SDAHA Spring Meeting Minutes

April 13th, 2024

Attending the meeting as voting delegates were Tony Leif (SDAHA President), Jeff Scheel (SDAHA Treasurer), Randy Honkomp (SDAHA Secretary/Registrar), Duke Witte (Aberdeen), Brian Reinwald (Brandon Valley), John Kahle (Brookings), Deanna Helvik (Huron), Mark Zens (Mitchell), Nathan Sanderson (Oahe), Dan Laughlin (Rapid City), Ted Gibbons (Sioux Center), Chun Chan (Sioux Falls), Lucas Deutsch (Watertown), & Brian Wenisch (Yankton).

Also attending the meeting were Jenni Wirkus (SDAHA Executive Director), Jared Ahlberg (SDAHA RIC) Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Dave Tronnes (USA Hockey Membership/Growth), Rob Kittay (SDAHA CIC/Boys Development), Greg Evenson (NP District Rep), Matt Tobin & Noelle Neidham (Sioux Falls Power), Shane Wirkus, Tom Gruenig, Brad Eggers, David Bender, Brandy Hartman (Northern Hills Hockey), Dan Vander Weide, Jenn Warren, Brian Prisbe, Eric Covrig, Jason Henry, Aaron Roberts, Justin Kirchhevel, Dan Hoerichs, Trevor Preston & Nancy Preston.

A Quorum was determined and President Leif called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

President Leif welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for an introduction of meeting attendees. The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made by OHA and 2nd by MSHA to add to the discussion items consideration for the Youth Varsity Tournament to bid for 2 years, Motion passed. An additional motion was made by BISA to add a discussion of Tier I hockey to the agenda following the Player Development reviews. Motion was 2nd by WHA and motion passed.

Fall 2023 Meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Secretary Honkomp and 2nd by HHA to approve the minutes as amended. Motion Passed!

Treasurer Jeff Scheel presented the treasurer report with a detailed review of the financials. Motion was made by Secretary Honkomp and 2nd by AHA to accept the treasurer's report as written. Motion Passed!

President Leif gave a brief Presidents report recapping the 2023-2024 Season.

Registrar Honkomp recapped the total registration numbers for the season and noted that a full report would be sent to each association highlighting their numbers.

Executive Director Wirkus reported on the scheduling for the season. There were less Bantam, Peewee and Squirt teams this year which did free up some rink availability making the schedule a little easier to fit into the rinks but hoping to get many of those teams added back into the schedule for the upcoming season. It was noted that due to team counts at the PW level SDAHA was only able to field PWA and PWB this season and the hope for 2024-2025 would be to get back to A, B & C.

RIC Ahlberg reported on officiating numbers for the season noting there was an increase in officials and we need to make sure that they are continuing on after their first year. There were 238 registered officials of which 202 completed their certifications. There were 100 Level 1, 37 Level 2, 51 Level 3 & 14 Level 4 officials. USA Hockey made all officiating seminars virtual for the 2023-2024 season for levels 2-4 and the level 1 classes were the only ones conducted in person due to the mandatory on-ice session.

SDAHA Executive Director Jenni Wirkus recapped the season's officiating schedule and noted that there was a decrease of over 100 games this season so finding officials was not an issue. In past years there was always an official or two who worked over 100 games but this season due to the reduced amount of available games the most games worked by a single official was 80 and there were some officials who were disappointed to have a few less games this season. It was noted that over \$185,000 was spent on officiating last season with association totals ranging from \$11,855 to \$19,506. It was noted that associations should continue to recruit new officials in their associations to help keep the travel costs down.

VP French was not in attendance for the Discipline Report so Executive Director Wirkus did a brief recap of Game Misconducts and Video Reviews. There was a request for a written report to be compiled and sent to the BOD. This report will be emailed out!

Cherry Hunter, SDAHA Risk Manager, reminded everyone that background screening is due every other season and members should check with their registrar of Cherry to see when they are due to renew. If an individual is flagged due to an issue that person IS notified right away. Cherry also noted that if your association has a catastrophic injury that those forms should be filled out right away.

Executive Director Wirkus is the Interim Safesport Coordinator and reminded the group to make sure that their board members and volunteers stay up to date on their training. There were 17 Safesport claims filed through the portal from October-March. It was noted that some of the reports were on ice game related items & coaching code of conduct complaints. A new SS Coordinator will be taking over soon for the 2024-2025 season and SDAHA will try to focus on some additional training and education for our associations and membership.

Dave Tronnes, Membership Council/Growth, reported that SD and ND are doing well with adding growth coordinators for the state. USA Hockey just announced an overall growth of 3% for the season. USA Hockey is working with the NHL to revamp the Learn to Play program and is looking for a couple of test groups from the NP District and will be working with a group from Montana and also with Watertown, SD. The NHL group may be attending the September meeting in Deadwood with more information on this. USA Hockey is also working on a volunteer leadership conference to help train growth coordinators to become leaders and move forward but they may be a year out yet on this project.

Rob Kittay spoke on the Boys Player Development Camp noting the camp is coming up April 26-28th and registration is still open. The NPDDC will be held May 16-19th in Grand Forks. Rob noted that players who live with billet families during the winter must have a permanent residence in the Northern Plains District to be able to go to one of these camps. The allotment for players to advance from the NPD has increased at the 16's and 17's which is a great opportunity for more players to move on.

Coach in Chief, Rob Kittay reported on last year's coaching seminar numbers and clinics held. Rob reviewed the coaching requirements for USA Hockey and SDAHA and encouraged that associations push coaches not to wait until December 15th to start looking for a class. Classes fill quickly and coaches should get this requirement taken care of ASAP. Rob also asked that when he sends out information and reminders to associations that the Presidents or whomever is getting the messages please make sure they are getting them out to the coaches or their hockey director to distribute to the coaches.

John Kahle, BISA, asked that a committee be formed to explore 14U Tier I and challenged SDAHA to provide an opportunity for kids to stay in SDAHA to play hockey. Justin Kirchhevel spoke to the BOD regarding Tier I and recapped a proposal that he had emailed to some of the BOD members prior to the meeting.

There was discussion at the Fall meeting on forming a committee to discuss Team South Dakota and members discussed for that committee were Rob Kittay, Justin Kirchhevel, Lucas Deutsch, Mike Hunter and Mark Bukovich. No meetings were held prior to the Spring meeting with this group. Lucas Deutsch agreed to be the chair of a committee to discuss TSD and explore the option for Tier I. President Leif asked Lucas to make sure that Matt Tobin with the Sioux Falls Power was included in the Tier I conversations along with Executive Director Wirkus who is the Admin/Manager of TSD.

Matt Tobin was in attendance (along with Noelle) representing the Sioux Falls Power. Matt reported that they just finished up their season and had 80 players amongst the 4 teams. Power plays in the Tier I Elite League and this season the 18U won their league. 3 of the 4 teams made it to the National Tournament including the 14's, 16's & 18's. Two of their players were invited to the NTDP and the 18U Goaltender was chosen to the National Development Team. Matt was asked about Tier I hockey for Girls in SD to which he responded that he did not feel that there were enough Girls yet to start a program and the travel/game schedule for this area would be very difficult.

Greg Evenson and Rob Kittay gave an update on the Northern Plains District. Rob noted that the Girls 14U National Tournament was just held in South Dakota for the first time and Sioux Falls Hockey and the Iceplex made it a huge success. Greg noted that the District is working hard on the Development Camp coming up in May in Grand Forks. He also spoke about National Tournaments and the allotment of teams that the NP District can send to the Tier II and Tier I Nationals. Youth Tier I is different and it's only one spot from the whole district and not each affiliate as it is in Youth Tier II.

Jeff Scheel, SDAHA Hall of Fame Chairman, spoke on the 2024 event which was held the night before. The Class of 2024 inducted 12 new members bringing the total HOF membership number to 26. He encouraged the group to think about past Builders, Coaches, Officials and Players who they feel belong in the HOF and to make sure nominations are getting sent in for these individuals. Nominations are open now through December 15th, 2024 for the Class of 2025. The nomination form can be found on the sdaha.org website!

Local Association reports were given by all 11 Delegates. Delegates discussed team counts for the 2024-2025 season, rink improvement/building information and growth initiatives:

New Business:

Proposals:

1. Removal request of Playing Rule 3 from the SDAHA rules as we follow the USA Hockey rules which dictate Team Composition. Motion to adopt by Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by Secretary Honkomp. Motion passed unanimously along with the caveat that any reference to Playing Rule 3 could be reorganized in the rules by the Executive Board during the rules update process if necessary.
2. Resurfacing at Girls 14U-request to add that G14U games shall be started on clean ice and need only be resurfaced between the 2nd and 3rd periods. Motion to adopt by WHA and 2nd by YAIA. Motion passed with 11 Yes votes and 2 No votes.
3. Freeze 10 Rule 4e.iv- Request to remove letter B stating that "The locked player who participated in the game will be assessed a two-game suspension to be served at the Varsity level." Motion to adopt by WHA and 2nd by RHA. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Jr Gold League Rule 4D-Motion to remove this rule as SDAHA does not have a Junior Gold League. Motion to adopt by AHA and 2nd by Secretary Honkomp. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Playing Rule 8j. Scorekeeping- Request to make electronic scorekeeping mandatory in SDAHA. Motion to adopt by SFYHA and 2nd by AHA. After discussion on this topic there was a request to withdraw the original motion by SFYHA and 2nd by AHA. A new motion was made by OHA and 2nd by WHA for SDAHA to move forward with electronic score sheets in a manner TBD by the Executive Board. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Administrative Rules Section 6- Request to provide clarity of the original intent of SDAHA League preeminence for the state of SD and to outline consequences for locals that do not follow the rules of SDAHA. Motion to adopt by AHA and 2nd by YAIA.

After discussion a motion was made by OHA and 2nd by WHA to amend rule 6b.iii.

6b.iii: In-House/Recreational Teams: The In-House/Recreational Team assessment shall be established by the SDAHA Board of Directors annually and is payable to SDAHA. **This fee shall not exceed a maximum of 10% of the annual travel team assessment.** Associations are

encouraged to offer in-house or recreational programs within their association. These teams shall be rostered with SDAHA and shall only compete with internal teams of the association. Motion passed unanimously.

President Leif called for a vote on the original motion as amended. Motion passed with 12 Yes votes and 1 No vote.

Additional conversation was had on this proposal and SFYHA motioned that an association be able to petition the SDAHA BOD to field a team outside of league play with the approval from SDAHA. This was 2nd by BISA and passed unanimously.

An additional motion came from Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by Secretary Honkomp to set the SDAHA In-House/Recreational Team fee at \$0 until modified by the BOD. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Administrative Rules 6B- Request to clean up and remove amounts/date that change annually based on the SDAHA budget set by the BOD. Motion to adopt by Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by Secretary Honkomp. After brief discussion Treasurer Scheel and Secretary Honkomp requested to withdraw their motions as proposal #6 already updated this rule.

#### Membership Requests:

1. Northern Hills- Brandy Hartman from the Northern Hills Amateur Hockey Association presented a request to become a member of SDAHA. Northern Hills is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of youth hockey and recreational skating in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota. They are currently identifying a location for an outdoor rink that will be converted to an indoor rink in the future. For next season they would like to join our league with a traveling 10U team and would also have in-house teams at 8U. Their 10U teams would be able to host a few "home" games at the Roosevelt Rink in Rapid City and also potentially at the Thunderdome.

A motion was made by Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by RHA to Grant participating member status to the Northern Hills Amateur Hockey Association effective April 14th, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.

2. South Metro- Eric Covrig from South Metro Hockey Club presented a request to be a non participating member of SDAHA. Eric would like to start a program with AA travel teams at the 10U and 12U levels for next season with a future desire to have teams in the SDAHA league. After a series of questions from the BOD, President Leif asked for a motion from the membership of the BOD to allow South Metro in to SDAHA as a non participating member. Hearing no motion from the BOD, President Leif thanked Eric for his presentation and advised that South Metro would not be granted membership at this time.

#### Boji Mammoths High School Petition Request:

Dan Hoerichs with the Boji Mammoths requested to bring their Youth JV & Varsity Team to the SDAHA league for the 2024-2025 season. Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by MSHA for provisional approval to join the league for 2 years at the JV/Varsity level. After discussion the motion failed with a vote of 4 to 9.

#### Discussion Items:

1. Girls Varsity Game Counts- During the GV State Tournament coaches meeting the coaches requested that the GV game rotation be a 3 game rotation vs 2 as there are only 8 teams in the league and 14 games at the Varsity level is not enough for the league season. Executive Director Wirkus informed the BOD that she thought that 3 games could fit into the schedule provided that associations requested a maximum of 4 blocked weekends total for their girls teams and were aware they will likely have a lot of 3 game weekends during the season. Hearing no opposition, the GV will be scheduled for a 3 game rotation and in addition the Girls 14U State Tournament will be moved back one weekend to be on the same weekend as the Bantam teams to allow another weekend to get in the Girls league schedules.
2. Combo Varsity Tournament- requested discussion be moved to the Fall Meeting
3. Squirt League Changes- discussion was had on game counts for squirts, round robins vs home and away games, splitting by age vs tryouts, a potential A, B,C league and a mention of a Squirt State Tournament. The decision was made to have a meeting in May with the BOD on this topic with the possibility of voting on any changes in June at a meeting that would be help on this topic along with the awarding of the Youth Varsity State Tournament.
4. Vandalism- discussion was had if SDAHA had any rules on vandalism. It was suggested that locals review their own policies and procedures in their facilities related to this topic and contact the proper authorities in the event of criminal acts.
5. Association Banners- SDAHA does not have a rule that associations must display the banners of all of the associations in their rink. Brandon Valley noted that they have noticed a lot of rinks have banners but many of them don't have one for Brandon Valley. It was also mentioned that some associations have updated their logo's so the banners are no longer reflecting their current logo. If any associations are updating banners its asked that they please confirm with SDAHA that they have the current logo's of each of the associations.
6. Playing Rule 12B-discussion was had and it was suggested that a proposal to update this rule be on the Fall meeting agenda.
7. State Tournament Rule 8B- discussion was had to remove the word "shall" to allow for the medals to be presented at an agreed upon time between the League Champion and the host location which would be facilitated by Executive Director Wirkus during the State Tournament planning process in each local. A proposal will need to be submitted at the Fall meeting for updates.

8. SDAHA Gate Fees- discussion was had on a potential increase to the maximum gate fee which is now set at \$6. Any updates to this or the State Tournament gate fees will be proposed at the Fall meeting.

9. Hall of Fame Location- the Hall of Fame Committee has been tasked with bringing a recommendation back to the BOD on a suggested venue for a physical location and the requirements they are looking for in a physical location. The committee will be reaching out to associations to confirm their interest in being considered as the host location.

Election of Officers:

President Leif advised that he had one interested party for the position of SDAHA Vice President, Dan French. Secretary Honkomp made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot and cease nominations which was 2nd by OHA. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Honkomp advised the BOD of his resignation as the SDAHA Secretary effective immediately.

President Leif advised that he had one interested party for the position of SDAHA Treasurer, Randy Honkomp. Treasurer Scheel made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot and cease nominations which was 2nd by YAIA. Motion passed unanimously.

President Leif advised the Board that our by-laws provide that the President shall appoint someone to fill the vacant officer positions and that the appointment would then be voted upon at the next board meeting. Because the duties of the now-vacant Secretary position are being fulfilled by Jenni, he advised that he would not make an appointment until after we discussed a possible revision to the by-laws at the fall meeting.

Treasurer Honkomp expressed his opposition to leaving the position open and stated that he would be pushing President Leif to fill the position.

Fall Meeting Saturday, September 14th, 2024 in Watertown.

President Leif declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45PM.