



**Minnesota Hockey District 3
Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

x	Nicole Brodersen	District Director		Association Reps
x	Mark Brandt	President/Scheduling	x	Mike Melsha ACYHA
x	Shelly Johnson	Administrator	x	Kristi Duis Delano Area
	vacant	Treasurer		Reid Paul Hopkins
	Cheryl Myers	Social Media/Comm.	x	Bill Robeck Mpls & Hockey Operations
	Machele Whitmore	Registrar	x	Brad Butler Mound Westonka
x	Neil Olson	BHRA President	x	Kity Marinac North Metro
x	Matt Olsonoski	BHRA Supervisor	x	Kelly Greene Orono
x	Mike Anderson	BHRA Scheduler	x	Steve Fischer OMG
x	Michelle Jirik	Tourney Coord.	x	Paul Steenerson OMG
x	Kendra Verbeten	HP/Tier 1	x	Michelle Jirik St Louis Park
	Josh Hicks	Coach-in-Chief	x	Andy Nordseth Wayzata
	Ron Warren	Griev. Comm. Chair		
	Rob Roy	Girls Coordinator		Guests/Alternates Present:
x	Diane Margenau	Membership Devel.		
x	Greg Gibson	Metro League	x	Bob Larson, Hopkins alternate
	Todd Larson	Metro League		

- **Call to order TIME:** 7:03
- September Minutes: Motion to approve: Kelly Seconded: Bob
Minutes approved
- 2020-2021 D3 Rules and Regulations
Mark asked if any changes to be proposed or questions on the rules and regs as presented. These need to be voted on. Nicole asked if we can add disclaimer that if any D3 rules are in conflict with MN Hockey rules, the MN Hockey rules supersede District rules. Mark said that our rules say that already and that members should understand that, especially with changes due to COVID.

Motion to Approve the 2020-2021 D3 Rules and Regs: Kelly
Seconded: Mike M
2020-21 D3 Rules and Regs approved

- 1. District 3 Director Report-** A lot will likely change this year and we need to stay positive. First, congratulations to our D3 Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams, particularly the Tier 2 team that earned their bid to Nationals. This is the first year Tier 2 will be having the national tournament. Thank you to the HP/Tier 1 Committee that worked hard recruiting players and executed a well organized program.

MN Hockey will be updating COVID rules for the season. District Directors are currently working on it. The rules will be reviewed weekly. Right now expect to see expectations that coaches, players, spectators (everyone) will be required to wear a mask. This is a state rule and in order to keep playing we need to follow the rules. Players will not need to wear masks once fully dressed with helmet, and walking to the ice from locker room. While in the locker room, players must wear masks. There likely will be consequences for coaches not wearing their mask at all times. Looking at loss of fair play point for first offense and a suspension for the second. Hoping all the final details will be wrapped up by this Sunday. Players may enter the rink no more than 15 minutes before start of ice time and must leave immediately afterwards. Mike M asked about rinks that may have a 20 minute window instead of 15. Nicole said the stricter rule will apply.

We are starting to see positive cases in the state. The reason for the 15 minutes is that according to the Department of Health and Youth Sports Commission, the definition of close contact with COVID is being in close contact with someone that is positive for more than 15 minutes. By adhering to the guideline of 15 minute, we avoid a situation of a whole team potentially needing to be quarantined versus a single player or couple of players. Question was asked about being on the bench for whole game and that extended contact. Nicole said this was taken into consideration and with players out in shifts, not in close contact for generally more than 3 minutes. Suggest sitting kids next to line mates and even assigned spots in the locker room to further minimize contact with more people.

Michelle asked about what to do if people are not following the rules? Nicole indicated that those situations should be brought to her directly. Rep follow up question about what more can we do if people are not complying. Some don't support wearing a mask or dressing outside. Parents complain and say it isn't fair. Nicole said more info will come out with coach and manager info.

Suggestion made about anonymous reports...if you see noncompliance to report to. Nicole said there is the D3 board info contact info on the D3 website.

Need for clarification about what does wearing a mask mean? If a player shows up at the rink without a mask but is wearing their helmet, can they get by? Answer is no. Must wear mask at all times until actually walking to the ice to start activity. Maybe need to tape off every six feet in locker

rooms. Michelle said they have had 3 cases with players and is glad to have some guidelines to give everyone. We need to be diligent about who is present at all team activities.

Nicole also added that home teams will be supplying all minor officials-only 2 minor officials allowed. Flexibility if minor officials are from the same family (no children) or if there is plexiglass separating the volunteers (example the penalty boxes are separated by plexiglass). Mark said that at PIC, they will ask a team to leave if not following the rules.

Mike M-New Hope will not let you in sooner than 15 min.

Kelly-some rinks have the doors locked until the time you can go in.

Question if face shields count as masks in this situation. Nicole said as long as for this purpose and not just homemade masks, they are fine.

The coach and manager power points should be updated mid-next week. Association Reps should be collecting coach and manager info from your associations as the info will go out to you and you will need to get to coaches and managers. Coach and manager D3 registration will be set up and they will need to confirm in that registration that they watched the power point. They will be given a window of time (one week) to get it done. Reps need to be resource, so please review the presentations as well. We may schedule a question and answer session via zoom if it feels like it is needed.

The girls' league meeting was on Sunday and that is all still being finalized. Some other associations in the state are still figuring their teams out.

There will be only two officials on the ice, which is less than normal for some teams. We need to stay positive and patient. Things will get missed but this is what it has to be right now. The officials don't like it either. Talk to your association leadership and members and ask them to be supportive and patient as well.

- 2. District 3 Administrator Report-** Scoresheet books have been ordered and will be picking up within the next couple days. I will be at PIC from 6:00-8:00pm on October 26, for one person from each association to pick up scoresheets for their whole association. Suggestion would be for association reps to pick up and facilitate distribution in your program-great opportunity to be a visible resource and get to know more people within your association. Have draft power point presentations for the fall meetings that will obviously not be happening in the normal way this year. We need to rely heavily on managers and coaches taking responsibility for watching the presentations and using as a resource. Will always be more than happy to answer questions. However, will expect people to look at the available resources on the website first. Often the questions asked are ones that can be answered by reviewing the fall meeting info.

- 3. District 3 President Report-** As you are probably aware of both the Boys and Girls High School Hockey seasons have been changed to start a few weeks later and to end a few weeks later. All the HS Hockey teams are revising their schedules now to be able to have their games inside of their new seasons. This is causing some problems with the scheduling of the D3 league games. So far, we have completed the Bantam and Pee Wee levels and were just finalizing those schedules to make sure everything was back to back. There will probably be a bunch of games that need to be rescheduled due to HS Teams taking ice time from the Associations to host their HS games. We have delayed scheduling the 12U Girls until we figure out what other District we may be paired up with. We may change their season to a later start date. With the Squirts and 10U Girls we have delayed the scheduling of the League games to be completed by Oct 28. We have pushed the start of League play back to Sat Nov 21 from Monday Nov 16. I am anticipating that some of the League games that are scheduled for Jan and Feb may need to be moved into Nov, since most associations will be getting ice times from the arenas where there was HS Games scheduled for Nov. I am hoping that by the beginning of next week that the schedules for Nov up to Thanksgiving should be set for Bantams, PeeWees, and 12U Girls. We have asked that the game schedules not be posted until we let the schedulers know that we do not see many more changes that need to be made. There will be NO GRACE PERIOD for teams to reschedule games after the schedules are released. There are no school activities such as concerts, dances and school trips happening this year. All teams will be playing 14 league games. This will likely include 15U and 12U.
- Question on if there are limits on number of scrimmages. Only limit is at squirt level for 35 games (scrimmages). Recommendation to be cautious in scheduling too many as there may be games that get rescheduled now and possibly later due to COVID.
- Question asked about sharing time with another team and doing ½ time practice and ½ time scrimmage. Nicole said the game limits for squirts is a MN Hockey rule and a 30 minute scrimmage would count in that 35 limit. Website has suggestions for shared practices and the process that requires Director Approval.
- Mark said there will be no grace period for game rescheduling. Only reasons would be schedule change due to HS game, weather related (rink closed), and too many out sick to play. Will be strict! Neil added that if there are reschedules, scrimmages will lose out to actual games that need to be rescheduled. Be careful in how many scrimmages you schedule.
- 4. District 3 Treasurer Report-** review of budget. Numbers based in last year's actual costs. Will need to be adjusted once final team numbers are in. Please review the budget as we will need to take action on it at the December meeting.

Mark indicated need to remove Aric Stienessen and Ron Walsh from the D3 checking account. Suggested adding Kendra Verbeten. Kendra would prefer to not be signer but just have the ability to access info for the budget and writing

Steve made motion to remove Aric and Ron and allow Kendra to have access needed. Mike M seconded the motion.

Discussion that D3 only has one signer currently and two are needed for larger amounts per the rule and regs. Nicole indicated that she isn't supposed to be a signer and it was offered that Shelly is the only other executive committee member. Shelly said she would do it.

Steve amended his motion to add that Shelly Johnson be added to the bank account as a check signer. Mike M seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. **D3 Associates Reports –**

- Supervisor of Officials: BHRA and District 3 are hosting 3 USA Hockey official seminars conducted through Zoom meetings. We had a successful level 3 seminar last Wednesday night and are hosting a level 1 and 2 seminar this Thursday and a level 1 only seminar this Saturday. All arenas are providing locker-rooms for our officials, thank you. Please make sure the officials are provided with a key so they are able to lock the room while they are on the ice. We've heard a couple comments that officials were denied access to keys for reasons unknown.
Officials need to be made aware immediately of game cancellations. Michelle asked if teams will be penalized if cancelling for COVID. Mark said not but need as much notice as possible and refs need to be notified FIRST. We don't want them showing up to work a game that has been cancelled. Nicole will include this in the power point presentations. If scheduled with a non D3 team, need to connect with that team and confirm game is on. Nicole will work on the communication protocol.
- Registrar: I'm still waiting for Kendra Verbeten & Andrew Nordseth to complete their SafeSport training refresher. Once they do, our board flex roster will be complete. I feel like the launch of the document upload in the D3 web site is successful. Teams have been coming in and are being approved.
- Coach in Chief: CEP clinics are posted. This year we are hosting Virtual Clinics. Coaches can register for a clinic anywhere in the Country. There should be no reason for a coach not to attend a clinic on time this year.
- Membership and Development: There are a number of grants and programs available to associations who may have a need to assist players, both present and future, especially this year with COVID. Listed below are some them. MH Gear Up Minnesota Equipment

Grant (not released yet for 2020) -

<https://www.minnesotahockey.org/gearupminnesota>

MH Pass the Puck Grant -

<https://www.minnesotahockey.org/passthepuck>

MH Legacy Fund - <https://www.minnesotahockey.org/legacyfund>

MH Family Mentor Program -

<https://www.minnesotahockey.org/mentor>

MH Diversity Grants - Contact Tom Mickus at tojnick@aol.com

NHLPA Goals & Dreams - <https://www.nhlpa.com/be-a-player/nhlpa-goals-and-dreams>

There are often more grants available at a community or county level, but I don't have a list of those. Ex: Hennepin County Youth Sports grants: <https://www.hennepin.us/youthsports> Another concept that has been discussed is the idea of promoting an "Adopt-A-Player- type program in which members of an area's hockey community donate to an association to help cover some or all of a player's registration fees or equipment. It is felt that this year's circumstances may lend itself to this type of program in which families who have experienced the benefits of hockey may be willing to support current families who are struggling financially due to the COVID situation. Associations are strongly encouraged to evaluate opportunities to lower the cost of hockey through creative programming. There are a number of MH/USAH recommendations intended for player development purposes that can make the game more local and affordable while providing a great experience.

Of course, all of the above suggestions take time to develop and research. One suggestion, which has been made in the past, is to create a Player Membership and Development Committee for your association. Members of this committee would be encouraged to maintain a year round program of player recruitment and development and not leave it to one board member. More members on this board bring new and creative ideas to maintaining your associations growth.

- Jr Gold: Note Changes in (Parentheses) JGHSL 2020/2021 (Covid schedule changes)
 - *Boys High School Tryouts: Nov 9th-13th (Nov 23rd-27th)
 - *JGHSL Tryouts: Nov 15th-18th (Sunday Nov 29th-Wed Dec 2nd)
 - *JGHSL Team Declarations are due Wednesday Nov 18th, 9:00pm (Team Declarations are due Wednesday Dec 2nd, 9:00pm to GGG via email, gregory.g.gibson1972@gmail.com)
 - *JGHSL Coaches Clinic: Saturday Nov 21st, 8:00am-4:00pm at TBD (New dates are TBD via Zoom Mtg)
 - *JGHSL Coaches Clinic: Sunday Nov 22nd, 10:00am-2:00pm at TBD (New dates are TBD via Zoom Mtg)

*JGHSL League Scheduling Mtg: Monday Nov 23rd, 7:00pm at Schwan's Convention Ctr. (Monday Dec 7th, 7:00pm-format to be announced)

*JGHSL Mandatory Coach/Mgr Mtg: Sunday Nov 29th scheduled by your team's district JGHSL Rep (Sunday Dec 13th, 6:00pm-7:00pm via Zoom, please notify GGG of Head Coach & Mgr that will participate for meeting invitation) *JGHSL starts league games: Monday Nov 30th (Monday Dec 14th)

*JGHSL ends league games: Friday Feb 19th (Stays Feb 19th)

*JGHSL Playdowns: Tues Feb 23rd-Sunday Feb 28th in Shakopee and Minnetonka (Stays Feb 23rd-Feb 28th)

*State Tournament: Friday March 12th-Sunday March 14th in South St. Paul (Stays March 12th-March 14th) JGHSL teams will play 20 league games.

If there are two teams at the same level in your association, they need a color so can be entered into the league. Teams must be divided evenly by skill. Wayzata for example, splits up the grade levels. A couple rinks (central middle school) are allowing players to dress in locker room since they are older and may be driving themselves to the rink. Don't think it is safe to have kids driving in full hockey gear.

- Girls League Coordinator: no girls; coordinator now, see Nicole's report
- Grievance Committee: no report, need chair of committee. If you know someone that would be interested, let Nicole, Mark or Shelly know.
- Scheduling Coordinator: see President's report
- Tournament Coordinator: D3 Tournament meeting went great! If anyone has any questions or concerns, please email me. The new application is up and running and is off! I have 7 tournament applications submitted and will be getting those finalized in the next week. Neil and Mark please let me know if you need anything else from me for tournaments. D3 Reps if you could please verify with your tournament coordinators that they completed the contact form that I sent I would greatly appreciate it. Need to know from association tourney directors that are hosting, how many games will be played so can get scorebooks together.
- Social Media/Website: I will be setting up leagues once I have received the final team designations. Due to the changing nature of the situation, COVID protocol is not being put on the D3 website at this time. At some point information will be added but for now information should go out from the associations to their members, and questions from associations should be directed to D3 leadership. There was a minor texting phishing incident that happened using contact information from the D3 board page. Please let me know if you would like your phone number removed from our website. Email addresses

are not an issue at this time since they are hidden from the sender until you respond to the initial email. We are holding off on some of the updates that were planned for the upcoming season. Automating goalie sub forms, out of state travel forms and other changes are being put on hold for another year. COVID has given managers and teams plenty of new things to think about and learn, so there is no reason to add new procedures at this time.

- HP/Tier 1: What a great season! It was challenging, but everyone - players, parents, coaches and D3 staff stepped up to make it a great season. Some highlights: we were the only District to go out and actively market our program to the associations - thank you Shelly for coordinating! We were the only district to run "pre-season" off-ice and on-ice programs. We were one of two districts where all four of our teams landed in the top four or better in the state!! Wow...just think about that for a minute. We were very successful in keeping our players and staff safe and healthy by following our COVID protocols. We had two confirmed positives; however, none of our teams had to be isolated and continued playing without missing a beat. Special congratulations to our 14U Youth Prospect Team and Best of Luck as they head to Nationals in March 2021! All three of our Tier One teams made it to the final weekend of District playoffs. Our youth 15 team was short a few key players when they fiercely battled SSM in the semi-final game of the District playoff. Our 14U Youth team made it to the championship game and also pushed SSM till the end of third period. Our 14U girls also worked hard, but fell short to the D10 Green Giants. While we may not have sent any of our Tier One teams onto Nationals, the seasons were successful and healthy. We will send out a survey to all families next week to gather information on ways to improve the program. That data will be shared next month. The girls have one more weekend of hockey with the NIT tournament where they will play nationally ranked teams, which may help in the efforts to get At-Large bids for the national tournament. One challenge we continue to have is the conflict between association tryouts and the Tier One/Two playoffs. We will work to suggest a permanent "fix" to avoid this issue moving forward. We are now finalizing the expenses and revenues for the program; however, our program is set up to have a zero impact on the D3 bottom line.
- Hockey Operations: no report

6. D3 Association Representatives:

Armstrong Cooper: Peewee, Bantam, U12 and U15 team selection complete. Fine tuning Covid planning. Off ice officials and locker and District guidance.

Delano: Tryouts complete for Bantam/PeeWee without any surprises; Compliance concerns with COVID protocol; Waiting to see the impact of the HS schedule changes to the overall youth calendar

Hopkins: Tryouts went well. Prepping for Try Hockey for Free event.

Minneapolis: Registration ended up pretty even with last couple years. Evals are mostly done and all seems to be pretty well set.

Mound-Westonka: Just have the U15 tryouts left, which will be completed next week. Good with our team declarations. Working with Thaler and Pond Board to amend some of their COVID policies, Response to starting games with one ref- ok with veteran official at the younger levels not ok for Bantam level. Response to resurfacing between periods- plan to not resurface between periods at this time. Any updates on coaches having to wear masks? Need 12UB goalie.

North Metro: We are struggling to get medics for our tournaments. Waiting to add more players to our Bantam team. Still have room for our Thanksgiving tournament and MLK tournament.

Orono: Boys Evals complete and Girls done this week. Working through jersey issues with new supplier. Finalized coaches at all levels.

Osseo Maple Grove: *Nicole adding to this report -encouraging association reps to take back this message to leadership within your associations.*

Message from OMG President Adam Reiter:

The last five months have highlighted the need for understanding the effects of racism in our sport and within our Association. While our community alone cannot solve the issues of mistreatment on the basis of race, OMGHA is committed to doing our part to stand against racism and to promote a culture of inclusivity within its leadership, teams, and community. We recognize the importance of allyship and accept the responsibility to educate ourselves and take meaningful action to ensure that all players and families feel included, supported and valued. We will listen and learn about our failures in the past and pledge to hold each other accountable in an active pursuit to do better. As a way to hold ourselves accountable, our leadership team—with the feedback from our diverse community—will create an action plan along with the goals that we plan to accomplish that move our Association, our community and our sport closer to equality. We intend to have a plan shortly after our teams are formed for the season. This will allow for us to clearly communicate our expectations to each team as they begin their seasons. We anticipate that our

action plan may include but not be limited to the following: ongoing listening/learning sessions, collateral for coaches and parents on the topic of racism, mandatory education sessions and creative ways to unite beyond race in solidarity. We strive to grow the game of hockey, retain diverse talent through the high school experience, and encourage inclusive thought and action for all of our student-athletes across all racial, social, and ethnic lines. We will engage our parents and players in difficult and age-appropriate conversations in an effort to unite and create lasting change. The goal of our Association is to be a safe place for our student-athletes to learn and grow—not just as hockey players but also, in life. We consider ourselves an integral part in that process with your children and we take that responsibility seriously. While this effort begins with me—your president, and the many Board Members and coaches that interact with the kids regularly—it will take us all as parents, players and coaches in OMGHA. We pledge to take an active role in creating an inclusive hockey community that does not tolerate racist conduct. We are choosing to lead on this effort, and we will need your help. We will share our plans in the coming weeks and months and we encourage your feedback in the meantime. Thank you for your time in considering this important issue. Sincerely, Adam Reiter

Fall pre-tryout camps and tryouts held to-date have been very successful. We have had a few precautionary close contacts isolations, but no player COVID cases reported.

St Louis Park: We have had 3 positive cases of COVID-19. One in PW and 2 on a Bantam team with two parents on this team as well as another parent. Total of 3 players and 3 parents. We are looking at closing locker rooms as this is where there is the least amount of compliance with the mask mandate. Another area that is noncompliant is coming to the rink dressed with only skates, gloves, and helmet left to put on, and then leaving the same way. We started PW tryouts but had to pause due to COVID exposure and will resume 10/19. Bantam tryouts are done and Squirts start next week. Nicole, could you please bring up to MN Hockey regarding 2 coaches on the squirt benches at games. There is a big concern about this for the Squirt and 10U girls. Wondering if MN Hockey would make an exception at these levels due to the fact that this age group cannot climb over the wall and that two coaches running the doors is very busy and not a lot of time to coach the players on the ice.
Question on goalie subs: can a 10Ua goalie play for a 12Ub team? Nicole said no, cannot play in either a high division or level. Michelle added that SLP will need a 12UB goalie.

Out of town tournaments...any rules from MN Hockey? Nicole said there will be info on social gatherings and hospitality rooms.

Wayzata: Registration up slightly (50) from last year. Mostly at the mite and JG levels. Tryouts going well. Bantam, Peewee and 15U complete.

- 7. Old Business:** need for new treasurer-have a short term solution to get invoices taken care of. Working on long term solution.
- a. Review 2020-2021 Calendar move start of 12U to Nov 7. Calendar will be updated.
 - b. Arena protocols for Covid 19. MN Hockey coming out with more.
 - c. Squirt restructuring-looking at forming a committee after the season is up and running and work on for the future and come up with ideas. Let Mark or Nicole of interest in being involved.
- 9. New Business:**
- *Need new grievance committee chair.
 - *Association tryouts and tier one/two playoff challenge. Add for discussion in December 2020.
- 10. Adjourn TIME:** 8:34 Motion: Kelly Seconded: Mike M
Motion approved, meeting adjourned

Approved