



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

September 6, 2023 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:06 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci welcomed the board to the 2023-2024 season.

Asked for a moment of silence for those who passed including Dr. Alan Ashare, Joseph DeSantis, Gail Hymovitz, and George Gong.

He thanked all who had a part in him being named 2023 Wm. Thayer Tutt Award winner.

He reminded us of the importance of our Mission Statement:

The Mission of Massachusetts Hockey is to provide a safe and enjoyable atmosphere where participants are given the opportunity to learn, grow and play the game of ice hockey.

Stephen would like to have the Rules Committee look at number of committees we have to decrease where appropriate.

2. RULES PROPOSALS

Jeff Brown, Co-Chair Rulers Committee, conducted board decision on rules proposals.

Within accordance of the bylaws a motion was made to suspend amendment of bylaws only at the annual meeting, seconded and approved by all with no opposition nor abstentions.

Rules Proposal ARTICLE XIV - SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, OTHER DISCIPLINE; APPEALS updated in accordance to USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

A motion was made to accept this proposal, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rules Proposal 1- League Affiliation

A motion was made to postpone this ruling to October 2, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Violations of Officiating Abuse – Zero Tolerance policy to update USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

A motion was made to accept this proposal, seconded, and unanimously approved.



Housekeeping - change all references of "Secretary" to "Clerk"

A motion was made to accept this proposal, seconded, and unanimously approved.



MH ARTICLE XIV.docx



NEW MH ARTICLE
XIV.docx



LOCAL RULINGS
ABUSE OF OFFICIAL C



Housekeeping Rule
Change Secretary to C

3. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Not present.

4. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the April 28th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

5. VARIOUS UPDATES

A. COMMITTEE STATUS - see below.

B. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE - see below.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Great response on social media with our Why I Play contest. If you want to join a committee let us know in within the week.

Jen Dematos gave presentation on membership data over the last 10 years. There has been growth in girls but decline in boys impacting lower total Mass Hockey registration numbers. Jen has been reaching out to all programs to meet, get affiliate agreement, and solicit feedback from them. Programs can receive \$500 from PureHockey if they spend 15 minutes with Jen. There is a program newsletter that was recently launched to share information.

This year is 50th Anniversary of Mass Hockey and this is a special year that we'll highlight advances over the coming months.

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

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: Link is available for registration. Kevin Kavangh mentioned that most state tournaments will be under Mass Hockey responsibility to run a consistent experience across all.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: Dates are set for tournaments. Registration deadlines.



Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: Registration closed already. Participation is still growing.

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: Incident report system was down for several days but back up now. With Midget season underway the incident reports are coming in.

Rules, Christopher Gong: See above.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Adaptive Hockey - Ray Leblanc: Special hockey is looking to do regional events. Feb 25th will be Mass Hockey Adaptive Hockey Day to showcase all disciplines at Lovell Arena. Looking for helpers to support.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee – Dan Esdale: Hall of Fame Committee made it's selection and announcements will be made soon. The event will take place on Nov 19th. Looking for sponsors for the event.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

9. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 2. Welcomed new district director Joe Boyden

Dist 3. Welcomed 2 new directors: Keith Brown and Paul Byrne.

10. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Bob Joyce: Looking at recruiting deadlines for Tier 1 national teams.

Steve Rizzo: Discussion regarding 8U Mite waiver. We did apply for a waiver for full ice after January 16, 2024 for 8yo only. We need to figure out how we would use it.

Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: Hosting monthly organization calls and parent calls to let people know about resources available within Mass Hockey to develop goalies.



Tom McGrath: Locker monitors was a prominent discussion at nationals. Mass Hockey is considering hosting a National Tournament.

Chris Mayer: Legal counsel meeting next week.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: Couldn't attend but sent a report.

- The USAH Liability, Player Participant Accident and molestation policy renewed 9/1/23, without delay. Premium continues to grow.
- A reminder these policies do not "auto renew" like an auto insurance would. Every year they expire and contract terms and premium are negotiated. Thus, the delay at times making the new term available
- I began releasing COI's or Certificate of Insurance when the portal was opened on 8/30/23. So far, I have generated close to 90 COI's
- Lots of last-minute Labor Day tournaments to review or issue COI's for but it's that time of year and to be expected. They all went off without any issues that I am aware of
- Some programs have reported push back and threats from rinks to cancel ice time. But I've been able to respond to these rapidly once I receive the information
- USAH was able to keep our affiliate/program retention (think of it as a deductible) at \$5,000 for both General Liability and Directors and Officers. This would be the portion each program would be responsible for in the event of a loss.
- To date I have had one injury reported to me and have notified USAH of such
- I ask each program that seeks a COI or Evidence of Insurance to please complete the COI request form in its **entirety** despite any instruction on the form otherwise. This allows me to be expedient and accurate with COI's as we utilize a 3rd party to generate these. Having to chase rink addresses, correct clauses or association codes etc. is just not possible given the volume. I do get push back from some people on having to complete it, but I hold the line in requiring it.



Fillable Request for
Certificate of Insurance

Officiating – Kevin Donovan: Portal issues with USA Hockey. Planning of referee clinics is well underway. Level 2, 3, and 4 is held virtually. Level 1 is in person. You can attend clinics from any affiliate.

Registrar - Peter - Issues with portal for rosters with USA Hockey but being worked.



Coaching - Paul Moore: Paul couldn't attend but shared message. Coaching clinics are posted online. Will have Bruins Symposium but dates to be determined.

If there are delays in safesport and background checks beyond 7-10 days they can reach out to Kevin and Fiona in the office for support.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:29pm.