

# HPHL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2021

Ralph Bammert called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

## CLUBS PRESENT

Arapahoe, Black Widows, Chaparral, Cherokee Trail, Cherry Creek, Collins/Poudre, Denver East, Fairview, HTB, Longmont, Monarch, Mt. Ice, Mt. Vista, North Alliance, Parker Knights, Polar Bears, Storm, WLTV.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Ralph Bammert welcomed the group, introduced the board members and congratulated last year's champions.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2020

*Mark Wildrick moved that minutes from 2020 be approved as written. Hannah Valadez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

- HPHL had a 53K deficit two years ago during the COVID cancelled season. Last year the deficit was just under 16K. Some of this was planned in order to lower the reserve. Some was due to the elimination of planned expenses such as Player Pass tickets.
- The budget for 21-22 is estimated to lose another 20K which will put our reserves right around 100K, the target amount.
- Team fees for 2021 are as follows:
  - Varsity - \$8000. 12 games, 6 ice touches (including tryouts).
  - JV - \$5100. 10 games, 6 ice touches (including tryouts).
  - Girls - \$5100. 10 games, 6 ice touches (including tryouts).
- \$775 (up from \$500) security deposit for each club.
- No Player Pass tickets. Players can purchase discounted tickets on own.
- The meeting credit has also been discontinued.

## SCHEDULES AND TIERS

- The league is planning to buy some ice in advance in order to alleviate the chronic ice shortage in certain areas.
- 6 ice touches per team including tryouts.
  - Some discussion about less/more practices. Those teams that would like more than 6 ice touches will be allowed to purchase extra ice. They would need to schedule and pay for this directly with the rink. Teams purchasing additional ice MUST let Scott know their plans/schedule as they are still on the ice under the HPHL banner. Scott will work with anyone needing less than 6 ice touches on case by case basis.
- Tom brought up that teams cannot arrange scrimmages (play non-counting games) against teams from other clubs without prior approval from league.
- Season has a short time span as there are conflicts with CAHA year-end events in March and graduation events in May.
- Games will begin 3/18 and playoffs will end 5/8.
- Playoff games are included in the team fees, but not in the 10 or 12 game count.
- Playoff format similar to last year. Single elimination. Most will be done by Mother's Day. Those in attendance were in favor of championships on Mother's Day as opposed to the Monday after.
- The schedule will come out in 2 phases. First few weeks and then the remainder of the season.

- Tiering is never perfect. There might be rare adjustments. The focus is on tiering the players in the middle/gray zone, as top and bottom are easier to identify.

### **USAH RULE CHANGES**

Brian Willie, the HPHL referee scheduler, reviewed some of the major rules changes USAH has made for the 2021 season.

- Icing and off sides will be per high school rules. Youth and juniors have different rules so those players will need to be educated/reminded.
- 4 penalties in a game for a player now results in a game misconduct.
  - A 2 and 10 counts as two penalties and should be written as such (on two lines).
  - Two 2 and 10's for the same player result in a game misconduct per rule 404 (2 misconducts in a game = game misconduct; the second misconduct should be entered as a game misconduct.) Would also add up to 4 penalties for the player so an additional game misconduct.
- 12 penalties for a team results in a suspension for the head coach on the bench at the end of the game.
  - Bench minors only count against the coach and not the player serving the penalty.
- There are no stand alone 5 minute majors anymore. If a major is handed out, it will be accompanied by a game misconduct.
- When serving a game misconduct the coach or player is not allowed to be in contact with the team or in the vicinity of the bench for the 45 minutes leading up to the game and for 30 minutes after the game ends. This includes in person and electronic contact.
- There are numerous changes to the way checking is looked at and called.
  - Player must be in possession of the puck in order to be checked. No finishing a check once puck is gone.
  - The focus is now on reckless endangerment as opposed to actual injury.
  - Players returning from Juniors will need to be informed/educated.
- Officials have 48 hours in which to submit the penalty report. HPHL teams often have their next game before the 48 hours has passed. Player/coach still needs to serve while report is pending. Tom McGann monitors the penalties and suspensions and can advise the team if questions.
- Other reminders:
  - Ear guards must be worn or player will receive 10 minute misconduct. Must be actual ear guard and not something fashioned from tape.
  - Mouth guards must be worn or player will receive 10 minute misconduct.
  - Players must keep helmet on even in penalty box or 10 minute misconduct.
  - Goalies must use approved masks (no cat eyes!) or 10 minute misconduct.

Brian also explained that the referee pool is down quite a bit this year due to COVID and more are lost during the spring season due to end of season "burn out". The aim is for 4 officials for the higher tier varsity games. That will not always happen. It was discussed that 2 or 4 is better than 3 as with 2 and 4 there are two referees, while with a 3 man system there is only 1 referee with 2 linesmen. He will also aim to staff girls games with female officials as much as possible. Brian is aware of HPHL team rivalries as well as "problem" officials and will work with HPHL as much as possible.

### **HPHL RULE CHANGES**

Tom went over the following HPHL rule changes:

- Reverting back to pre COVID policies for play ups. Once a player has played in his/her fourth game for a club's higher team he/she can no longer return to the lower level team.
- The same applies for goalies although the games only count if they actually go into the game. A goalie can be pulled up an unlimited number of times to sit on the bench without going in.
- No play downs based on the USAH 1-T roster.
- No dual rostering on USAH 1-T rosters with exception for a girl playing on both girls and coed teams.

- The playoff deposit, renamed security deposit, has been increased to \$775 per club and will be due on a separate check at the same time as the FIRST installment of team fees.
  - The security deposit will not be cashed unless the team fails to show for a game, cancels a game with less than 2 weeks notice or has outstanding fines/fees at the end of the season. Once cashed a new security deposit will need to be paid prior to the team's next game.
  - Any team that fails to show for a scheduled game or cancels a game with less than 2 weeks notice will not only pay the \$775, but also be considered ineligible for playoffs.
  - It is the responsibility of the head coach/team manager to determine team availability well in advance.

Tom reminded everyone of the following:

- \$200 team fines still in place for -
  - Abuse Game Misconducts written up as 601 d or e.
  - Fighting Game Misconducts written up as 615 a, d, f.
  - 601 e 3 is an automatic match penalty so there is no additional fine.
- Coaches MUST verify penalties at the end of each game.
- Injuries are not automatically considered a reason for supplemental discipline.

### **CREDENTIALS AND GRADES**

- SafeSport for coaches, managers, club coordinators, and players born in 2004 or earlier.
  - Players must take same course as coaches, managers, etc. The youth athlete course does NOT provide roster eligibility.
  - Yearly requirement, but short refresher available for anyone that took the core course during the last two years.
- Screening/ background check for coaches, managers and club coordinators.
  - Through USAH now. Must complete separate registration, as is not automatic upon registering as USAH participant.
  - Good for two season. \$30. Teams could offset this by adding a few extra dollars to player fees.
  - Can take 7 - 14 business days for results to come back. Cannot add anyone to roster until results are back and clear, so must plan well ahead.
- Age related module for coaches only.
  - One time requirement.
  - Modules are supposed to change at some point.
  - High School coaches will need either the existing midget (16/18U) module or the new 13 and older module. Take whichever is available. Current module is \$10 and new one will be \$15.
- All of the above requirements must be done PRIOR to being added to a roster.
- Anything that has already been completed for the fall/winter season does NOT need to be redone.
- CEP is the only credential that there is any leeway on.
  - We will work with coaches that do not have CEP or have expired CEP if they are new to HPHL and were not coaching this past fall/winter.
  - All other coaches must have CEP with expiration of 2022 or later by end of December 2021.
  - There is no more multi-year level three. Any coach that received their level 3 prior to this fall needs to take level 4 NOW.
    - L4 is now a one day course for same price as L1-3.
    - New L4's will be good for 3 years with continuing education required during that time.
    - Existing L4's are grandfathered in and do not expire or require continuing ed.
  - There are both in person and virtual classes available. **If virtual class says it is full, contact the instructor directly as they will add more coaches, but must do so manually.**
- Player grades are checked prior to first game and again prior to playoffs.
  - Grades will be checked by division directors. Please direct any questions about format and logistics to them.

- Players on individualized learning programs (IEP/504) may participate if they turn in a letter from counselor stating on learning plan, all work turned in, putting forth adequate effort.

### **PLAYER PLACEMENT**

- Players tryout for the team that the school they are attending is affiliated with.
- Players from unaffiliated schools also have policies dictating their team placement.
- Players requesting to tryout for different team than the one school is affiliated with must submit a written request that will be reviewed by the board.
  - Playing with friend(s) is not a valid reason.
  - Playing for higher tier is not a valid reason.
- If releasing/cutting players after tryouts follow the steps below.
  - Send names of potential releases to league. Send in one batch.
  - Wait to notify the players they are being released until the league has let you know there is an alternate team for them.
  - If HPHL does not have another team to place potential releases on, work with the players on a satisfactory option.
    - Practice player or select minimal games.
    - Prorated fee.

### **GOALIES**

- It is possible to play/finish a game without a goalie.
  - Teams in this situation need to be creative.
  - Options include dressing a skater as goalie or playing with 6 skaters.
  - Not a reason for a forfeit.
- If a team will not have a goalie for a game and is able to let Michelle know 48 hours or more in advance she can help locate an appropriate substitute.
  - If game day notice then the team manager will need to contact other managers to find a sub, which will need to be approved by Michelle.
- Substitute goalies need to be from an equal or lower level team.
- As the season starts let Michelle know if you have any goalies that are willing to substitute for other teams if needed.

### **ELECTIONS**

The slate of candidates listed below was presented. As there were no additional nominations from the floor all were elected.

- Randy Watler – First term as Girls’ Division Director.
- Mark Wildrick – Up for reelection as North Central Division Director.
- Dina Fieweger – Up for reelection as South Central Division Director.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- The girls’ division will be resurrecting the Storm this year for a planned total of 5 teams.
- This year’s Hobey Baker recognition (during an April Avalanche game) will also include any available Hobey Baker winners from last year.
- Division Meetings are being planned again. One for South and South Central and a second for North and North Central. Likely in February.

Meeting was adjourned by Ralph Bammert at 8:55pm.  
Approval pending.

**A list of Important Dates is attached.**