



USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting September 16, 2024

Attendance

Present: Mike Trimboli, Keith Barrett, Ryan Bedford, Cheri Bonawitz, Caitlin Cahow, Tom Cline, Julie Chu, Bill Daly, Declan Farmer, Donna Guariglia, Bob Joyce, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, TC Lewis, Taylor Lipsett, Mike MacMillan, Kevin McKee, Steve Oleheiser, John Tobin, Andy Yohe.

Absent: Dwayne Dillinger, Don Gould, Jen Yung Lee, Noah Grove.

Staff Members: Pat Kelleher, Tony Driscoll, Kevin Erlenbach, Casey Jorgensen, Kelly Mahncke, Bob Mancini, Scott Monaghan, Tami Tranter, John Vanbiesbrouck.

Call to Order

Mike Trimboli called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Conflict of Interests

None.

Approval of Minutes

Donna Guariglia moved to approve the August 12, 2024 board minutes (2nd John Tobin). The minutes were approved.

President's Report

Mike Trimboli began the meeting by expressing sympathy for the Gould family upon the passing of Don Gould's mother. Mike, John Vanbiesbrouck and Pat Kelleher attended the services for Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau in Philadelphia. There are no words to express the sadness that this tragedy brings to the hockey community and the senseless nature of the incident. The Gaudreau family will continue to be in USA Hockey's thoughts.

Overall registration numbers continue to be on a positive trend, which is a clear indication of the continued growth of our sport. These increases include the registration numbers for officials, coaches and adult players.

Some minor issues in different Affiliates and Districts have come up and are being taken care of within those groups. Mike indicated that this is common and that he will continue to assist those leaders when requested or necessary.

Mike advised the Board of some updates on the Congress as three representatives have stepped down from their Congress positions since June: Kaye Pinkowski, Mid-American District; Ben Frank, Pacific District; and Tom Regan, New England District. The Mid-American and Pacific positions have been filled, and New England will meet in October to work on a replacement for the open position. These are





being updated in the online Annual Guide as changes are made. We appreciate the time and input that these volunteers have provided to USA Hockey over their collective years of service.

Executive Director's Report

Pat Kelleher reported on the great start to the season across the country and the resounding success of Welcome Back Week. The event was a testament to our collective efforts, with great work on the communications side promoting the events. Pat attended the NTDP orientation, and they are off to an excellent start for their season. The NTDP began their season with an exhibition game against the Youngstown Phantoms. Then, on Saturday, the Kiefer Memorial Game took place at the Arena in honor of a former high school player who passed away to raise awareness for distracted driving. The U17 NTDP team just returned from Albuquerque where Stan Hubbard, a Foundation board member, hosted the NTDP in its games against the NAHL's New Mexico Ice Wolves.

September 15 through October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Communications Department is working on a social media campaign.

Mike Trimboli, John Vanbiesbrouck, Dwayne Dillinger and Pat Kelleher will attend the upcoming IIHF semi-annual congress meetings in Rhodes, Greece.

The U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2024 has been announced. That event will be on December 4th in Pittsburgh. The class includes Matt Cullen, Brianna Decker, Frederic McLaughlin, Kevin Stevens, and the 2002 Paralympic Sled Hockey Team.

Related to the recently filed lawsuit involving the Canadian Hockey League and the eligibility of those players for the NCAA, Pat Kelleher, Casey Jorgensen and Bob Mancini recently met with the NCAA and their lawyers. USA Hockey provided background information on the landscape of hockey at that level in our country. USA Hockey remains steadfast, and supportive of the current status of college hockey as it is as successful as it has ever been. However, USA Hockey will continue to monitor the situation and work with college hockey, our sanctioned junior leagues and others in the conversation.

Pat Kelleher will participate in a panel discussion tomorrow night for Hockey Canada with Bill Daly and Bob Nicholson, the IIHF representative for Hockey Canada, on topics related to international hockey and USA Hockey's strong relationship with Hockey Canada.

Another successful U.S. Center for SafeSport audit has been conducted. Casey Jorgensen and his team did a great job along with the volunteers at the event, and USA Hockey was found to be in full compliance.

Kristen Sagaert has been promoted to Director of Girls' Hockey, and Taryn Cass has been promoted to Manager of Events. A long-time ADM manager, Roger Grillo, has moved to a coaching role with the Montreal Canadiens. Jason Guerriero has been hired and will replace Roger in the New England area. Most recently, Jason was on staff for the Youth Olympic Games. Jason Hodges has been a long-time athlete trainer with the NTDP and will also move on to the NHL to work with the Detroit Red Wings.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Guariglia reported that the financials represent eleven months of the 2024 fiscal year. The complete financial statements can be found in the report. Donna highlighted a few essential items.



USA Hockey, the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey, is a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee





Although revenue has been below budget with corporate sponsorship, it has thrived with events, including the Women's World Championships. Travel expenses make up 20% of the overall budget and is over due to increased expenses of travel for players to the Men's World Championships and the Women's Worlds in Utica. The overall net income is off by about \$600,000. USA Hockey did perform better in July than budgeted. At this time, USA Hockey is expecting a 2024 year-end deficit of about \$300,000. There were discussions about the financial reports and the possibility of adding certain information to the monthly reports. Those considerations and other options will be discussed at the in-person meeting in November.

IT Subcommittee Update

Kelly Mahncke reported that while there have been some challenges with integration, USA Hockey is progressing well. The departments have had great discussions on the website.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

Donna Guariglia reminded the board that Hispanic Heritage Month is approaching and acknowledged the Affiliate work in recognition. She also commended Stephanie Jackson on her recent DEI work, including the action plan that she submitted to the USOPC.

Legal Council Report

John Tobin reported that there have not been any recent national appeals.

Casey Jorgensen added that the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook is being revised to address changes from the Center for SafeSport, including related to billeting, and will soon be before the Board for approval. The Background Screen Policy is also being updated per the recommendation of the background screen review committee.

Casey discussed the importance of Affiliates following good risk management protocols to avoid undue or unnecessary disputes that may result in litigation. Such lawsuits can have an impact on our insurance premiums, our budget and ultimately the cost of hockey.

Girls' and Youth Council

Keith Barrett welcomed Jason Guerriero and noted that the season is off to a great start. Don Gould could not be with us today but Keith and Bob had no further report.

Junior Council

TC Lewis reported that the USHL showcase is coming up soon, followed by the NAHL showcase.

Adult Council

All tournaments have been posted and are being filled for the Men's and Women's National Championships. The men's division is 85% filled, and the women's division is over 70% filled.





International Council

John Vanbiesbrouck referenced the upcoming travel for the IIHF meetings and that the international department is excited for the teams we will have representing USA Hockey this year.

Membership Council

Donna Kaufman reported that Welcome Back Week was a huge success. Membership is now working with the growth coordinators to reach the local program administrators. Another goal is to expand the Learn to Play programs into areas without an NHL team. Total membership is up 4.5% from last year. The next Council meeting will be on September 16th.

Marketing Report

Tony Driscoll reported that marketing is focusing on event planning and sponsorship conversations that we hope will soon bring positive news.

Affiliate President's Report

Steve Oleheiser reported that the Affiliate Presidents will meet in October. Mike Trimboli, Pat Kelleher, and Casey Jorgensen will attend.

Foundation Report

Tami Tranter reported that the U18 World Championship team's jersey auction is currently ongoing. Circle of Champions donation reminders have been sent. The Foundation Board will have a zoom meeting on October 1st and then meet in person in November in Nashville.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Caitlin Cahow asked about the possibility of USA Hockey celebrating the Americans named to the Hockey Hall of Fame; Pat Kelleher described how this is generally done through communications and distribution of content about the inductees.

Mike Trimboli reminded members to complete their Conflict of Interest disclosures and for new members to complete training in BoardSpan.

The next board meeting is October 15th. Pat Kelleher described the process for creation of the monthly agenda and how members can submit items for the agenda through their staff liaison.

Adjournment

John Tobin moved to adjourn the meeting (2nd Julie Chu). Meeting adjourned.

