



## *Executive Report*

### **ANNUAL CONGRESS NOTES**

#### **USA Hockey New President**

**Mike Trimboli** (Massena, N.Y.), who has been involved in grassroots hockey as a player, coach, official and administrator for parts of the last six decades, was elected president of USA Hockey at the Board of Directors Meeting as part of the organization's virtual Annual Congress.

#### **USA Hockey Announces Partnership With NCSA**

USA Hockey announced today it has signed a multi-year agreement with [Next College Student Athlete](#) to serve as the official recruiting services provider for USA Hockey.

"We're excited to welcome NCSA," said **Pat Kelleher**, executive director of USA Hockey. "Education is a key part of our value system at USA Hockey and NCSA provides resources for student-athletes and their families related to the college recruiting process."

As USA Hockey's recruiting partner, NCSA will provide educational tools and resources to high school-age USA Hockey athletes, with the goal of assisting families in navigating the college recruiting process.

Athletes will have the option to create a free NCSA profile when registering with USA Hockey and gain access to NCSA's online recruiting resources.

NCSA will also provide recruiting education to student-athletes and families attending USA Hockey events, including its series of youth national championships, and host exclusive online webinars for USA Hockey members.

"I know from personal experience how competitive and overwhelming collegiate ice hockey recruiting can be," said **Lisa Strasman**, NCSA president and former Yale women's ice hockey captain. "NCSA is something that would have been incredibly helpful to me in my recruiting process. I'm thrilled that NCSA will be able to guide the next generation of hockey players on their recruiting journey."



## PLAYING RULES CHANGE YEAR

The USA Hockey Board of Directors approved the rulebook for 2021-25. The organization modifies/updates the playing rules on a four-year cycle. Highlights of modifications include:

- The principles of the declaration of safety, fair play, and respect that were originally passed by the Board in 2019 will be fully implemented into the new rulebook, including zero tolerance of hateful and discriminatory language and as well as hits from behind, hits to the head and late hits.
- All levels of youth hockey outside of high school will include both immediate offside and the removal of the exception to ice the puck when shorthanded.
- Major and match penalties will be determined on the principle of reckless endangerment, not based on injury.
- All major penalties will now also include a game misconduct penalty.
- Modified the length of penalties based on length of period.

A full summary of the changes will be available later this month at [usahockey.com](https://www.usahockey.com).

## NEW VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

USA Hockey added [two new volunteer positions](#) to its coaching and officiating education structure during the Annual Congress, including a coach-in-chief for female development and a referee-in-chief for female development. The two new volunteer positions, appointed by the executive director of USA Hockey, will serve in a lead role in developing and implementing strategies to advance efforts related to recruitment, retention and overall support of females currently involved or interested in becoming involved in coaching and officiating.



## **SAHOF ANNUAL REPORT**

### **SAFESPORT AND BACKGROUND SCREENING**

As you know Background Screens are now done through the USA Hockey registration and background screens are no longer administered by the Affiliates. The average time to complete a background screen when there are no issues with access to court records is 3 1/2 days. SafeSport training is being changed to completion of the core course every 4 years with a shorter refresher for the years in between the core course requirements.

### **GO FOR THE GOLD GRANTS**

#### **SFHL Rink Rescue Retention Grant**

The SAHOF Board of Directors wanted to show its appreciation and approved a grant that would help compensate facilities for SFHL games that were cancelled due to COVID. This grant covers games that were played from the beginning of the season through February 7, 2021. A separate grant was approved for games that were cancelled after February 7th . Facilities were reimbursed 100% for games that were cancelled with 1 day notice, 80% for games cancelled with 2 days' notice, 70% for games cancelled with 3 days' notice, 60% for games cancelled with 4 days' notice and 50% for games cancelled with 5 days' notice.

### **2020-21 SEASON MEETING LOG**

Many thanks are well deserved across the board to get us over the finish line of this challenging season as we are one of the few Affiliates in the country that was able to successfully play and complete a full Tier II schedule and have Tier I and High School qualified for the opportunity to play in the National Championship.

It is truly an honor to be involved with so many tremendous people that all worked tirelessly together to get through this season while keeping the safety of our kids and families the highest priority. Rink Management, Hockey Directors, Coaches, Managers, and our Officials while putting themselves at risk all came together and communicated with each other and league officials to ensure all COVID related issues were addressed and dealt with in the appropriate manner. Completing this season is truly a crowning achievement for everyone involved!

An incredibly special thanks is very well deserved to all our facilities. Our facilities had to incur tremendous expenses to keep our buildings open and safe to play in. At many



times facilities even had to eat the cost of ice for last minute cancellations. Without their commitment and support, this season would not have been possible.

June 7, 2021 BOD Meeting

May 11, 2021 Girls Hockey Fest

April 27, 2021 Hockey Director Meeting

March 28, 2021 BOD Meeting

February 17, 2021 SAHOF State Championship Meeting

February 8, 2021 SafeSport Hearing Committee Meeting

January 31, 2021 BOD Meeting

January 20, 2021 SFHL and HS State Championship Meeting

December 20, 2020 BOD Meeting

November 22, 2020 BOD Meeting

November 18, 2020 SFHL Hockey Directors Meeting

November 4, 2020 Rink Managers Meeting discussion on Covid Re-schedules

October 19, 2020 SFHL "A" League Meeting

October 18, 2020 BOD Meeting

October 1, 2020 SAHOF SafeSport Conference

September 23, 2020 Season Update for National Bound teams

September 16, 2020 SFHL Coaches and Manger Meeting

September 13, 2020 BOD Meeting

August 17, 2020 SafeSport Meeting

August 5, 2020 BOD Meeting and Membership COVID-19 Season Start

July 8, 2020 BOD Meeting COVID-19

June 20, 2020 SAHOF Annual Meeting and Election

June 4, 2020 SFHL Follow up Meeting

April 20, 2020 Hockey Director Meeting



## RISE PARTNERSHIP

This season many of us had the opportunity to participate in the RISE workshops.

### Overview

In partnership with USA Hockey, RISE provided monthly leadership workshops that are open to the entire membership of USA Hockey, along with two sessions for the organization's Affiliate Presidents.

### Engagements

RISE committed to the following partnership timeline:

- USA Hockey Annual Congress Diversity and Inclusion Workshop (June 2020)
- Monthly Virtual Programming (July 2020 – June 2021)

RISE implemented monthly virtual sessions that aimed to expand USA Hockey's skills and knowledge on topics surrounding diversity and inclusion over the past year. These 60- minute sessions were open to USA Hockey's entire membership.

Session	Date	Topic
1	7/24/20	Identity
2	8/14/20	Sport as a Vehicle for Change
3	9/18/20	Diversity Concepts
4	10/16/20	Perspective Taking
5	11/20/20	Privilege
6	12/18/20	Empathy
7	1/15/21	Equality vs. Equity
8	2/19/21	Microaggressions
9	3/19/21	Civic Engagement
10	4/16/21	Leadership
11	5/21/21	Inclusive Leadership
12	6/18/20	RISE to Action

Additional self-guided learning materials (including videos, podcasts, perspective pieces and other interactive activities, updated weekly) for each topic can be found at the RISE Digital Learning Series: <https://risetowin.org/digitallearning/index.html>



## **2021-22 SFHL AA & A**

This upcoming season Alex Galiana will step down as the SFHL “AA” League Commissioner. Jeff Ning will assume the duty of SFHL “AA” and “A” League Commissioner. Alex Galiana will remain as part of the SFHL Executive Committee and will stay on as the SFHL Administrator, handling invoicing, billing and payments.

## **FLORIDA ALLIANCE**

This season the Florida Alliance fielded the following teams:

### **Boys**

18U

16U – NAPHL Champions

15U – National Championship Runner up

14U

### **Girls**

19U Tier II – National Qualifiers

16U Tier I – District Champions

16U Tier II – National Qualifiers

14U Tier II – District Champions

The Florida Alliance also fielded Boys and Girls training teams at the non-national bound levels that participated in training weekends and played a limited schedule at some levels.

## **SAHOF GDC**

This past season SAHOF was appointed 2 new GDC’s (Goalie Development Coordinators) by USA Hockey. Jason Babinec was our GDC in the North. Jason was instrumental in helping with the player development camps and we look forward to having Jason work with our coaches and players this upcoming season. Brett Schaeffer was our GDC in the South and has recently resigned from the position.

## **GROWTH AND RETENSION**

You can now find and download your affiliate’s 20-21 8U season end report [HERE](#).

SFHL 2020-21 “AA” 48 teams

SFHL 2021-22 “AA” 49 teams projected

SFHL 2020-21 “A” 72 teams

SFHL 2021-22 “A” 94 teams projected



## **NIC ROBILLARD**

A special thanks to Nic Robillard as he steps away from hockey and pursues a life away from the rink. Nic served as a coach and then Hockey Director of the Palm Beach Hawks. As he ascended into leadership, he was elected to the SAHOF Board of Directors. In Nic's second term he was elected as Vice President and served as the South Disciplinary Chair. Nic also served on numerous other committees and represented SAHOF in Colorado Springs. Nic was a tremendous mentor, friend and coach and we will miss his presence on the SAHOF Board of Directors. Thank you Nic!