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*MASS HOCKEY BOARD MINUTES*  
NOVEMBER 4, 2019 - Sheraton Needham

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, November 4th, 2019 at the Needham Sheraton, Needham, Massachusetts.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:30pm

Bob shared experience from 4 recent events:

- 10/16: Ice Hockey In the USA: Past, Present, Future Panel held at Warrior Ice Arena featured a discussion on diversity and Inclusion in hockey.
- 10/24: Team USA Sled Hockey had development camp at Falmouth Ice Arena. Wonderful experience.
- 11/2: Bruins Coaching Symposium at Warrior Ice Arena. Over 400 coaches attended on a game day. The level 2 and 3 coaching clinics were offered as well. This was taped for future promotions.
- 11/3: TD Bank Bruins Mini 1-on-1 event was a success. First ever sled hockey division was held as part of event. Thank you to NESN for coverage of event. To be aired the 2nd half of season.

Liz Cohen created an online form for the Affiliate Agreement and sent notification to all association registrars. To date 51 of about 150 organizations have electronically signed the agreement. Will be pushing district registrars to work with associations to get completed by end of 2019.

Chris Mayer, Chair of Discipline Committee, shared a number of stats regarding incident reports and discipline matters from start of season:

- Received well over 500 Incident Reports for Playing Rule violations since September.
- There have been 24 Match Penalty reports as of 11/1/2019.
- 9 incidents regarding physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse
- 3 regarding Hate Speech - New Match Penalty Rule communicated from President Jim Smith
- 5 incidents involve the lack of a locker monitor
- 2 Incidents with Coach not wearing helmet
- A 18U Team from Westfield where no players had mouthguards and had to forfeit game as a result of not having safety equipment.

List of people who cannot participate:

Alfred Mazeiko, Andrew LeColst, Anthony Helsinki, Anthony DeSiva, Brendan Kessler, Brian Boll, Christopher Prew, Dan Clayton, Denis Barrette, George Barrett, Henry Stebbins, Joshua Herbert, Robert Richardson, Robert Flynn

Greg Sophis shared finance update. Income and expenses are as expected with prior with exception of CORI screening costs which are new this year. With over 7000 screens completed the costs are over \$132K so far.



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Kevin Donovan shared a series of stats regarding game reports as of 11/2/19:

- Total Incidents Reported - 698
- Total Game Reports - 469
  - Coaches - 49
  - Player Reports - 649
  - Months:
    - August – 25
    - September – 227
    - October – 216
    - November – 1
- Age classifications
  - 170 - 18 & Under Youth
  - 110 - 14 & Under
  - 95 - 16 & Under
  - 46 - 12 & Under
  - 22 - 15 Only
  - 10 - 10 & Under
  - 5 - 19 & Under Girls
  - 5 - High School
  - 5 - BLANK
  - 1 - 8 & Under
- Type of Infraction
  - 309 - Aggressive Infractions Under Rule 411
  - 180 - Fighting - Rule 615
  - 120 - Abuse of Officials - Rule 601
  - 67 - Section 4 Violations - Rules 401, 403, 404
  - 21 - Non 411 Infractions
- Incident Reports By Type
  - 413 - Major Plus Game Misconduct Penalty
  - 162 - Game Misconduct
  - 33 - Major Penalty
  - 28 - Minor Plus Misconduct Penalty
  - 25 - Match Penalty
  - 16 - Team 15 Penalties
  - 9 - Other Incident Report
  - 8 - Player 5 Penalties
  - 4 - Minor Penalty



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- Match Penalties
  - 6 - 602(a) Deliberate or Attempt to injure opponent or team official
  - 4 - 601(f3) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the game
  - 3 - 620(c) Head Contact
  - 2 - 615(c) Helmet removed during altercation
  - 2 - 601(d1) Touching or Holding an Official
  - 2 - 601(f1) Deliberate physical assault to any game official

This is up from last year at this time. Kevin Donovan added the uptick in suspensions and discipline is in part due to Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play, and Respect. Still some officials may lessen penalty or not file game report due challenges with paperwork and reporting system. USA Hockey is working to improve the system but delayed due to IT issues at USA Hockey. Game sheets are not always legible, could we mandate stickers so you can read the game sheets.

A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from October, seconded and unanimously approved

Kevin Kavanagh mentioned that it is a busy event time of the season. Bruins Mini 1-on-1 included sled hockey division for the first time. It was well received and successful event. Coaching symposium had over 400 coaches in attendance on a game day. National bound tournaments for boys and girls high school starting shortly. Kevin Donovan's and Christine Mayer's volunteer hours are up dealing with the many discipline matters. Thank you to volunteers for match penalty hearings. Collecting responses for Affiliate agreements. Trialing Gamsheetinc.com, new online software for game tracking using Ipads in the score box instead of paper reporting. Will be piloting this weekend at state tournaments. Mike DiOrion has attended 18 coaching clinics talking about Mass Hockey and our Initiatives to all in attendance.

Steve Rizzo said Boys Player Development in full action.

Keri-Anne Allen mentioned nominations underway for Girls Player Development.

Youth National Bound Tournament for 15U, 16U and 18U takes place next weekend (11/8-10).

Tom Smith provided an update from the Safety Committee: The programs that we are looking to create or expand upon are the following:

- Drug Awareness
- Stop the Bleeding
- Heads Up Don't Duck/The Look-Up Line
- Concussion Program (modified concussion cards)
- First Responder
- Proper Body Checking/Hits from Behind



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No additional District reports.

Kevin Donovan provided update from officiating committee. There have been over 750 officials through seminars so far. This is down about 70 officials from last year. We need to get officials complete (background screen, certification) by Dec 1 otherwise they can't ref. This impacts about 700 officials. 580 missing background screening. Mass Hockey needs to work with leagues about staffing officials as leagues expand with more and more teams. The weekend times are limited, week day games may be necessary. Need to work with scheduling of games so there are 18U, then 10U, then 14U. Shadow programs in Greater Springfield League and Southshore Conference are going well.

Recent Boston Globe [article](#) abuse of officials is rampant across all sports causing a shortage of officials. We are losing officials because of this abuse. We need game supervisors trained to deal with unruly fans in the stands. Kevin Donovan shared a series of posters about educating people on abuse of officials. There will be more match penalties for language issues as a result of rule change. We all need to work together to keep hockey great.

Eugene Binda talked about the critical situation with the abuse of officials and lack of officials to staff these games. Mass General Law [36A](#) states that any profane, obscene or impure language or slanderous statement directed at a player or official may be punishable by \$50 fine. The Board discussed possibly adding a new rule implementing additional game discipline for abuse of official game misconducts to increase the number of games suspended to up to 3 games total.

Steve Rizzo mentioned the letter from Jim Smith which changes the penalty for racial/derogatory slurs of any kind that fall under Rule 601 (e. 3) from a game misconduct to a match penalty.

Bob mentioned the need to move April's board meeting from the 6th to the 13th due to National Tournament be played April 1-6, 2020.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.