

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2019  
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep  
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep  
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep  
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep  
Lance Wilson – Registrar  
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator  
Randy Boysen – Member at Large / Program Development (Girls and Goalies)  
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep  
Darryl James – Squirt Rep  
Jon Flynn – House Rep  
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep

Absent Board Members:

None

Guests:

Robert Whited – Bantam Parent  
Rob LaChappelle – Referee  
Adrienne Simonson – Bantam and Mite Parent  
Chris Simonson – Bantam and Mite Parent  
Rob Smith – Mite Parent and Evaluation/Tryout Coordinator for 2019 tryouts

**Meeting Called to Order 5:33 p.m.**

**Minutes**

Darryl asked that the discussion about whether to post draft meeting minutes prior to approved meeting minutes, be included in last month's minutes. Judy will add. Mekell wanted a correction made about the discussion to get bids for jerseys. It was her understanding that her and Randy were to get bids for both game and practice jerseys. Most of the rest of the board understood the plan was to get bids for just practice jerseys and not for game jerseys since Paula was already taking care of game jerseys. Lance moved to approve August 5th minutes as is, with the addition of board decision to not post draft meeting minutes. Darryl seconded. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Chris Simonson thanked the board for all their time and encouraged the board to really look at the big picture and the entire organization when making decisions about the bantam and high school teams this season.

### **Coach-in-Chief – Shawn Schroeder**

Shawn said we need a bantam coach and we need a high school B coach. The lower levels look good as far as the number of coaching applications already received. Sarah Garcia said the goal is to schedule High School Varsity and B games at the same locations and if we are successful in doing so, then Trent and Troy have offered to coach the B games as well. But the board should still find a High School B Coach as well. The High School B team will have 16 regular season games and HAYHA will also pay the tournament fees for one of their tournaments, making it 20 games as a part of their fees, which is the same as High School Varsity team (20 games).

Shawn said he has made some minor changes to the Evaluation Sheet for tryouts. Judy asked about the scale being 1 – 5 instead of 1 – 3 used last year. Shawn said it would be 1 – 5. Shawn will help put practice plans together with the Head Coach Representatives that will be chosen later in the meeting. The Head Coach Representatives are called “representatives” because they represent as head coaches during tryouts but may or may not be the head coaches of the A or B team after tryouts. It will depend on where their child lands. The Head Coach Representatives will run tryouts and be part of the decision making at the end of tryouts. According to the tryout policy, four people will be in the decision-making room following tryouts: Head Coach A Rep, Head Coach B Rep, Coach-in-Chief, Evaluation Coordinator. They will take evaluation sheets and list all players with their scores and then split players into A and B teams according to evaluation scores and the following items:

- Age and maturity.
- Coaches’ past experiences with a player. If the two Head Coach Reps are unfamiliar with a player, they are encouraged to speak with a player’s past coaches any time during the process.
- Commitment to team and commitment to travel.
- Attitude and work ethic.
- Interest and ability in playing goalie.

Rob Smith asked the board if there was anything he needed to be doing prior to tryouts. The board said no. Rob’s role will be to assign random numbers and jerseys for tryouts and to lead the distribution of those jerseys.

### **Referees – Rob LaChapelle**

Rob and Kurt are working together to arrange a referee seminar. They are going to look at doing it during the last hour of what would have been bantam tryout ice time – Sunday,

September 29 from 2:20 – 3:20 p.m. The board asked Rob to email a referee recruitment flyer and HAYHA would send it out to their membership. Judy can also put it on Facebook. The shortage of referees remains a problem. The board also discussed some of the USA Hockey rule changes regarding body contact. Rob said USA Hockey is trying to eliminate the intimidation factor, rather keep body contact for the purposes of gaining possession of the puck. USA Hockey rule states that nobody can cheer from bench or bang their sticks when there is a check, or they could receive a penalty. Shawn Schroeder is going to use the other bantam tryout ice time to lead two checking clinics or maybe one checking clinic and some power skating. Those times are Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:20 – 4:20 p.m. and Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Rob welcomes the board members to contact him throughout the season with questions or concerns regarding referees. He wants to keep an open dialogue.

### **Girls Program – Randy**

Randy and Judy proposed to open girl's hockey program to any girl in Helena who can already skate. Currently, it's an add-on for girls already enrolled in another HAYHA division. But they have had several girls express interest who maybe chose to play basketball but would like to play hockey once per week on Friday afternoons. Another girl used to play in North Dakota but is older and too intimidated to join the bantam team, so she'd like to play on Friday afternoons too. The fee will be the same this first year -- \$100 for 20 sessions starting October 11. Randy motioned to open the registration for girl's hockey to any girl who knows how to skate and has a USA Hockey number. Judy seconded. Motion passes.

### **Goalie Mini-Camp – Randy**

The goalie training program is scheduled. First a mini-camp on Sept 10 and 12 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and then training every other Monday starting September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 a.m. The price is \$75 for the entire program. Lance will email all those who expressed interest and send them the link to register, which is up on the website.

### **Community Day**

Judy has at least 10 volunteers (equipment managers and team managers) to run equipment rental for Community Day on September 14 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Shawn will be leading a mini-hockey clinic. Lance offered to help Shawn.

### **Registrar – Lance**

Currently have 115 players registered. 50 8Us, 10 House, 32 Squirts, 20 Peewees, 3 Bantams and 3 High School and 21 Coaches. Ryan and Sarah are sending a lot of messages to Bantams and High School players and talking with parents to answer questions. As decided at the last board meeting, 2005 birth year players who are Bantams and freshmen in high school, are asked to register as Bantams until the board makes decisions based on numbers whether to move some 2005s to High School program or not.

Allison arrived 6:52 p.m.

### **MAHA Update – Mekell**

Mekell attended the MAHA Meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Here's the update:

- MAHA Grant Application is now out and Applications are due by September 15, 2019 (I am working on & will submit)
- State Tournament Bids are now being collected and need to be turned into Luanne/ MAHA tournament director (I submitted HAYHA application 2 weeks ago for our 8U State Festival Bid)
- Reminder about MAHA Summit in October which will have Coaching levels 1 - 3 clinic. Possibly goalie coach certification course also - still working on. Summit registration for youth is \$80. Info will be emailed out soon to all Members and can be found on MAHA's website.
- Tryout Info for 14U MAHA travelling team will be coming out this week. (I have sent this info to Ryan Lilletvedt / 14U Rep to send on to our 14U families.)
- High School Nationally bound teams for USAH changed this year. All submissions had to be made by August 15th so Mike informed us that Montana did commit to send 1 HS team. Missoula has agreed to be the team to go. Since they had to commit early in season with little notice, he informed us that should another team want or be able to go, MAHA would allow a playoff to determine which city/ team would go. If other teams interested, please email Mike asap.
- Reminded everyone to forward Joe Bonnet's sway page to Coaches/CIC. (I will send to HAYHA CIC)
- USAH is rolling out new Coach Development Program this year with focus on growing and helping coaches, other than just with CEP. Stay tuned for info to come.
- CIC (Pete) indicated that there were a couple instructors in State who went to Colorado Springs to complete their coaching education this month so they can now be coaching instructors in Montana. This includes Nicole (Missoula) and Bob Richards (Helena). Pete asked that associations email him with updated CIC contact info for this season.
- Question was asked whether Coaching Certification that might be offered at the Summit helps advance coaches CEP level. It does from level 1 to level 2, and level 2 to level 3, however it does not advance coach if is already a level 3. Our CIC can contact Pete if has additional questions.
- Safesport update - **Kari Riley asked everyone to remind associations that those players turning 18 this season need to do safesport.** The suggestion was made that possibly all Seniors take together within your organization. Seniors doing this DO NOT qualify to be locker room monitors. You still have to have adult locker room monitors. She also informed us that safesport handbook at USAH has not been completed yet / still pending and being worked on.
- **TSL Update Mitch informed us of this year's Division Commissioners are:** (this info will be put up on MAHA webpage)  
High School - Todd Young  
14U - Dena Lang  
12U - Danny Blowers

10U - Colleen Schiele

Girls 14U & 19U - Shawn Baker

- MAHA Annual Guide recommended changes need to be submitted this month to Mike M. as these will be voted on at mtg/Summit in October.

- MAHA Association Reps need to attend October 5th & 6th Summit in Bozeman.

Committee members need to attend Oct 4th. They recommended that you talk with your local associations regarding hotel reimbursement for this mtg.

For Summit they are working on possibly having a meeting where all coaches, refs, and parents can attend and there will be a presentation to go over USAH safesport, Fair Play & Respect possible changes this year, and body checking/body contact rule.

- Reminder that they have only received 1 nomination for Ray Tillman Heart of Hockey Award. If associations want to nominate anyone, these need to be submitted by September 1 deadline.

- **Team Commitments discussed including that ALL team commitments are due from associations by Labor Day, September 2nd!!! There needs to be an association contact included when these are submitted.**

- **They informed us that we are required to bring all team bonds / money to the Summit. It is \$450/team** (In State teams), \$600/team (Out of State teams). **They stressed that once you commit teams that you are committed for season, so if you send the form in and sign, that your association is responsible for that team commitment and must bring their bond money to the Summit.** I informed Mitch that our HAYHA 14U team/numbers was still undetermined, and Mitch indicated that if we don't know by Labor Day/September 2nd to work directly with Age Commissioner to discuss if we need a few more days to declare.

- **Were reminded to inform all association Division Reps that they need to attend the scheduling meeting and have ice availability/calendars when they come.**

- Fair Play Points / System was discussed (will be voted on at October mtg)\_ - they indicated it worked well approx. 9 yrs ago to help with discipline issues. Todd Young and Mitch will be doing presentation on at the Summit.

- They indicated that there has been a lot of interest from other States in possibly doing Squirt half ice beginning in 2020 and that Northern Plains district will be discussing this topic this next month. District's main 2 areas they will be focusing on this year is retain & recruit 10U/12U and recruit adult members.

- They informed us if we have tournaments or want items added to MAHA website to send to Kari Riley or Mike McIntosh.

Mekell will form a small subcommittee with Darryl James, Dr. Mike Palsisko and Annie Petersen to research and present information on carbon monoxide poisoning in rinks at the MAHA Annual Meeting.

#### **Treasurer – Sarah**

HAYHA has \$111,352.64 in the checking account. HAYHA already paid \$12,000 for the half-ice boards that Randy ordered. Allison is working on growth and net income projections for HAYHA and will present at a future board meeting.

**SafeSport – Scott**

Scott informed the board that Kari Riley, SafeSport Coordinator, needs a monthly report of any infractions. He is going to find out the definition of infractions from Kari so coaches know what they need to report to Scott. Scott also reminded everyone that players can received penalties for expired helmets. The board reps agreed to inform parents about this at parent meetings.

**Division Updates**

**8U:** Judy and Allison are focused on recruitment. Allison is hanging flyers around town. Two managers are distributing for East Helena backpacks and Clancy. Judy is distributing at MT City. Mekell offered to take flyers to large preschools. Judy will run another Facebook ad.

**House:** Jon reported that he sees several kids returning to house program, which is a good sign. He is talking with Billings program about tournaments.

**Squirts:** Darryl sent an email to all 2009 and 2010 parents emphasizing that the A and B teams are travel teams and travel will be required. If families are not wanting to travel, then they should register for house league. He is going to book tournaments that a few families, including coaches, recommended.

**PeeWees:** Kurt booked Coeur d’Alene tournament for the A team. Working on others.

**Bantams:** We still need to find a bantam coach. Shawn is going to reach out to Brad Hoerning (sp?).

**High School:** Sarah estimates there will be 26 players that register, which is plenty to field a varsity and B team, with some cross-rostering.

**Other Business**

Level 1, 2 and 3 will be offered at the coaching clinic during MAHA Development Weekend, October 4-5, 2019.

The board discussed how to tryout squirt goalies during tryouts. After discussion it was decided that the first two sessions will have all squirt players skating. The final session will be used as more of a scrimmage/game-type situation and the goalies will dress.

**Next Meeting:** September 16, 2019 and October 7, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena.

**Meeting Adjourned. The Board entered Executive Session to determine Head A and B Coach Representatives for Squirt and PeeWee Tryouts.**

Signed by President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_