

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2019
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam 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:

Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep

Guests:

Stacy Whited – Bantam Parent and Sleeping Giant Sports Owner
Robert Whited – Bantam Parent
Brandon Vonada – Helena Ice Arena

Meeting Called to Order 5:33 p.m.

Minutes

Mekell mentioned that MAHA was firm in wanting the High School teams to be called High School Varsity and High School B, not High School “JV”. Kurt said while we should discuss using the correct terms moving forward, we shouldn’t change the minutes because it wouldn’t accurately represent the HAYHA committee recommendations regarding HS teams this season. Lance motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Darryl seconded. All were in favor and motion carries.

Public Comment

None.

Question about Draft Minutes

Darryl had a member ask him if the draft minutes from a meeting can be posted so membership doesn’t have to wait a whole month to read previous months meeting minutes. The board discussed and decided they would not post draft minutes because the minutes could contain errors. The membership is welcome to attend board meetings.

Rink Update – Brandon

Brandon wants HAYHAs help in keeping kids from running behind the Zamboni (in other words, trying to beat the Zamboni as it is pulling out of its stall) and to keep kids from sticking their water bottles and arms out from the bench area while the Zamboni is running. The Board Reps agreed to discuss this at parent meetings, get locker room monitors to help monitor this and to talk about it with coaches. The board wants kids to be safe around the Zamboni too.

Goalie Program – Randy

Randy talked with three goalie coaches – Rob Smith, Lisa Prescott and Denny Lester – and all are willing to help lead the goalie training program. They would like to kick it off with a mini-camp two evenings in September, and suggested Monday and Wednesday, Sept 9 and 11 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Then follow that up with one-hour long morning sessions, once per week, every other week. They were hoping for Wednesday mornings. Brandon said the 9th and 11th are already booked with adult hockey and Wednesday mornings are booked for High-Performance Skating. Therefore, the mini-camp will be Tuesday and Thursday, September 10th and 12th, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and then every other Monday morning starting the week of September 23rd from 6:00 – 7:00 a.m. The board discussed the fee structure. They are willing to supplement the program this year to get it going. The girls' program was set last meeting to be \$100 for 20 hours of girls practices this season. Judy moved to charge \$75 for the 14 hours of goalie training and offer it as an add-on during registration. Lance seconded. All were in favor and motion carried.

Community Day – Stacy

Stacy Whited with Sleeping Giant Sports is organizing Community Day at Helena Ice Arena for Saturday, September 14th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The day is to promote all ice sports in Helena and the goal is to have free ice for the public to use in the form of figure skating demonstration, public skate, stick and puck and a mini hockey clinic. Judy motioned for HAYHA to sponsor Community Hockey Day by purchasing an hour of ice and offering equipment rentals for 8U and House players. Lance seconded. All were in favor and motion carries. Stacy agreed to keep 1/3 of the ice open for brand new skaters during each of the stick and puck and hockey clinic hours.

MAHA Update – Mekell

The board discussed the following MAHA update that Mekell emailed prior to the meeting:

Here is my summary/update from the monthly MAHA meeting I attended last week. (You can also review MAHA monthly Board Mtg minutes anytime on the MAHA website after minutes approved for prior month). I will also forward two additional emails we received with info listed below.

- State Tournament Dates are: Feb 1-2 (8U), Feb 21-23 (14UGirls/16U/HSB), Feb 28-March 1 (19UGirls/10U), March 6-8 (HS/12U), March 13-15 (14U). For those interested in hosting, tournament bids need to be into Mitch by Labor Day weekend.
- MT Hockey Summit is in Bozeman, October 4 - 6 weekend. Info to come - watch emails
- USAH Annual Congress mtg update - MAHA Pres Mike McIntosh reports to us the following - Boards/Coaches are encouraged to review USAH Annual Congress updates including the updated USAH Declaration of Fair Play & Respect. These can be found on USAH & MAHA websites. There has been a clarification on existing rule. There has been alot of discussion regarding body contact vs body checking and there will be information coming out this year regarding this clarification. New - defending player needs to demonstrate ability to regain puck control - key factor. Body contact has always been a part of game and should be taught correctly at beginning levels all the way up. Banging of sticks on boards will not be tolerated when there are hits etc. USAH has hired a diversity coordinator. **It was indicated that Montana is ranked #1 in all States for percentage of girls playing hockey this past yr and was the only State to show positive growth of 14U players. Great news!** Since ADM began the retention #'s have continued to go up.
- Northern Plains Update - Growth is going to be #1 focus this year. There is still stigma that hockey is expensive sport. They are trying to look at ways to address this. They are also encouraging that we work with local organizations and the adult leagues and that it's never too old to start hockey. By working with adult leagues, it may help us find coaches, refs, etc. They encouraged us to look at women who play hockey in our programs and encouraging women to coach. This also may help with our girls' program.
- USAH - there is new updated language regarding safesport. All local Boards/associations will have to review and sign and submit by September 1st, prior to the summit. This is required now in addition to the affiliate agreements from associations. Both are required to be signed. MAHA Confidentiality conflict of interest policy must also be signed and submitted prior to the Summit.
- **Please remind all Board Members, Coaches, Volunteers, Managers etc to do their background checks prior to the Season as well as their safesport certification.** If taken last year, it should be good for 2 yrs. Login using your USAH number to check your certification.
- Application for this year's grant has not been posted on MAHA website yet but should be shortly (I am watching for & will submit grant once application comes out).
- Reminder to turn in all applications for State Tournaments and that there is also a spot for Montana Cup (High School B) now. (We need to work on submitting 8U State application & discuss Montana Cup next mtg).
- Remind organizations to please post their tournament dates (on their local or MAHA website) so others are aware as teams begin planning and scheduling their season.
- Goalies - There is a district camp for Goalies Aug 8 - 11th. Let goalies know if any interested. (I don't know any additional info on this camp. There is supposed to be a flyer on MAHA wesbite)
- Safesport - Kari Riley indicated that we need to remind those with 18 yr olds, and those turning 18 this season that they have to take safesport certification. Not background screening. If Registrars try to list them on roster and it's not done, it will be blocked / show up redlined. USAH has recently updated their policy including regarding bad faith allegations and reports made. (I will forward info received). Also, new this season is that ALL discipline provided by organization needs to be reported to MAHA safesport coordinator Kari Riley as she has to turn in a monthly report to USAH. She will be reaching out to all organization Safesport reps to discuss. Still don't have finalized complete updated USAH safesport manual as it is being worked on but should have shortly.
- MAHA Annual guide changes will be emailed to us for review by Labor Day weekend.

State Tournament Bids

Stacy and Robert pleaded the board to host additional tournaments. Whereas the board agrees it is great for families to not have to travel for state tournaments, great for the hotels and business in Helena community and great for the ice rink, the last few times HAYHA hosted

tournaments at other levels besides 8U and House, they lost a significant amount of money. Mekell and Scott also stated it was very difficult to find enough volunteer help. The board decided to put in for 8U State Tournament Feb 1 – 2. Jon will also do a House League Tournament again.

Handbook Updates

Allison agreed to make necessary member handbook updates before the next meeting.

SafeSport – Scott

Everyone who did SafeSport last year is good for this year. But moving forward everyone will be required to complete a refresher every year. All board members should get their background checks completed.

2005 Birth Year Bantam Players who are Freshmen in High School

Robert Whited felt that because MAHA stated players who are full-time high school students are eligible to play in the High School league, then any of HAYHAs 2005 birth years who are freshmen are automatically eligible to register for HAYHAs High School division. The board voted at the last meeting to have all 2005 players register as Bantams. Kurt reported that an hour before the meeting he received a request from a 2005 player to move up and play on the High School B team. He would like to review the request, see if it falls under the Play Up Policy and discuss how to proceed at the next meeting. More discussion at the next board meeting.

Tryout Evaluation Coordinator – Lance

Rob Smith agreed to be the Tryout Coordinator. His job description from the Tryout Policy is such:

At no later than the August board meeting, the HAYHA Board will appoint an Evaluation Coordinator to lead the tryout process and communication regarding the tryout process, while working closely with the Coach-in-Chief. The Evaluation Coordinator may not be the Coach-in-Chief and may not have a player involved in tryouts. He/she may or may not be a member of the board. The Evaluation Coordinator can appoint assistant coordinators to help coordinate the handing out of jerseys, assigning numbers or other pieces of the process. Assistants may not have a player involved in a specific age division to which they are providing help. Any coordinators will need to keep a sheet with player numbers and names and ensure that players receive the same jersey number for each throughout session. Coordinators will need to pass out assigned numbered jerseys prior to the players going on the ice. The sheet with numbers and names is not to be shared with any parent, player or evaluator.

Judy moved the board approve the selection of Rob Smith as Tryout Coordinator and Darryl seconded. All were in favor and motion carried.

Equipment – Randy

Randy ordered the half-ice boards. He received bids back for protective equipment and Play-it-Again Sports was the lowest by \$200. He is ordering replacement helmets, size 1 skates and other items. He will offer an equipment night before Planet Hockey.

Division Updates

8U: Judy sent out email notice reminding last year's 8U families that registration is open. She also reminded all coaches to get in their coaching applications. As for the recruitment of new players, Judy recommended that HAYHA create a Facebook page and do some boosted posts and ads for recruitment. It will also serve as a great tool for communicating HAYHA events, new programs and more. She offered to create the page. Lance moved that Judy create a HAYHA Facebook page and Allison seconded. All were in favor and motion carried. Judy has volunteers doing back to school night and school newsletters at Montana City, East Helena and Clancy Schools. Allison has a call in to the Helena School District to see what is allowed. Stacy Whited is going to forward Allison the email address for the contact who creates the Helena School District e-newsletter. Allison will also update the flyer and get them printed to hand out at preschools, hang at the rink and elsewhere. Mekell reminded everyone that a lot of new four-year-old players come from preschools every year – Ms. Betty's preschool in MT City, Our Redeemer Preschool, Miss Darla's and First Lutheran.

Squirts: Darryl asked about the steps to register for A and B tournaments because he met with a few parents who suggested he get registered asap before they fill up. Judy told Darryl that Sarah would write him a check for the tournaments he wanted to go to and then his managers will build registration in the online tournament signup tool that Lance created so that once the teams are in place, parents can register and pay their portion for the tournaments.

Peewees: Kurt sent out an email reminding families to get their players registered.

Bantams: Ryan sent out a registration reminder and has received some responses back. He is a bit worried about having enough numbers for two teams. He is also worried about not having a Bantam B coach or goalie.

Registrar – Lance

As of today, there are 44 kids registered. There are 14 coaches who have completed applications. Lance asked all Board Reps to send a reminder to the coaches to get their applications completed because Coach-in-Chief needs to make recommendations for Head A and B "Representatives" for Tryouts.

Property Damage Insurance – Kurt

Kurt received updated quote to cover protective equipment and new half-ice boards. It is \$275 annually for up to \$42,000 of coverage. Darryl motions to purchase insurance. Jon seconded. All were in favor and motion carries.

Due Process for Failure to Pay – Darryl

There was one family last year who didn't pay their fees and the board sent them to collections. Moving forward the board plans to amend the bylaws before the end of the year to give the board authority to carry out a suspension for failure to pay policy. Then the board will create a policy that states the due process for failure to pay. More work on this to come at future meetings.

Jerseys

Lance has not heard back from Paula on ordering game jerseys. Mekell and Randy are going to work together on getting bids for practice jerseys and warm-ups.

Items for Next Meeting

- Coach-in-Chief recommends scoring sheet for evaluators.
- Coach-in-Chief recommends evaluators.
- Coach-in-Chief recommends Head Coach A and Head Coach B Representatives for Tryouts.
- 2005 birth year player request to play high school instead of bantams.

Next Meeting: August 26, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena. September 16, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena.

Meeting Adjourned. Board goes into Executive Session to discuss hiring for the Coach-in-Chief position.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____