



2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – ZOOM MEETING

Date | time 7/18/2020 10:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Glenn Hefferan, President
Meeting Adjourned (motion from Gene Palecco and Charlie McLaughlin) 1:19 pm
Minutes respectfully submitted by Maureen Thompson Siegel, AAHA Secretary

In Attendance

There were 56 members that attended the virtual meeting.

Voting Eligibility

Voting Members - 45

Simple Majority - 23

2/3 Majority - 30

Opening Comments

Pat Kelleher – USA Hockey Executive Director

- Hockey is coming back
- 78% of membership registered as of now compared to last year (22% behind compared to last year)
- USAH furlough for 2 weeks for all staff – during August
- COVID-19 – as long as rinks can be opened, they can begin operations in accordance with local regulations and guidelines
- RISE – Diversity and Inclusion for all USAH members
- White Men as Full Diversity Partners – training to USAH staff and leadership
- Thank you for all you do to support the sport

Jen Croneberger – Director of Culture Change

- Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging
 - Creating cultures of belonging in hockey – everyone belongs – creates psychological safety for those already in the sport and those that may feel that they cannot play hockey as they do not see someone like themselves that play the sport
 - How do we create the idea of how we shift culture in our affiliate
 - Education, open conversation, safe spaces are pivotal to grow the sport
 - Engage in deep conversation with our members – shift the mindset – how can we be more inclusive
 - Jen’s contact information is on our website
 - www.thefivewords.com
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Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Winter 2020 virtual meeting were presented. They were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to this meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jay Finnigan, seconded by Frank McGady. Approval of the minutes of the Winter 2020 meeting passed unanimously.

- All reports were distributed prior to the meeting.
- All voting in this meeting is limited to those that are dialed into the Zoom video. Phone attendees are not able to vote. Explicit instructions were included with the meeting invitation and pre-registration instructions.

Treasurer's Report

AAHA Treasurer, Jake Geverd, presented the annual financial report. It was distributed prior to the meeting.

- Balance sheet is being modified – from reporting on cash basis to accrual basis.
- Accounts receivable reflects league expenses for AAHA playoffs.
- Deferred income – registrations for summer camp, Austria trip, tryouts for festival teams. – Vast majority has been refunded already. More to be refunded.
- Our books are being audited by an accounting firm, hasn't been done in several years. This will include a review of internal controls, etc.
- Audited financial statements and IRS 990 will be posted to the AAHA website.
- There will be shuffling of the presentation of this information based on guidance from accounting firm.

A motion to approve the annual financial report was made by Jay Finnigan, seconded by Dave Jackson. Approval of financial report passed unanimously.

President's Report

AAHA President, Glenn Hefferan, presented his annual report to the membership. It included the following:

- Fee increase to be finalized at the Winter meeting – youth side only – avoid having to charge participating teams in AAHA Districts. Thinking about a \$5.00 per player increase.
- Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Initiative – introduction to Jen Croneberger
 - Any incident that involves racial or homophobic language between players gets to the NHL before it gets to us. 98 match penalties last year – 57 under Rule 601e.3. We need to do better.
- COVID-19 has created a whole new set of challenges for all of us
 - We operate in four states, NJ, PA, DE, Rockland County
 - Rink Operators committee – jumped in to help to give guidance and advice
 - We are working a Return to Participation document – broad, reasonable
 - Every Director should advise their membership that they must operate with the constraints of their local governmental regulations/guidelines. Any activity not permitted by local governing authorities is not sanctioned by the AAHA. PLEASE FOLLOW STATE GUIDELINES.
- All AAHA Directors are required to be :
 - registered with USA Hockey
 - background screened
 - SafeSport certified
 - Complete Conflict of Interest statement (reviewed later, and will adopt at that time)
 - All members must be compliant (provide evidence) or they cannot participate as a member of the AAHA Board of Directors
- Duty, Care and Loyalty
 - All members are elected to represent their Zones, but when serving on this board, it is the interest of this board that takes precedence.
 - All AAHA Board members must be free to vote what they feel is in the best interest of the

Affiliate. Demanding Zone loyalty is inappropriate.

- The USAH Zone Directors (Gene Palecco, Glenn Hefferan, Jay Finnigan and Frank McGady) also vote on the National level based on what they believe to be in the best interest of the AAHA and sport.
- USAH has a long range planning committee in place.

Executive Committee Motions – Ratification by AAHA Board

Due to COVID-19, the Executive Committee acted under emergency powers on the following:

- Suspend the AAHA District Tournaments
- Postponement of 12U and Under Tryouts
- Postponement of 14U and Above Tryouts
- Revised Contracting and Tryout Policy
- Motion to accept by Jay Finnigan and seconded by Frank McGady
- Motion approved by Board

Executive Vice President's Report

Executive Vice President Ray Ferry - no written report.

- USAH sub-committee on the retaining of officials – Jack Witt – Chair
 - Addressing reasons for why we do not retain officials - abuse of officials largest reason
 - Increased communication between officials and coaches – appropriate to the age group
 - Assignment of spectator monitors (one per each team)
 - Rink staff involvement

Vice President Reports

Annual reports from the Vice Presidents were distributed prior to the meeting.

USA Hockey Director Reports

Annual reports were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Youth Council – what will be the position on the 10/20 rule for Nationals as it is expected that there may be teams that cannot meet the requirement.

USA Hockey Appointee Reports

Annual reports submitted by the USA Hockey Appointees were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Coaching Education – Mike Lichtenberger
 - Entirely virtual through the end of November
 - Temp. card – we are hosting clinics for 78% outside of the AAHA
 - New methodology (break-out rooms, etc.) coach developer, and outside coaches – hearing perspectives from around the country
 - 30-35 clinics expected this season
 - Goaltending development is now included in coaching education
- Officiating – Jim Doyle
 - Seminars will be via Zoom

- Received package from USAH on 7/10/20.
- Trained the instructors to deliver the training
- Seminars to be offered starting August 10th and will be added to AAHA Officiating website shortly. Expect 6-8 seminars in August and then will add in September as the need requires.
- Registrations – 627 officials registered now – 1,482 registered at the same time last year. Down by 58% right now – some due to the seminar announcements coming later than in the past due to a delay in information from the National office.
- Level 1 – 872 registered in 2019-2020 – right now we are at 125 registered, this time last year we had 501.
- Emails will be sent to existing members aged 16-25 years of age.
- 601e rule clarifications – package sent from USAH specifically addresses all sections of Rule 601
- Return to play initiative for officials – to get officials on the ice before we start games
- 3 sub-committees – one has been approved – in conjunction with the Women’s section – once approved by Pat Kelleher, a women’s referee in chief appointment. Approve in September, interviews in October and then hopefully join the staff at the USAH Winter meetings.
- SafeSport – Pete Rothman
 - National screening online as of April 1st – going well so far
 - PA state screening now needs to be updated as we are in year five of implementation. COVID-19 has extended fingerprinting deadline to 12/31 but the other screenings need to be done in accordance with standing deadlines (child services and state police). Those resident in PA are required to upload their PA screening requirements to the National screening submission in order to complete the requirement.
 - Any hits on a screening result goes to committees of 3 (7 groups currently). The committee evaluates any hits and if they believe the individual should be ineligible, they notify that person of their decision. The individual has the right to appeal the decision of the committee.
 - COVID-19 helped with SafeSport.
 - USAH had 105 reports of SafeSport violations through the beginning of March.
 - This number includes 51 more than any of the other higher Affiliates.
 - Many of the violations are for racial slurs.
 - Many of them are where SafeSport is being used as a weapon. Please let your members know that SafeSport violations WILL NOT result in a release. It is not the purpose of SafeSport.
 - Bullying – organizations need to be responsible – starts with the coach and continues with the players. We will look at whether there should be sanctions for teams that condone this behavior.
- Risk Management – Ken Haas
 - Is there coverage for liability for illness for players, coaches, etc., business interruption, etc. – COVID-19 type questions?
 - They are not permitted to give coverage advice to clubs.
 - This is a grey area across the board.
 - Submit a claim if required.

AAHA Appointee Reports

Annual reports submitted by the AAHA Appointees were distributed prior to the meeting.

USA Hockey Reports

Pat Kelleher comments are listed above.

Election Slate

Position	Candidate	Term
President	Glenn Hefferan	2020-2023
VP Suspensions, Protests and Appeals	Ron Goodman	2020-2023
VP Girls and Women's Hockey	Pete Rothman	2020-2023
Treasurer	Jake Geverd	2020-2023
USA Hockey Director II	Jay Finnigan	2020-2023

All positions were not challenged. They are re-elected via acclamation.

Jake will be resigning from VP Rinks – President will appoint Ken Anderson to serve the balance of the term.

Annual Awards

Lou Manzione Scholarship

- New Jersey Recipient – Darren Ambrose, Cherokee High School
- Pennsylvania/Delaware Recipient – Hunter Ringwood, Perkiomen Valley High School

Daniel Triano Scholarship

- Recipient - Lleyton Soares, Hillsborough High School

Disabled Disciplines Award

- Recipient – Evan Yasser, Brick Stars Hockey

Coach of the Year – Youth

- John Heckenberger, Central Catholic Scholastic Varsity

Coach of the Year – Girl

- Richard “Rick” Proot, Montclair Blues 16U

Coaching Education

- Gump Whiteside

Official of the Year

- John Gallagher

New Leader Award

- Bryan Hicks

Volunteer of the Year

- Lori Tomasello

AAHA Hall of Fame

- Frank McGady

Old Business – Tabled Proposals

Proposal Number WM2020-01 – AYHL Membership 10U and 12U Tryout Dates

- Allow all members of the AYHL at 10U and 12U the opportunity to conduct tryouts at the designated Tier I tryout dates as published by the AAHA.
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion.**

Proposal Number WM2020-02 – Tier I 16U Age Requirement Restriction

- Tier I programs that field 16U teams – it's top competing team will be restricted to two 15 year old players
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion (new proposal presented for review/ratification at this meeting).**

Proposal Number WM2020-03 – Player Movement Requirements

- Two player movement rule between 10U, 12U and 14U Tier I. Older levels have no player movement rule.
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion (there is a broader proposal for review/ratification at this meeting).**

Proposal Number WM2019-06 – Tryouts

- Contracting issues
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion.**

Proposal Number WM2019-07 – Tier II Contracting

- Contracting issues
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion.**

Proposal Number AM2019-01 – Tier I Qualifying Tournament

- Tournament Committee currently standing including representation for all groups
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion (new proposal presented for review/ratification at this meeting).**

Proposal Number AM2019-04 – Team Registration

- All teams of an organization must be exclusively registered only with USA Hockey and the AAHA and registered in the name of the association. All teams are required to compete under the name of the association.
- **Proposal will die due to lack of a motion.**

No motion made on all of the above tabled proposals. All above proposals die for lack of a motion.

Old Business

Conflict of Interest Determination Letter regarding Glenn Hefferan from Charlie Fertisch distributed to the Board of Directors.

- Two years ago, an accusation was sent to USA Hockey accusing Glenn Hefferan of conflict of interest issues. It was referred to a committee for review and he was cleared of all accusations.

Financial Audit commenced:

- Presented to USA Hockey for a period of 2015-2018 (and then included review as far back as 2008).
- Presented to a select committee at USA Hockey. They forwarded their opinion to the AAHA.
- Present it to an impartial panel, headed by George Atkinson (Affiliate President – Michigan). George will interact with auditor and attorney engaged in the audit.
- The hope was to have decision finalized in February, but COVID-19 has delayed the response. We hope to hear more on this soon.

New Business – Legislative Proposals

Those members that are using telephones to participate in the meeting cannot vote. All were instructed to pre-register and to use zoom video features to enable voting. Voting is not possible via phone.

Proposal Number AM2020-01 – Tier I District Playoff Format (proposed by Steve Jede)

- Motion to be defeated with understanding that committee will be formed as suggested – Bill Fox and Jake Geverd.
- **Proposal defeated.**

Proposal Number AM2020-02 – Exceptional Status at 16U AAA (proposed by Dan May)

- Motion to adopt – John Graves and Gene Palecco
- Proposal to limit the number of 15U players that can participate at 16U to support the development at

15P. AAHA Tournament bound 16U AAA teams can only roster one (1) underage player starting with the 2021-2022 season.

- Motion to approve as amended – Bill Fox and Frank McGady
- **Proposal approved as amended.**

Proposal Number AM2020-03 – Tier I and Tier II Designation Requirements (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Motion to adopt – Gene Palecco and Jake Geverd
- Proposal to limit the number of Tier I teams as we are at capacity. We need to get to 15%. We are at 17 clubs now – we need to work to reduce the number of teams at this competition level.
- Motion to amend the redaction (deliberately and sections IX and X) – David Gibson and Jay Finnigan
- **Proposal approved as amended.**

Proposal Number AM2020-04 – Conflict of Interest Policy–added to Bylaws (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Motion to adopt – Gene Palecco and Frank McGady – requires 2/3 to adopt as a Bylaw
- Dave Baun drafted on our behalf stated he did his best to make this policy as simple as possible while meeting USAH requirements. It meets the tenets of recognition and disclosure.
- **Policy approved.**

Proposal Number AM2020-05 – Housekeeping change – Rules and Regulations (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Removal of ACE Coordinator and update to adopt USAH language regarding Coach in Chief (pg 207 of USAH Annual Guide as the model)
- Motion to approve – Gene Palecco and Frank McGady
- **Proposal approved.**

Proposal Number AM2020-06 Housekeeping changes – Bylaws (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Correction of typos and capitalizations
- Request to amend “Affiliate Boundary” to include Rockland County, New York
- Motion to accept as amended – Gene Palecco and Charlie McLaughlin
- **Proposal approved.**

New Business

- Announcement of Tournament Dates - on the AAHA website.
- Announcement of Tryout Dates – on the AAHA website.

Next Meeting

The AAHA 2021 Winter meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 21, 2021.**

The AAHA 2021 Annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, June 26, 2021.**



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020 – 10:00 AM

- Call to Order – Roll Call – Proof of Notice
- Announcement of Annual Awards (presentation to be held at a separate event – see attached)
- Minutes of Winter meeting (included in distribution)
- Treasurer's Report – Jake Geverd (included in distribution)
- President's Report – Glenn Hefferan
- USA Hockey Appointee's Reports – (included in distribution)
- AAHA Vice President Reports – (included in distribution)
- AAHA Appointee Reports – (included in distribution)
- Bylaw, Rules and Regulations Proposals (included in distribution)
- Election of Officers and USA Hockey Director(s) (included in distribution)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcement of Tournament dates/locations (included in distribution)
- Announcement of Tryout dates
- Announcement of 2021 AAHA Board of Directors Meeting
- Adjourn