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MASS HOCKEY BOARD MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2020 - Sheraton Needham

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 2nd, 2020 at the Needham Sheraton, Needham, Massachusetts.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:33pm.

Bob mentioned there are still issues with organizations that have teams who are not registered. These are only found following up on discipline matters. The board should decide what punishment to impose for those who can't follow the rules.

Jean Ann Nigro has brought to our attention that there is a Mass Hockey League (mahockeyleague.com) who is infringing on our trademark name. Maura Sheehan will send a letter to organization about trademark infringement.

This is a busy time of year with State Tournaments. There were 13 Small and Large State Tournaments run very well this past weekend. This will be followed by another 13 Medium Tournament next weekend. The Girls Tournament starts the 3rd weekend of March.

The Coach Referee Interaction Committee progress has been slowed due to other matters. Bob is looking for recommendations for participation on the committee.

Christopher Gong mentioned that the by-law cleanup has been completed and sent to the board for review prior to annual meeting where they can be voted for adoption. The major change was regarding discipline protocols. The Rules and Regulations sections are still being cleaned up. After this cleanup process the Rules Committee will evaluate the new rule requests and then share with the board for review prior to Annual Meeting in June.

Tom McGrath provided an update from Winter Meeting regarding Youth Council. Organizing a subcommittee for improvement to national tournaments. There is a flyer for Declaration o Player Safety. Matt Leaf said officials are up 1.5% this season. A committee for abuse of officials was formed to bring more awareness of issues.

From Winter Meeting Steve Rizzo shared improvements to coaching education regarding costs and time. Less redundancy between modules. There was discussion regarding retention of officials. Concerns over the bankruptcy filing of BSA after claim payouts and how something like that may impact USA Hockey.

Jim Maimone mentioned that USA Hockey is taking on a 4 year strategic plan aligned to the budgeting process. Raise the flag is a national fundraising effort targeting \$5M for Men and Women Olympic Gold.



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There have been 42000 downloads of the rule book which is a small fraction on members. Minnesota has placed poster educating awareness regarding abuse official in rinks.

Chris Mayer shared the printed USA Hockey Safesport Handbook. She explained the difference between US Center for Safesport and USA Hockey Safesport. US Center for Safesport in Denver focuses: 1) Training on basic policies 2) Sexual abuse cases only. USA Hockey and Mass Hockey addresses all other forms of abuse. We control what happens in those matters. Everyone is a mandatory reported under the law. Chris mentioned there have been 18 Safesport incidents since Jan 1. There are now Safesport modules for parents and age appropriate modules for players which are short and free.

Regarding discipline Chris Mayer noted we are up to 82 match penalties which is up over last year's total number of 54 for the season. Since Jan 1 there have been 25 match penalties. Chris will be holding a training for hearings and discipline protocols. There have been many issues with appeals due poorly written decisions not regarding the facts.

The issue of unregistered teams came up again with East Coast Leafs. There was a recommendation to impose discipline for unrostered teams playing with financial penalty and turning code off for rosters.

Kevin Donovan shared a series of stats regarding game reports as of 3/1/2020:

- 1025 game incidents
- >1500 players or coaches involved

The number of aggressive penalties is up compared to last year.

Karla Aguirre and Liz Cohen attended a Women in Hockey Symposium in Anaheim, CA in February focused on women's leadership in growing female players in the game. Game On: Empowering Women In Hockey Together provided current and future female leaders tangible tools and enhance the leadership development efforts of female volunteers. The summit included 8 speakers on the topics of:

- Finding Allies
- Confident Girls and Competent Women
- Let's Talk about Inclusion
- Know Your Value and Find Your Voice
- Communication Workshop
- Building Foundations for Leadership Through Trust
- Connecting with your Community

Steve Fitzgerald shared the nominations and conducted nominations from the floor:

- 1st VP: Jeff Brown
 - o No nominations from the floor.
- 2nd VP: Christine Mayer
 - o No nominations from the floor.



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- 4th VP: Phil Zona
 - o No nominations from the floor.
- Director at Large EB: Chip Bradbury, David Hymovitz
 - o No nominations from the floor.
- USAH Director: Tom McGrath, Dave Young, Chip Bradbury
 - o No nominations from the floor.
- Secretary: Tim McMahon
 - o No nominations from the floor.

There is concern with Academies featuring online class work affording players to eligibility for national bound competition and residency requirement. USA Hockey says the schools count as residency. What about schools that do not have brick and motor facility. There must be a plurality of players from Massachusetts to be considered Mass team. Organization must have 3 teams for 3 years to be eligible for National Bound. Rules committee will address revising these rules regarding National Bound Eligibility.

Jim Maimone suggested a comprehensive review of tournament eligibility rules for girls and boys.

Bob would like to ask USA Hockey for a ruling regarding the interpretation of player suspensions by leagues with additional games beyond those specified in the playing rules with both the viewpoint of Jeff Brown and differing viewpoint of Kevin Donovan. Mass Hockey should adopt a rule based on USA Hockey decision.

Greg Sophis was not present but sent a finance report to board electronically prior meeting.

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

Kevin Kavanagh reported that Screening has slowed for the season. 8500 background screens have been completed this year. USA Hockey still intends to take the screening over nationally next season. We have used Gamesheet Inc app at State Tournaments with tremendous success. He has had discussion with USA Hockey about ability of communicating between Roster Portal and GamesheetInc app. The data collected is very powerful and the report you can get are effective. Kevin, Bob and others met with Score Boston regarding ideas on growing the game

Committee reports were sent to board of directors.

Dan Esdale and Tom Smith discussed ideas for first responder education and how we can share age appropriate information.

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath has announced the Association's 2020 recipient of the John "Doc" Tynan Profile in Courage Award will honor Thomas E. Smith.



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Steve Rizzo added that player development activities will be underway at the end of March.

Phil Zona mentioned that the Sportsmanship Award applications are open online and the deadline is March 15th.

District reports were sent to board of directors.

Steve Palmacci mentioned in District 6 that Wilbraham Twin Meadows (WTM) and Springfield Capitals will merge. In District 7 DJ Briggs has resigned as registrar in order to serve as a District Director in 7. For now Mark Boldrighini in District 8 will run combined meetings for 7 and 8. Steve will act as registrar for 7. Steve added that club teams represent 40% of membership. Only about 2000-4000 players (<1%) are dual rostered.

No old business.

Under new business Charlie Bradbury mentioned that registrars need to police the game misconducts within districts.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm. The next meeting is April 13th.