



**NED Minutes - April 19 & 20, 2024
Presidents and Directors Session**

Attendees:

Directors: Chris Washburn, Cheri Bonawitz, Tom Regan

Affiliate Presidents: Matt Roy (NH), John Cioffi (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI)

NED Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin/Interim Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer), Mike McCullough (Registrar)

Guests: N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION 4/19/24 - called to order at 4:04pm / adjourned 5:48pm

Treasurer notes (Jake Strong): (Still waiting for financials to attach)

Corrected a misclassification within the financials, YoY difference attributed to additional block grants. Futures – lost \$2-\$3k

Registrar notes (Mike.cCullough):

Need formalized declaration process for Tier 1 and Tier 2, Declaration deadline by November 1

National Championship Committee - Game count will need to be achieved prior to states and books should be credentialed prior to states

General notes:

*Tournaments – see if we can come up with a process from Regionals to Nationals to share game misconducts

*District events – we talk a lot about Safe Sport and want to emphasize its importance at our own events

*Growth conversations about 8U full ice

*K.Peckham is stepping down from NED Player Safety, will need to interview new candidates

*2025 Futures – slotted for NH – **21/22/23 (preferred)**, selections delivered to Mike by Feb 1

*As of 2025, MA will no longer be included in NED Regional events

*Plan for Fall 2024 meeting – Back to Vermont / October 18th-19th

*15s multi district camp – discussion by TR

*******NH makes a motion to reimburse mileage for Bobby & Jason to attend the 15s multi-district camp in August, 2024 - CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

GENERAL SESSION 4/20/24 - called to order at 10:45am / adjourned 12:18pm (VT 1st - CT 2nd)

*******ME makes a motion to accept the Fall 2023 minutes as written. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

*President Reports

- ME (Mike Keaney): Season went well, coaches/players were good, parents were awful
- NH (Kevin Fascetta on behalf of Matt Roy): Very successful season, high success with cross ice 8U and Nationals presence
- VT (Nate Isham on behalf of John Cioffi): Went pretty well this year, hosting a leadership symposium this June. Public appreciation for Kim Gaines' efforts at the state level as she moves on to more responsibilities with NED
- RI (Andrew Giuliano): Quiet at this time of the season. Couple of National Champions (Girls 16U T2, Youth 14U T1)
- CT (Chuck Wilkerson): Successful season and busy season but got through relatively unscathed.

*Financial report (Jake Strong) – Sound, 990 filling on tab with accounting review. Savings account will show lower than years before as grants were given to affiliates for Grow the Game (YoY difference)

*Futures Update (Jake Strong) - went very well, great feedback. NH will be hosting Futures in 2025. Kim Gaines appreciation

*Tournaments (Kim Gaines on behalf of Richard Oliver) - great support, give additional feedback to Richard, June will determine hosts for 2024-25 season.

*Girls Director (Cheri Bonawitz) - Girls Tryouts, sharing ideas for different format considerations next year. Kim Gaines appreciation.

*Player Development (Tom Regan) - Select 17 went back to district teams competing, NED won last year. Jason Guerriero was selected for Junior Olympics. Bobby Rodrigue chosen as the first coach of Keene Varsity D3 program. Select 16 & 17 in Attleboro, Select 15 will be in May in

Simsbury – will make camp selections. Select 16 camp is now bigger (we'll send more players). Also doing a second camp – multidistrict for 15s. Top selections will go to National camp, the next group will go to this one in Utica. Another set of looks.

*Legal Counsel (Tom Regan) - focused on strategic plan and more in compliance. Working on better legal counsel relationships with districts & affiliates (create a point person), which has been great in NED. 2nd initiative – consistency in national discipline across all affiliates. 3rd – non sanction play rules and how to amend the document across all age levels.

*Youth Council (Keith Barrett on behalf of Richard Oliver) - Girls council (as it relates and works with youth council). Councils have VPs, Sections have representatives. Don Gould was the section head (subset of youth council). As a council they now have a VP and meet separately but there is a cross-liaison for each of the councils so both stay informed. A work in progress. National appeal committee (approx. 25 appeals this year). Group continues to push and challenge each other, tough conversations. Task Force Discussion about changes that took place during COVID, (ie green arm bands for new referees). Touched on energetic 8U conversation that was had during Town Hall and encourages feedback and healthy debates around this age group. A commission has been put together at the Tier 1 level – Tier 1 structure (and will affect T2 as well), 8 people, more to come.

*Finance Committee (Chris Washburn) - different structure than what it was 15 years ago. Active group and active interest in USA Hockey. Fee changed in 2022-23 with a graduated structure, first change in over 10 years. Continuing to look at it with a fee committee, including marketing, player development and not just focused on the financial aspect of it. Payroll, benefits, insurance is outpacing the addition of new participants and therefore the revenue. Expect another fee change in the upcoming year(s).

*Registrar (Mike McCullough) - appreciation to affiliate registrars and association registrars. Recovering from a massive amount of National prep credentialing. No major issues this year. Gearing up for 2024-25 season. With the passing of new Tier 1 rules – there was a meeting with each affiliate and leaders of T1 programs. USA Hockey continues to invest in IT initiatives with Deloitte. Coaches, officials, registrars were all engaged in the process. First priority is learning management system (7 vendor proposals) under review and will determine top 2. Asking USA Hockey to come to the summer meeting with some updates as it will relate to registrars. This will likely be a big expenditure/investment.

*Risk Management (Ray St. Pierre on behalf of Charlie Fortier) - new claim forms are now a link shared with NED & Affiliates – have been asked to put on all the websites. After 48 years Charlie is looking to retire, accepting nominations and applications for the position.

*Referee-in-chief (Barry Zalzman) - Congrats to Amanda Tassoni (RI RIC) just got back from working World Championships in Utica and selected to work the gold medal game. Registration in NE up 14% (trying to work with organizations & communication to encourage more players to ref), CT & ME both had sizable increases this year after being flat. Level 1s are 53% of the

officiating pool. Total registration is approx. 1800 (1500 in 2022, 1700 in 2019). We typically lose 50% of level 1s in first year, so a big focus on retention. Completion rate has also increased. Development camps – NED Camp May 1-4 (45 officials), teaming up with Atlantic District (liberty bell camp in June) - 12 officials at St. A's.

*Coach-in-chief (Larry Rocha) - ACHA CIC also, staff during COVID was really good but lost a good portion of that team, tasked with finding new people. There are 30 new coach developers in NED. A small group really supported all the online courses. Bobby Rodrigue (NH CIC), Kris Wing (ME), Dennis, Mark Knapp (CT), Sebastian (RI), Becky (VT), Jake (ME) PLUS A HANDFUL OF OTHERS. Conducted 37 clinics (+6 ACHA clinics) - certified over 2300 coaches. Need to figure out which developers will be available this upcoming season, will be providing additional Coach Developer Academies, significantly more uniform across the affiliates. Appreciation to everyone for their help. Next season's curriculum will be making an effort to co-share CIC & RIC information. About 150 coaches were redlined at the end of year. Reminder 12/31 is a firm cut-off, no temporary cards.

*Membership Update (Dave Fritz) - monthly meetings with National, affiliates are invited. Continuing to travel to 8U/10U games around the district, specifically taking note of parents' behavior. What are the fundamental tools to help parents be more invested in the volunteer aspect. Look at some advertising & communication avenues and different ideas around the country (equipment trailers, hockey mom week) to help grow the game. Affordable deck hockey experience and other ways to get new players into the program. NHL Street is giving out free stuff.

*Player Safety (Ray St. Pierre on behalf of Kyle Peckham) - concussion reporting platform was implemented. The required neck laceration protectors will go into effect in August. National athletic trainers are going to put up a statement on concussions. (not sure if it will affect return to play process). USA Hockey & concussion legacy foundation – concussion awareness (team up against concussion) speech before the season. Looking for greater participation in NED. Continue working with Kevin on requiring medical coverage at tournaments and events. Player safety topics should be added back to Coaching education. Kyle will be stepping down from this role and names will be submitted for upcoming interviews and someone will be selected. Confirming that all RICs Y18U & G19U are also required to wear neck laceration protectors.

*Elections – directed by Tom Regan

Ray St. Pierre (District Administrator – 1 year) - ME / CT – Kim to cast one ballot

Kim Gaines (Secretary – 2 years) - ME / CT – Kim to cast one ballot

Richard Oliver (Director - 3 years) - RI / VT – Kim to cast one ballot

*Old Business - N/A

*New Business

- Plan for Winter meeting - Ray to start putting together details
- NED on-line store - open with motion for coupon code below

- USA Hockey Hall of Fame dinner attendees 12/6/23 - (5) from NED to possibly combine with (5) from RI Hockey

*******VT makes a motion for NED to offer a \$100 coupon towards an on-line store for district board members & execs. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)*******