

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2019  
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

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

Absent Board Members:

Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep

Guests:

Bill Billman

**Meeting Called to Order 5:38 p.m.**

**Minutes**

Randy discussed minor edits to the meeting minutes from the October 7th meeting. Lance moved to approve the minutes with Randy's edits. Randy seconded. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Bill asked what the definition of derogatory language will be under the new USA hockey directives against hate language. He wants to understand what the boundaries will be for that language and how penalties are assessed. We will ask Mekell to get more information at the next MAHA meeting.

**Ice Rink**

No update from Stan or Brandon.

**Scheduling Issues**

Multiple divisions have had problems with ice scheduling. Game times that had been offered to HAYHA were double-booked for other programs. It is unclear where the breakdown in communication was.

We discussed proposed changes to our contract with the ice rink that make it clear that HAYHA reservations will be made a priority during the season and honored once the games are scheduled.

Lance raised the question of scheduling additional ice time for the Squirt and PeeWee A teams who were only given 12 league games by MAHA. Kurt indicated that we should have those divisions schedule the ice time with the arena to be used for either additional practices, games, or a post-season tournament.

Darryl asked whether there is anything to do to push MAHA for more balance in regard to the distribution of A vs B teams. There was a discussion about whether cities who field two B teams should be required to do teams in separate divisions. We will ask Mekell to make it clear that we would like there to be more parity, or at least not have MAHA reduce the number of league games given to A teams.

#### **Registrar – Lance Wilson**

So far all of the optional tournaments have been put on the website and players have been able to register. There have been some cases where the parent can't see the "optional tournament" tab and Lance is able to fix it if the division rep contacts him. The PeeWee A team is changing one of their optional tournaments and Lance was working out the change in payment for that.

We have 243 registered players. Players who are playing House instead of 10U have been refunded the balance of their registration fees.

Lance looked into some issues about coaches not being credited for attending the CEP training. Those problems were due to coach names being entered incorrectly and they should be resolved.

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

In the High School and Bantam player / parent meeting, they showed the Fair Play video to educate players and parents about fair and safe contact for the puck. The first high school game of the season was successful in terms of players not cheering for big hits and the refs being fair about what they called and letting kids play. The first four Bantam games had different ref styles in each game and it made it harder for the players to develop expectations about what would be called.

Shawn attended the House coaches meeting. He thought it went well and that things are well-organized. He went to a girls' practice and thought it also went well. He's checked in with coaches from other divisions and has fielded any concerns that have arisen in the first couple of weeks. He'd like to schedule a meeting with all of the coaches in the next month.

### **SafeSport Update – Scott Peterson**

Scott has met with every division to discuss the goals of SafeSport with parents and coaches. There is a state concussion acknowledgement form that Scott needs to collect from coaches. Shawn is going to distribute the link for that form.

Locker Room Monitors and Managers need SafeSport and concussion training and certification. Any other parent volunteers do not need to have SafeSport or concussion training.

USA Hockey is doing a new initiative attempting to address hate language. Mekell circulated this information for coaches to share with players. There was also an email from USA Hockey.

### **Division Updates**

**8U:** The season is off to a good start. Our practices have been going smoothly and the new half-ice boards are working well for the Saturday games.

We have some issues with past-due payments and the board discussed how to address this issue. We will review language at our next meeting that specifies actions that will be taken with members who are behind on payments and what their grievance process will be.

**House:** Jon reports that House is going well and Denny has been a great coach. There will be three different tournaments for House this year. Jon has started thinking about plans for the House League in 2020. There are some concerns about how the House program would handle the change to half ice for Squirt-aged kids since the program is now a full-ice blended program between 10U and 12U. There will be a subcommittee to address some of these questions.

Members will be: Jon, Randy, and Darryl.

**Squirt:** Both A and B teams started their games this past weekend. There was some variation in reffing during games which made it hard for the kids to develop expectations for what will be called. Craig Reinhardt did a power skating lesson with the Squirts which was very well received.

Randy asked about what we can expect with planning for half-ice with Squirts next year. We have not gotten details from MAHA about how this will be set up, so Darryl is going to contact Mekell and the MAHA Squirt rep to get more information.

**Peewees:** The first A game is in a couple of weeks. The B team played a series of games in Missoula and did not have much of a break between games. Kurt said there have been some challenges with scheduling the jamboree-style of league play effectively.

**Bantams:** The Bantams have played several games. There is an upcoming tournament in Idaho Falls.

**High School:** There was a good first game in Butte last weekend. This weekend they'll be in Coeur d'Alene. There was one player who had a significant injury and will need surgery. Lance moved to refund all but \$140 of his registration fees. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sarah requested that the board chip in \$500 to offset expenses for Senior Night. Scott made a motion to approve \$500. Kurt seconded the motion. Darryl suggest that the money be used for a tangible gift given on behalf of HAYHA. Motion passed.

### **Girls and Goalies – Randy**

There are 8 kids coming regularly for goalie training. Lance said that the goalie training is paying off in games, with improved performance of our goalies.

The girls' program is doing well and still getting new registrants. Billie as coach is doing a great job of fostering a culture of fun. We may be able to coordinate with the Butte girls' program to do a joint practice. The MAHA commissioner of girls' programming reached out to Randy to schedule a potential exhibition game.

### **Survey and Planning – Allison**

Allison is going to prepare a summary report regarding HAYHA growth for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Treasurer – Sarah**

There is \$146,377.06 in the checking account. Sarah just dropped off the check for \$19,191 for the ice rental. She paid for the jerseys last Friday. For the benefit of the board, Sarah went over the procedure for paying refs for home games. It is the responsibility of division reps and managers to be sure to pick up payment for refs for home games for their divisions.

### **Bighorns Youth Hockey Night**

The Bighorns Youth Hockey Night is November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:05pm. One child will be admitted for free with each adult. Termites will be playing between the first and second period. Blue Cross will present HAYHA with donation money between the second and third period. Lance will send out an email to all enrolled players.

### **Coach Compensation / Volunteer Status**

We had a preliminary conversation about how we might compensate non-parent and parent coaches for their time. Shawn is going to ask other organizations how they handle this issue and we will discuss it at a future meeting.

### **Other Business**

Raffle tickets were handed out and extra cookie dough forms were made available.

Kurt confirmed with Stan that they are handling air quality monitoring to the standards of the MAHA recommendations. We discussed whether to purchase an air quality monitor for \$250 that we could use to independently monitor. We are going to look into regulations and discuss it at the next meeting.

We discussed the delay in getting new jerseys this year. Randy is going to collect computer files for jersey acquisition so that we can have these on file for future years.

**Promotion of Third-Party Vendors**

Questions have been raised about fairness in promotion of skating opportunities with third-party vendors. We decided that promotional materials will be distributed by email and Facebook only and division reps will use discretion to distribute materials equally. We will refrain from allowing vendors to advertise via fliers at the rink.

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

- Coach reimbursements/stipends
- Purchase of air quality monitor
- Review subcommittee plan by Allison
- Continue discussion on what half-ice will look like for Squirts next season
- Continue discussion on how to effectively expand house program
- Continue work on no-pay, no-play policy

**Meeting Adjourned.**

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

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