

New England District Meeting

Winter Meeting

January 18, 2020 at 5:00pm

Crystal B

Attendees: Ray St Pierre (NED Secretary), Tom Regan (NED - Director), Mike Hickey (VT RIC), Nate Isham (VT-VP), Keith Barrett (NED- Director), Mike Keaney (ME President), Cheri Bonawitz (NED Director), Barry Zalzman (NED RIC), Art Blakeslee (NED Treasurer), Chuck Wilkerson (CT – President), Matt Roy (NH president), Kathy Ludwig (CT Safesport), Kim Caggiano (RI Safesport), Dawn Bryson (CT Secretary), Richard Oliver (NED Director), Cam Stoddard (NH Safesport), John Cioffi (VT President),

Motion to approved minutes from NED Fall meeting by Matt Roy, 2nd by Tom Regan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Art Blakeslee

Art handed out updated district financial report, which was reviewed. Matt Roy made a motion to accept financial report, which was seconded by Chuck Wilkerson. Motion carried.

Art made a request to change the district calendar year to be more in-line with USA Hockey. Art and Tom will review and determine if that is appropriate.

Art also mentioned that our balance in our money market is too high for FDIC protection guarantee. Art and Tom to look into another account to move money into. A motion was made by Chuck, 2nd by Matt. Motion carried to allow Tom and Art to decide where best to most the money.

District Safety Coordinator – Cheri Bonawitz

Cheri reported that we were one of three USA Hockey districts that still did not have a District Safety Coordinator. Cheri to provide a copy of the job description – each affiliate will work to promote the position and provide potential candidates to be approved at the annual meeting.

Futures Camp Update

Rosters due to Ray by the first week of February. Once received, Ray will work with Mike McCullough to send camp invitations to selected players by the second week of February, most likely by February 15, 2020. Registration for the camp will be open immediately and close by March 7, 2020, at which time any openings will be filled with players on the at-large list by rankings. In addition the on-line store for the district will be opened on February 15th and will close by March 7, 2020. Reminder to each affiliate they are responsible to provide 8 coaches, 2 per age group, to the futures camp. Ray also requested that district personnel let him know if they will be attending.

Barry Zalcman requested that the Futures pay \$100 PER GAME for the 3 officials during the Futures Camp. That is 24 games, ie \$2400.00. Motion carried with presidents.

Officials Report – Barry Zalcman

Barry report NH National Hockey Week— meet the officials. Rec'd 12 nominations, Official selected is from NH, 13 years old, Nathan Currier. Game will take place w Boston Bruins mid February

Ref #'s: 10 years – player pool up 92k, official pool down 3k. NED for last 3 years: increase of 3 officials to 1770. Challenges – completion for level 1, same as National. – NED 69% (National 51%) because of pilot and big brother system already started

New shadow programs – to be instituted next season

Abuse of officials: NED encountered 4 this past weekend. Need support from affiliate

Affiliate by laws regarding player, coach and spectator need to be reviewed for consistency throughout the district. Will shoot for April meeting recommendation – need a committee

2020 goals:

Increase the completion rate

Get more in the game

Increase the number of female officials

Development portal for evaluations

Assignors – big conversation , very little control, needs to be some changes going forward

Officials Symposium – July 24-26 in Providence RI, 75 officials have signed up so far across the country.

Only 10 from NED

Barry wanted to let everyone know about California bill AB5 update – will have impact to coaches and officials if similar legislation adopted in NED. Determines difference between independent contractors vs employees. Nothing currently in legislation in the New England states, though there is in the New York and New Jersey legislatures.

Request was made to get a note to all associations, to pass along to parents that abuse of officials will not be tolerated.

Massachusetts Teams in Sectionals – Matt Roy

Matt has a concern about Massachusetts teams take NED team spots in our sectionals. Richard explained that MA teams were only invited to NED sectionals when there was a shortage of teams in an age group. Matt elaborated that his other concern was that NH honored MA request to not allow a player from MA to play in NH until they paid their debt, however when NH made the same request, they were told they could not do that. Tom Regan advised that he was speak to the MA executive director,

Kevin Kavanaugh, and address those concerns. Note: a conversation after this meeting addressed these concerns.

Girls District Tryouts – John Cioffi

John was concerned about the impact on the number of VT players going to district tryouts because they have been moved to CT. With Mike McCullough unable to attend, we did not have a specific number available. John requested that in the future we discuss the location of the tryouts and possibly moving them back to a central location. Keith reminded everyone that previously when the tryouts were in NH, there was a shortage of volunteers, and when the district made a request for NH volunteers, it was met with a request to be paid. Matt Roy indicated that would no longer be the case. We will discuss the future tryouts at the annual meeting in April.

In addition, we discussed the need to find a new Girls Camp Director to replace Bill Leidt. Request that affiliates advertise and obtain a list of possible candidates. Keith and Tom to find job description so that we can send it to the affiliates.

Disabled Section – Richard Oliver

Richard would like to see more involvement at the district level of the affiliate disabled reps – including having a disabled section at the NED Annual Meeting in April. Richard requested that he be allowed to bring 1 of the affiliate disabled reps to Annual Congress and the following Winter meeting, as an introduction to each to USA Hockey and to give them the opportunity to meet disabled directors from around the country. Richard proposed that the NED would pay ½ of the expenses for the affiliate disabled rep to the national meetings, and the affiliate would pay the other half. Motion by Matt, second by John. Motion carried with all presidents in attendance.

Boys Development Camps – Keith Barrett

Keith brought up that we should be looking at potential dates for the 16/17 camps in 2021 and 2022. Further discussion to be had with Bobby and Jason.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm