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MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

January 4, 2021 - Zoom Conference Call

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 4th, 2021 via zoom conference call.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:04 pm.

Bob Joyce wished the Board a Happy New Year and a better 2021 than 2020. Today there have been 4300 new cases. The Commonwealth has rolled out a new COVID dashboard for the state. Complaints are down but some new complaints around continued restrictions and comparison across the state. We have been fortunate to keep hockey going in Massachusetts while many countries and numerous states are on lockdowns.

In Kevin Kavanagh's Executive Director updated, he mentioned he talked with Cameron Eickmeyer, USAH IT Director, regarding online scoring system. With the current IT challenges at USA Hockey it is unlikely to be ready for next season. He added there are good enhancements to Club Excellence portal to include affiliates and potential dashboards for key data. We performed a roster audit and worked with programs missing teams. They also ran a coaching certification audit for missing compliance. The coaching certification update email was sent to members with pertinent information. Kevin talked with Tim Driscoll and new partnership with Driscoll Skating and Skills in the new year. We released a new app with annual guide as main content and will continue to push this out to membership. The World Junior Championships underway with 5 players from Massachusetts and Coach Ted Donato, Harvard University.

Chris Mayer sent a Discipline report to the board of directors prior to the meeting. Bob Joyce asked if there was a mechanism for tracking discipline history. Chris Mayer and Kevin Kavanagh will together on a possible solution.

Bob Joyce mentioned that the Commonwealth prohibits holding tournaments and this is unlikely to change which has impact to our annual state and national tournament activities. Tom McGrath mentioned that the youth council has pushed the start of USAH Nationals to April 28, 2021. The next youth council meeting is tomorrow, Jan 5th. Jim Maimone expressed concern about tryouts being delayed till after the national tournament.

Tom Smith expressed sentiment from the Safety Committee meeting last week to cancel and prohibit participation in State and National Tournaments. Statement from Tom Smith, Chair of Safety Committee: On December 29, 2020, The Massachusetts Hockey Safety Committee had a meeting to discuss sending Massachusetts teams to national bound tournaments as well as



hosting in state tournaments for Massachusetts teams. After a full and complete review of this idea, a unanimous decision was made in favor of canceling all participation of both in state and out of state tournaments for Massachusetts teams during the 2020-2021 season. This decision was predicated on the fact that society is in the midst of a global pandemic, Covid-19. The Massachusetts Hockey Safety Committee believes that allowing any Massachusetts team to partake in either in state or out of state tournaments during the 2020-2021 season would be irresponsible and detrimental to all who participate in hockey.

John Gilmartin asked if there was any consideration given to change state championship format to allow for this event to move forward. Kevin Kavanagh explained where we have been and the number of discussions that have taken place over the last several months.

Peter Giuliano reported the Youth Non-National Bound Committee agrees with Safety committee to cancel State Tournaments. Mark Lissner reported the Girls Tournament Committee would like to delay decision until after the winter meeting. Tom McGrath believes USA will make decision at winter meeting. Dave Hymovitz reported the Youth National Bound Committee provided a mixed bag of responses regarding participation. Mark Hickey expressed desire for a decision soon so that programs are not stuck paying for ice that won't be used.

Bob Joyce explained that the Executive Board unanimously supported the statement from the Safety Committee regarding tournament participation.

Kevin Donovan reported that 145 playdown games have been scheduled. He advocates that we consider district champions instead of State Champions. Peter Giuliano will meet with tournament committee to discuss options for district champions. Liz Cohen will remove dates from website. Mark Lissner further expressed concern with optics of canceling non-national bound tournaments and continuing national bound tournaments.

Chris Holden provided finance update. There is \$1.8M in cash in bank. Income from 2 primary sources is as follows: 1) USA Hockey Registrations at \$360K vs \$379K last year and 2) Bruins license plate revenue \$137K vs \$103K last year. This year we've had a significant decrease in expenses (down 47% to prior year) particularly of note in ice rentals, meeting expenses, and background screening. Our subsidy program supported 13 sets of quick-change goalie gear, 11 sets of nets, and 1 set of hard dividers. The electronic whistle purchase and resale program was a success and has been breakeven. Finance committee will meet in January reviewing the rate of return and diversification for cash. Audit Committee will review whether the current auditor should remain this year or seek new auditors in its January meeting.

A motion was made to approve the November 2, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved.



Dan Esdale reported that the Parent Awareness Committee will meet in next 2 weeks.

Christopher Gong reported the Rules Committee will send notice in the next 10 days for rule change requests for consideration.

Steve Rizzo reported Jim Maimone, Roger Grillo, and himself met to review recent issues reported from discipline committee regarding checking from behind, boarding, etc. Jim will meet with Parent Education and Safety Committee to look at providing education with discipline. Tom Smith added that the Safety committee is meeting to discuss this on Wednesday, Jan 6th at 6pm.

Steve Rizzo mentioned that player development is considering tryout formats. USAH has not decided either way on national player development in July.

Phil Zona reported the sportsmanship award communication to go out soon.

Don McNeil reported that while girl's player development committee awaits direction It is understood player development tryouts need to occur by June 28th.

District 4 has a new director, Joe Dio.

Kevin Donovan reported the completion of Referee Certification Clinics. We are down 79% (or 400) the number of officials from last year. This will have a multi-year impact in our sport. Many games are going off with only 1 official. Leagues should consider weekday games to spread out coverage next year. Mark Kumpel asked about official recruitment and retention efforts by USA Hockey and Mass Hockey. Kevin Donovan mentioned efforts around combating abuse and initiating mentoring programs.

Paul Moore reported that there are still several clinics on the calendar and that temp cards for coaches have been extended.

The Rules Committee and USA Hockey Reps will meet and identify USA Hockey Rule proposals that may impact Mass Hockey and report back.

Chris Mayer reported that the USAH Legal Council has been divided into subcommittees to review guidebook and rules to have a more homogeneous and cohesive set of documents.

Under old business, Dan Esdale requested the release of E-board minutes to the entire Board as discussed at the last board meeting.



Mark Kumpel asked if there was consideration about tryout dates and timing. Bob mentioned that we hope some feedback from Youth Council Meeting on Jan 5th.

The Board then adjourned to Executive Session at 8:48 pm to discuss a financial matter. The Executive Session concluded at 10:32 pm.

A motion was made to have the current auditors complete the 2019 Fiscal year audit, seconded, and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to have audit committee recommend a new auditor for the 2019 Fiscal year audit in the event the current auditor will not perform the audit, seconded, and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to have audit committee recommend a new auditor for the 2020 Fiscal year audit, seconded, and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 pm.