

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2019
5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep
Robert Whited – Bantam Rep

Absent Board Members:

None

Guests:

Randy Boysen – Equipment Manager, Squirt Parent, Mite Parent
Darryl James – Mite Coach, Mite Parent
Shawn Schroeder – Bantam Parent, Bantam Coach, High School Parent

Meeting Called to Order 5:32 p.m.

Minutes

Robbie moved to pass the minutes. Sarah seconded. Motion passes and Judy will post to website.

Public Comment

None.

Rink Contract, Practice Schedule and Equipment Room Lease – Kurt and Ryan

Kurt and Ryan met with Stan and reported back to the board. Stan approved HAYHA started every night, Monday through Friday, at 4:20 p.m. He will also schedule us twice a month for a goalie clinic one morning a week, every other week, starting in September. Stan signed a three-year contract wit the Bighorns. Next season, they are going to be practicing later mornings, possibly 8:00 – 10:00 or 10:00 – 12:00, so early mornings are available. Here is the HAYHA practice schedule Stan is entering into the scheduling software for next season.

HAYHA Practice Schedule for 2019 - 2020 Season

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4:20 - 5:50 Squirt	4:20 - 5:20 8U 1	4:20 - 5:50 Pee wee	4:20 - 5:20 Bantam	4:20 - 5:20 Girls Hockey
6:00 - 7:00 Pee wee	5:30 - 6:30 8U 2	6:00 - 7:00 Squirt	5:30 - 6:30 8U 1	5:40 House Games
7:10 - 8:10 House	6:40 - 7:40 HS	7:10 - 8:10 House	6:40 - 7:40 8U 2	when Bighorns are away
8:20 - 9:50 HS	7:50 - 8:50 Bantam	8:20 - 9:50 Bantam	7:50 - 9:20HS	
	9:00 -10:00 16U*			
<u>2019-2020 Start Dates - Week of</u>			<u>All Division Days Off</u>	
High School	10/14/2019		11-27-19 through 11-29-19	
Bantam	10/14/2019		12-23-19 through 01-02-20	
Pee wee	10/14/2019			
Squirt	10/14/2019		<u>U-8 Games - Saturdays (Start 10-12-19)</u>	
House	10/14/2019		10:00 to 10:55	
8U - 1st	10/10/2019		11:00 to 12:00	
8U - 2nd	1/2/2020			
<u>Other Topics</u>				
Goalie Training - Every other week Starting in September (Most likely in AM?)				
House League Games - Friday Evenings @ 5:40 when Bighorns are not playing at HIA				
<u>Tryouts - Weekend of 09-28-19 & 09-29-19 or 10-12-19 & 10-13-19</u>				
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>			
Squirt 1:00 to 2:00	Pee wee 7:00 to 8:30			
Pee wee 2:10 to 3:10	Bantam 8:40 to 10:10*			
Bantam 3:20 to 4:20*	HS/16U 10:20 to 11:50*			
HS/16U 4:30 to 5:30 *	Squirt 3rd session 12:00 to 1:00			
Squirt 5:40 to 7:10	Pee wee 3rd session 1:10 to 2:10			
	Bantam 3rd session 2:20 to 3:20*			
	HS/16U 3rd session 3:30 to 4:30*			

Stan said he would block these two weekends for tryouts, until the board decides for sure which one it will be: September 28 & 29 and October 12 & 13. The board thinks the MAHA Development weekend will be October 5th and it doesn't want to do tryouts during MAHA's development weekend.

Stan said he would donate ice for a referee clinic next season.

Stan said if we use at least as much ice as we did this year, the rate of \$245 per hour will stay the same. HAYHA will be using even more ice this next year – approximately \$10,000 - \$16,000 more in ice due to the following:

- Half hour more for Bantams
- Extra hour per week for High School
- Extra hour per week for Girl's Hockey Practices
- Extra hour per week for 16U

Lastly, they reported back about the equipment room lease. Stan wants to move the equipment room to upstairs at the rink, which is just as big, possibly bigger than what HAYHA currently uses. He will lease it to us at \$100 per month, or \$1200 per year, which is a much better rate than his initial \$200 per month. The board approved the lease of this room starting this month. Randy Boysen is heading up equipment rental return next week on April 9th and 10th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Coach-in-Chief – Bob Richards

Not present.

Conflict of Interest Policy – Justin Steckelberg

Justin reviewed the old conflict of interest policy and the new one and reported that they are pretty much the same. He recommended keeping the old one so as to not go through the effort of amending bylaws. The board agreed.

Amendment of the By-Laws for 2 New Board Members

Lance and Kurt will count the ballots to see if the membership approved adding two new board members. Regardless, the schedule for nominations and ballots is:

April 3: Email nomination form to all division members.

April 17: Nominations due.

April 23: Ballots mailed out.

May 10: Ballots due or they can be hand delivered May 16th to the annual meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the small conference room at Lewis & Clark Library. Ballots will be counted during this meeting and the newly elected board will have their first meeting in June.

Ryan suggested adding a sentence to the nomination form that states the Registrar, Lance Wilson, will contact any nominated persons to ask if they accept or decline nomination. If they accept, they will be added to the ballot. Kurt will add this sentence to the nomination form. Also, same as last year, all ballot candidates will have the option to submit a short bio (50 words or less) of themselves and their interest in serving HAYHA. Robbie will post these on the website for membership to read during the voting window.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Garcia

\$88,226 in checking account. The board discussed current season outstanding balances. There is only one family with outstanding balance, and they have been sent to collections. After discussing how to handle outstanding balances once next season's registration opens, Judy motioned the following statement be added to the top of the HAYHA registration page: *If you have an outstanding balance from the previous season, you will be blocked from registering until the balance is paid in full.* Sarah seconded this motion. The board voted and it passed unanimously.

Division Updates

8U: Took 2 Mites teams to Billings tournament where they took 1st and 3rd place. Also, one termite team went to Billings. A group of 2010 players will be playing full-ice scrimmages in Butte this coming weekend as a way to introduce them to full-ice. A few 2009s will be playing as well to be competitive with the other teams who are attending.

Squirts: The squirts did well in the Missoula Tournament.

PeeWees: Shawn Schroeder hosted a checking clinic for graduating PeeWees. It went well.

Bantams: Won the Wyatt Winfield tournament.

High School: Nothing to report.

SafeSport – Scott Petersen

Scott had nothing to report. It was a great season with no major behavior issues or SafeSport complaints. Divisions did great with no cell phones and no sticks in the locker room. Robbie Whited asked why Bantams and HS team can't have sticks in the locker room so kids can tape their sticks. Scott says he lets them tape them but then they must come out because it's a Helena Ice Arena rule. Kurt said that Stan applauded HAYHA's locker room cleanliness this season. Good job locker room monitors.

16U Discussion

The board once again discussed what a HAYHA 16U Program would look like for next year. Ryan, Shawn and Scott all shared that they feel like we need to do more for these young high school players who hardly get any playing time in competitive high school games. For example, one player, was only able to play a few shifts during the entire high school state tournament because high school had such a large team. Next season our numbers will be even bigger. These younger kids don't expect to play as much as our older kids, but it's still frustrating to not get game time and families pay the same price. The board feels a 16U program would give these kids greater playing time and development, so they don't get frustrated and drop out of hockey. The board could look at a Varsity and JV model, however, because MAHA follows the High School rule, where anyone playing in High School program has to be enrolled in High School, then some of our youngest High School players might still be in 8th grade, which happened to us a couple seasons ago.

There seems to be three 16U models that HAYHA could look at doing:

1. A hyper-competitive 16U team like Bozeman has put together. This team travels a lot to far away tournaments. It is very expensive. There are kids from quite a few different Montana cities on that team. Shawn doesn't feel like we have the number of caliber players to compete at the at level.
2. A 16U team that plays in the Treasure State League (TSL). But, the TSL hasn't formed a 16U division yet. The board was hoping they would do this last season as were some other cities, but it didn't happen, and the board isn't confident that MAHA will get it together for this next season either. Mekell is going to push this at the MAHA annual meeting in May. The board

recommended she suggest that MAHA appoints a 16U Rep to start working on this over the summer.

3. Shawn Schroeder shared a new 16U idea. If MAHA doesn't form a 16U league, then we as HAYHA, could still form a 16U team and try to schedule them 10 home games and 10 away games with B and C level high school teams such as Salmon, Havre, Glasgow, Miles City and other 16U teams such as Bozeman and Missoula. If we can't get them enough games like that, then they can also attend tournaments such as Salmon, Idaho Falls and Spokane. Their fees could potentially cover registration in some of these tournaments if they didn't get enough games. He said the 16U players could be cross-rostered on both the 16U team and the high school team. These younger players would get a lot of playing time in the 16U games and maybe a little in the high school games. Sarah and Shawn both agreed that excellent communication with families, kids and coaches would need to occur throughout the season. Judy said she agrees we should not wait for MAHA to get a 16U league going in Treasure State League. We should form our own program, just like we formed and piloted our own house program this last season and it was a total success, we can keep improving on it and it will grow. We can do the same with 16U. She asked about practice times and Ryan reminded everyone that we built in a 16U practice and then 16U would also practice with high school twice a week. Robbie suggested we try to get 16U 18 games, 9 home and 9 away. He said Bantams get 16 and HS gets 20, so maybe 16U gets 18 games. Ryan said it is our responsibility, as a board, to give these 4th and 5th line players more ice time through a 16U program. It will be up to the next newly elected board to form a 16U program, should they wish.

Girls Hockey

The board briefly discussed a possible fee structure for the Friday girl's hockey practices next season. Mekell asked if only girls registered to play in other HAYHA divisions are allowed, or if girls from the community could register to practice on Fridays. The board agreed that registration and fee structure should be set up to welcome any girl (currently in HAYHA or not) to play during the Friday practices. Randy Boysen suggested that for girls who are registered and playing for another HAYHA division, there would be an option during registration to add Friday practices to their payment for an extra \$100, for example. The board agreed that the new Member-at-Large/Program Development Board Member would be responsible for setting up this fee structure and program.

MAHA – Grow the Program Grant Update

Mekell submitted necessary paperwork to MAHA regarding the 2018-2019 \$1,000 grant for the House League. HAYHA spent well over \$2,500 buying new equipment to rent to House League players this season. Her submission will hopefully result in MAHA sending us the \$1,000.

MAHA State Bantam Tournament Discussion

The board had a lengthy discussion regarding the problems with the Bantam State Tournament:

- The ice surface when they arrived in Billings was slush, down to concrete in some spots. Billings knew about this as early as Thursday (possibly Wednesday?) but still carried on with tournament which started Friday.
- There were no ice cuts or resurfacing made on the ice, making it a horrible playing surface. Parents went out with shovels to try and mend things up to make it a little better.
- Robbie felt that Billings and MAHA should have been calling a meeting to decide what to do on Thursday or Friday. It wasn't until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, after multiple state tournament games had been played on poor ice, that Luann (MAHA Tournament Director) finally called a meeting with coaches and proposed three options. 1. Cancel the rest of the tournament. 2. Go to Bozeman to play. Billings would forfeit because there isn't enough ice in Bozeman. 3. Reschedule for another weekend. Either way all Helena families had to give up their hotel rooms with no refunds available because it was so late. There were approximately 16 families with \$125 per night hotel rooms = \$ 2,000. Shawn Schroeder, Head Coach, chose the option that would be best for the players (these kids want to play in their state tournament), which was to go to Bozeman to play, because there is no time to reschedule, it's the end of the season and other spring sports are all starting up. Shawn had to tell parents to pack up and go to Bozeman. Parents were quite upset at losing money in hotel rooms.
- Players didn't get to play a fourth game because Bozeman didn't have enough ice.

The board feels like it is MAHA's responsibility, with the bonds that each city pays, to provide a state tournament that is safe (in this case, safe ice surface) and efficiently run (in this case, the board questioned whether MAHA could have done more sooner to remedy the problems that occurred in Billings). The board asked Mekell to have a conversation with Mike McIntosh and Luann (MAHA Tournament Director). The board agreed that beyond monetary compensation, they would like to hear MAHA's plan to prevent this type of thing from happening again.

Tabled Items

- Ongoing 16 U Discussion.

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting, May 16th, 6:00 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Library small conference room. Ballots will be counted, and new board members announced.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____