

Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING Minutes
May 16, 2019
6:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark Library

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep

Absent Board Members:

Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep
Robert Whited – Bantam Rep

Guests:

Ben Tiller – Head Mite Coach, Parent of a Mite Player

Meeting Called to Order 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Lance motioned to approve the April board meeting minutes. Mekell seconded. Motion passes with board vote.

Round Table Discussion

Kurt asked each board member to discuss any important topics for the upcoming season.

Ryan: Ryan said he wants the board to make decisions and move forward with the Coach-in-Chief position at our June meeting. With each level having two teams (Squirts, PeeWees, Bantams and High School), we will need more head coaches. He also wants to get tryouts scheduled and confirmed on the rink's schedule. The board felt tryouts should be the last weekend in September before MAHAs Summit, which is October 5-7, 2019 in Bozeman. The board reviewed that Ryan's scheduled contained three sessions for each division to occur over a Saturday and Sunday. The board will not only need to choose a Coach-in-Chief for next season, but also select an Evaluation Coordinator by the August meeting.

Judy: Judy wants to pursue purchasing two sets of half-ice boards to use at the Mite and Termite games, 3 v 3 games and eventually at 10U games starting in the 2020-2021 season when MAHA has mandated all 10U will be half-ice. Judy also shared the excitement of seeing

all girls' teams at a spring tournament in Calgary and is looking forward to working with the new Development Board Member to set a vision for girls' hockey in Helena.

Lance: Lance said USA Hockey has opened registration already for USA Hockey Numbers for next season. He said as soon as the board sets fees for next year, our registration can be opened because it is also set up and ready to go. He will require electronic signatures for both the Parent Code of Conduct and Player Code of Conduct. He will remove the step requiring players to print off and submit a signed hard copy of the Player Code of Conduct. Instead, he will print the Player Code of Conduct for each coach to go over with the players at the beginning of the year and have a signature page where all players sign their names. He will give these to Team Managers at a Team Manager meeting where he will also train Team Managers on the use of the electronic tournament registration. He also said the online coaching application is ready to go.

Mekell: Mekell gave a MAHA update and then emailed a more detailed update following the meeting.

1. Having two divisions at the High School Level – High School Varsity and High School B. The High School Varsity teams will play a traditional state tournament. The High School B teams will play a new Montana Cup tournament. The board felt this would be a good solution to it's 16U discussions over the past few months. Having two HS teams will help new players get more playing time on the B team. The two teams will still practice together twice a week and have their own practices on Tuesdays. Altogether, all high school players will now have 4 hours of practice per week.
2. Moving squirts to half-ice hockey starting a year from now, during the 2020 – 2021 season. This means that the 2010 birth year players will play one season of full-ice and then they will go back to half-ice. USA Hockey research and the research behind American Development Model all show that half-ice and smaller area games increase puck touches, assists and overall learning of the game and skill development.
3. She brought up carbon monoxide issues and it seemed nobody else around the table had this on their radar. Mike McIntosh, MAHA President, asked Mekell to bring a short power point presentation to the Annual Meeting during the summit regarding carbon monoxide incidents and recommendations for moving forward. Mekell would like to put a small committee together to work on this at the June meeting.
4. All 8U tournaments have to be festival format, not tournament format. All pool play, no tournament bracket.

Kurt: Kurt said Robby Glance called him about doing a clinic for Helena players the weekend of November 17th. The board decided not to pursue this because Robby asked HAYHA to pay for the ice and he was also going to charge our players.

Public Comment

Ben Tiller, head Mite Coach, had the following comments:

- He would like to see more 4 v 4 and shift on the fly play at half-ice Mite level and would like to do more of this next season. After playing this way in Canada, all coaches and players liked it much better. Judy agreed wholeheartedly. Judy and Ben are wondering if they can do this type of play in the Helena tournament or if MAHA rules state 5 v 5 and three-minute buzzer changes. They will look at MAHA's annual guide and find out.
- He is wondering how many years away is HAYHA from needing a second sheet. He is willing to lead a sub-committee to start looking at a second sheet of ice in Helena.
- He would like to see even more information disseminated through the website. For example, having the minutes more easily accessible. Ben is willing to help. He uses a website to disseminate his practice plans.
- He would like to be in the loop about development opportunities. For example, he didn't know about Big Sky State Games and felt like Helena could have sent another Mite team to play there. He wants to make sure everyone is getting this information.

MAHA Update – Mekell sent via email to all board members

- HIGH SCHOOL - It was voted on & approved that there will now be two divisions within High School at MAHA level. "High School Varsity" team (will play State), and "High School B" team (will play Montana Cup). All players must be in High School (grades 9 - 12). For Varsity would include 20 game season, 8 teams participating in State (or less if appropriate). For HS B would include 16-20 game season, and may consist of teams trying to rebuild, 16U players/teams, or teams with players working toward Varsity.
- 12U & 10U - When only 4 A teams, there will only be 12 vs 16 game season. (Helena was opposed, but motion passed). We will have to discuss possibly paying for 1 tournament, or how HAYHA wants to address this with fees when only 4 A teams are in league and 12 vs 16 league games.
- We were reminded that 2018/2019 season was the worst for behavior issues since 2009. (Players, parents & coaches). To help address this year there will be Fair play points 10U & older (league play) - This being implemented to help reward positive behavior amongst teams. This will be worked on and discussed at Summit in Oct.
- 10U - Beginning in 1 year, MAHA has voted on implementing "half ice play for all 10U teams". Associations are encouraged to get half ice boards / possibly center net, & age appropriate nets this year. (Helena was opposed, but motion passed).
- 10U A vs B discussed and teams putting in 2 B teams discussed. Process this year will remain same as last yr where teams declare A or B. If they put in 2 B teams, they again are encouraged to do all they can to keep teams even. It is league commissioners call if one team is clearly not a B team, to then move them up to A level at State tournament. I made recommendations otherwise, and when teams have 2 "B" teams, that they should be required to have 1 as A and 1 as B, however this was not agreed upon as they feel

there are associations where this is still required for building purposes. Associations designate teams 1 week prior to scheduling mtg when players /teams are not always determined. It was discussed that it is age divisions League Commissioner call if teams do not place appropriately.

- 10U & 12U personal stats will no longer be entered into Sports Engine. They are encouraging teams at these levels to focus on team stats, not personal stats.
- New Weather Call Policy. In past there has been no clear MAHA weather call policy for league/state tournament play. For outdoor rinks, when temperature drops to below 0 degrees, and when roads closed, there was no policy. Being updated with all specifics in MAHA Annual guide and will address these two items that were voted upon.
- At High School Level, league games will now go into overtime/shootout. Won't end in tie. Also, they will use bracket tournament vs pool play at State Tournament. Seeding based on regular season standings. Guaranteed 3 games.
- Reminder that High School Students turning 18 during season will be required to do Background check/safesport.
- This year there will be 1 MAHA Grant "Grow the Game" per association. \$2000 grant can apply for. Applications should be submitted prior to the Summit. Watch MAHA website for application info.
- MAHA Coach in Chief would like to work again with Helena CIC to schedule Coaching Clinic in Helena this year in the Fall.
- Reminder that Conflict of Interest policies need to be signed annually. MAHA reps will be required to sign again at the Summit.
- Tier 1 & Tier 2 - Final version will be presented and voted on at Summit. Was discussed and a few recommendations were made. Those items will be updated, and it will be presented for vote at the Summit.
- Reminder of Coaches helmet rule. CIC / Div Reps need to remind ALL coaches that helmets must be worn by all coaches at all times while on the ice, and that they MUST be buckled! There was a death of a coach this year in another State and associations were reminded to please work with coaches on making sure this compliance is occurring.
- 14U State Tournament Issue /complaint was discussed. There will be no reimbursements. There is no 4-game guarantee per Annual Guide. Based on unanimous coaches' decision to move tournament, and ice availability in Bozeman, this was the team/coach's choice and therefore there will not be a reimbursement. There will not be a refund of bond. Billings received bond \$, and for the games that were played in Bozeman, Billings paid for that ice with this bond \$. It was discussed that contingency plan be made by MAHA tournament director will all Division / City Tournament directors next yr prior to State tournaments.
- 8U State Tournament - Helena, Havre, & Butte Interested. Applications online and must be submitted to LuAnn Rinebarger. Reminder that rules must be submitted with tournament applications, and that rules cannot be changed after submitting proposals. Must follow USAH tournament/festival rules. Were reminded that 8U must follow festival format, and not tournament play for all State festivals & sanctioned events and that tournament play (vs festival format) is not permitted at 8U level.

- New - Parent Education Seminars. All parents will now be required to attend once every 2 years. (Additional info to come at Summit)
- Summit was awarded to Bozeman. Dates will be October 5 - 7 weekend.
- State Tournament Dates were determined. They will be as follows: 8U - 1st weekend in February, 10U Feb 28-March1, 12U March 6 - 8, 14U March 13-15, 14U girls Feb 21-23, 19U girls Feb 28 - March 1, High School B (Montana Cup) Feb 21-23, High School Varsity March 6- 8
- Reminder that deadline for declaring teams will be 1 week prior to the scheduling mtg / Summit.
- Discussed everyone continuing to work on doing all they can to grow girls' numbers and looking to future with girls league possible 10U & 8U programs!

Tabled Items for June Meeting

- Setting fees for next season.
- Re-opening the Coach-in-Chief position.
- Buying boards for half-ice and possibly two sets for third ice termite and 3 v 3.
- Equipment manager for next season. The board didn't want to assume Randy Boysen would continue as equipment management if he also gets voted in as the Program Development Board Member.
- Assigning Evaluation Coordinator by the August meeting per Tryout Policy.

Next Meeting: June 3rd, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena.

Meeting Adjourned 7:00 p.m. Lance and Mekell stayed to count ballots. Here are the results:

2019-2020 HAYHA Board Members

8U Reps: Allison Riddle and Judy Merickel

House League Rep: Jon Flynn

10U Rep: Darryl James

12U Rep: Kurt Moser

14U Rep: Ryan Lilletvedt

HS Rep: Sarah Garcia

Member-at-Large: Scott Petersen

Member-at-Large Program Development: Randy Boysen

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____