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MASS HOCKEY BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2020 - Sheraton Needham

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 6th, 2020 at the Needham Sheraton, Needham, Massachusetts.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:33pm

Bob Joyce, Kevin Kavanagh, and Liz Cohen attended a wonderful event on January 4th, Willie O'Ree Skills Weekend hosted by the NHL, Boston Bruins, and SCORE Boston Hockey. This event encompasses 'Hockey Is For Everyone' program committed to offering disadvantaged youth an opportunity to play hockey, leveraging the sport to build character, foster positive values and develop important life skills.

To date 192 of 205 (94%) registered organizations have signed the affiliate agreement. Kevin, Liz, and Bob have been reaching out the 13 organizations personally. It was suggested that if an organization doesn't sign the agreement then we should turn off the code in the USA Hockey roster portal.

Christopher Gong said rules committee met to discuss the process of re-writing the annual guide to make more comprehensive set of bylaws and rules. Over the years the number of amendments have created some inconsistencies in bylaws and rules.

The Policy Statement on Game Suspensions submitted by rules co-chair Christopher Gong was reviewed by E-board last night with a friendly amendment regarding removal of game suspension in favor of additional discipline. There was some discussion about the scope of this suspension which is game misconduct only.

A motion was made by Rick Vadnais to approve the amended Policy Statement on Game Suspensions, seconded by Chris Mayer, and it passed unanimously. There will be an email blast to share this policy with all organizations. It will also be included In discipline notices.

Chris Mayer, Chair of Discipline Committee, noted that we are up to 57 match penalties which is over last year's total number of 54 for the season. Chris mentioned there have been many issues with appeals due poorly written decisions not regarding the facts of the matter. She is looking to conduct a training for those who would like to attend on discipline process and reports.

Kevin Donovan shared a series of stats regarding game reports as of 1/2/2020:

- Total Incidents Reported - 1157
- Total Game Reports - 782
 - Coaches - 96
 - Player Reports - 1062



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○ Months:

- August – 25
- September – 227
- October – 216
- November – 195
- December - 118

● Year Over Year Totals

	2019	2018	2017
Game Reports	782	704	665
Total Incidents	1157	1024	963
August	25	8	2
September	227	170	160
October	216	217	237
November	195	150	158
December	118	159	108

● Age classifications

- 235 - 14 & Under
- 132 - 18 & Under Youth
- 128 - 16 & Under
- 101 - 12 & Under
- 34 - 15 Only
- 33 - 10 & Under
- 10 - 19 & Under Girls
- 10 - High School
- 5 - BLANK
- 1 - 8 & Under

● Type of Infraction

- 449 - Aggressive Infractions Under Rule 411
- 313 - Fighting - Rule 615
- 207 - Abuse of Officials - Rule 601
- 88 - Section 4 Violations - Rules 401, 403, 404
- 21 - Non 411 Infractions

● Incident Reports By Type

- 667 - Major Plus Game Misconduct Penalty
- 280 - Game Misconduct
- 57 - Match Penalty
- 47 - Major Penalty
- 43 - Minor Plus Misconduct Penalty
- 25 - Team 15 Penalties



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- 25 - Other Incident Report
- 9 - Player 5 Penalties
- 4 - Minor Penalty
- Match Penalties
 - 12 - 601(e3) Use of language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature
 - 8 - 601(f3) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the game
 - 7 - 602(a) Deliberate or Attempt to injure opponent or team official
 - 6 - 601(f1) Deliberate physical assault to any game official
 - 4 - 627(b) Kicking
 - 3 - 620(c) Head Contact
 - 3 - 633(a) Refusing to Start Play
 - 2 - 615(c) Helmet removed during altercation
 - 2 - 601(d1) Touching or Holding an Official

Bob mentioned we will be forming a new committee named the Referee Coach Interaction Committee to improve discussion amongst all parties to make our game better. This committee will deal situations around abuse of official. Official and Coaching education is part of the solution as well. They will provide recommendations to this board on how we can improve interaction.

Greg Sophis was unable to attend the meeting nor share financial update.

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

Kevin Kavanaugh mentioned that it is a busy event time of the season. The Boston Pride owner would like to partner with Mass Hockey about promoting women's hockey. Kevin shared that 8200 background screens have been performed to date. Kevin and Mike DiOrio have pulled a list of registered coaches and worked the list down to 50 unscreened coaches. They are following up on these non-compliant coaches.

Chris Mayer and Kevin Kavanaugh are on a committee with USA Hockey to support the initiative of USA Hockey managing the screening of all members. The work we've done will align to their solution very well. We'll appoint a USA Hockey staff member to our Mass Hockey Screening Committee to be compliant with Massachusetts law. We'll continue to fund the screening while USA Hockey administers the process.

Committee reports were sent to board of directors.

Steve Rizzo, Boys Player Development Committee Chari, mentioned the boys 2006 introductory event is being held January 12th at Northeastern.



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Phil Zona, 4th Vice President, mentioned the Sportsmanship Award application will online Feb 1st. The Hall of Fame meeting will be coming up in a few weeks.

Jay O'Neil, Co-Chair of Cheever/Grow Hockey, mentioned they are working on getting Cheever Grant Applications. Additionally, they are working with the Little Bruins to learn where the registered went after the program.

No additional District reports offered.

Mark Lissner, G/W District Registrar, mentioned that 1 Mass player, Defenseman Mia Biotti, was on 18U National team who won gold at tournament. They used gamesheet.com to electronically track games at girls Tier 1 and 2 state tournament. It was well received.

Charlie Bradbury, District 2 Registrar, introduced new District Director Scott DeLuccia and Alternate Director Steve Maiurei.

Tom McGrath provide USA Hockey Youth Council update. Colorado is still have IT issues. Player registration is up 1% but not in Massachusetts. They will keep sending email blasts regarding Declaration of Player Safety.

Steve Rizzo mentioned a new USA Hockey campaign called Raise the Flag to raise funds to donate money to Olympic teams.

Jim Maimone added that USA Hockey is creating a strategic planning process looking 5 years out.

No old business.

No new business.

Bob mentioned the April board meeting is moved from the 6th to the 13th due to National Tournament be played April 1-6, 2020.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.