



Mahtomedi Youth Hockey Association Board Meeting

Date: November 19, 2023

Called to Order: 8:01PM

In Attendance: Alex Rogosheske, Abe Appert, Kelly Taff, Krissy Wright, Tim Boberg, Luke Juhl, Tom Larson, Tom Leonard, Nate McClanahan, Garth Pawluk, Brent Sorenson, Luke Spannbauer.

Absent: Kevin Bidon, Garth Pawluk

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval: October 2023 meeting minutes approved without corrections. Motion made by Abe Appert, Second Nate McClanahan. Unanimous. Motion passes.

New Business/Member Feedback:

- **Dino Marino, Junior Gold 18B Head Coach**
 - Dino and several current JG18B players along with last seasons goalie, Taylor Abitz was in attendance.
 - Taylor Abitz was waived in last season (out of state); due to a shortage of goalies; plan for this season was Taylor would be waived in again this year; preliminary numbers was for (3) JG teams; after HS tryouts concluded; there were only enough registrations (skaters) for two (2) teams; one JG18 and one JG16; w/four (4) goalies; with only two teams, there would be no need to waiver in another goalie.
 - Dino and the team are here to campaign for Taylor; consider allowing Taylor to play; he skated all summer with the team; has bonded with the boys; established close friendships; his skill level is much higher than the other goalies and the boys believe the have a chance at state if he is in net;
 - Taylor is currently registered;
 - If he can't play with Mahtomedi, his hockey career is over; nowhere else to play;
 - Taylor did speak on his behalf and wants to continue to play for Mahtomedi would consider transferring schools if that is what he needs to do to play.
 - **Nate McClanahan, JG Level Director** provided and update on numbers; advised that there are currently, JG18- 17 skaters; JG16-15 skaters, with Taylor, five goalies for two teams; one of the 16's would be interested in moving up; two of the five are only eligible to play 18's.
 - **Kevin Souja, D2 Executive Director;** shared with Alex that he will not approve a discretionary waiver this season if we have five (5) goalies for two teams; only approved last season due to the need for a goalie; discretionary waivers are annual.
 - Question on if he transfers schools, can he be on the top team; Alex advised that there is only one JG18 team, that is the team he would be eligible for;

- Nate wanted to vote now if he were to transfer schools; Alex advised, to early to vote; suggested that Nate talk to Kevin to better understand the transfer rules vs the discretionary waiver;
- No one has any issue with Taylor continuing to skate w/the team; but cannot participate in any games;
- Nate will research; provide any updates.

President's Report (Alex Rogosheske)

- **Rink Fundraiser - Sheldon's Pizza**
 - Pizza sales are in progress; please support it.
- **Insurance**
 - Changing to State Farm, Agent, Dan Wright; Nate McClanahan is leading this; IPADs are included; Redpath gear; all MYHA activities are covered under USA Hockey
 - Jeff Irsfeld, Yardworks are required to have general coverage for non-MYHA kids.
- **Board Elections 2024-2025**
 - Alex shared that he will not be running for re-election this April, stepping down as President; not a decision he has made lightly and a difficult one; one reason for stepping down is the ongoing comments/concerns from the association re: potential retaliation when coming forward with formal complaints; willing to stay on to consult and assist w/the transition.
 - Abe commented after Alex's made his announcement; shared that Alex is in a tough spot; there is no other person as dedicated and passionate about our community and Mahtomedi Hockey as Alex is; thanked him for all that he has done for the program; board members concurred.
- **Location of Board Meetings**
 - Board meetings will be at Dugout Bar for the 2023-2024 season.
 - Continue to support Quinny's & Forster's Dugout.
- **Next Board Meeting – December 17th**

Vice President's Report (Abe Appert)

Outdoor Rink(s) - DEC

- **Goalie Nets**
 - Rink Teck will be the company re-stringing the nets.
- **Shed**
 - Continue to discuss with the District if we can tear it down; build something else; it on District land; they will not pay for it if we want to rebuild it;
 - Pull tabs are in there now; set for document destruction; self-storage is \$150 month.
- **Warming House**
 - All repaired from the water damage; may need to do some cleaning and painting.
- **Outdoor Rink(s) - DEC**
 - Met w/the City regarding the DEC; new contracting is being drafted; on who is allowed to use the DEC; Senior Party Committee for the High School has used in the past;
 - Way too much trash up there; looking to have parents participate more this year to keeping it clean;
 - Discussions taking place to rebuild another rink; Lower rink will need to be painted next Spring.

Treasurer (Krissy Wright) Absent (Sent e-mail update)

- **Finance/Budget**
 - Krissy e-mailed out the current summary of our Budget to Actuals earlier today:
 - As of today, MYHA has \$519k in cash in the bank;

- Requested that Aletha Gamez, Registrar the most current registration number; needed for future budget exercises.
- **Refunds**
 - Issuing refunds at 80% of the registration; per our policy to two (2) Bantam players (Chesak and Hallin) and one (1) U15 who have moved to High School.
- **Junior Gold**
 - On JG registrations we are lighter than prior years; but for total registrations we seem to be ok;
 - Tournaments; budgeted for three (3) JG teams; now down to two; Nate to reach out to cancel those tournaments request refunds; we need to determine teams ahead of time; two JG Tournaments have not cashed the checks yet; potentially may not get back \$6k in tournament registration.

Secretary (Kelly Taff)

- **E-Mail Blasts**
 - Continue to coordinate with everyone on e-mail blasts. Board members provide the content, and I will edit/format and send out.
- **Board Meetings**
 - If any Board member can't make a meeting; please include me on the e-mail and/or text that you send Alex; provide an update an/or advise no update.
- **Team/Individual Pictures**
 - Pictures will be at the DEC/Warming House; looking to set up two dates; traveling teams; and JG and Mites/U8/U6; will be in January based on schedules.
- **HS Mentor Program**
 - HS Boys Hockey players have been assigned to each of the traveling teams; posted to the Manger GroupMe; confirm if the Student Coach waivers need to be completed; required to attend at least two (2) practices, two (2) games.
- **IPADS**
 - All iPads have been set up; distributed to all Boys traveling teams; Marauders have theirs from last season and are being managed by them; once JG teams are set; will get iPads to their Managers.

District 2 (Tom Leonard)

- **D2**
 - November meeting summary:
 - Referee report; Individual teams should refer to D2 website; most current information will be posted there; Referee blackout dates, Dec. 19-21.
 - Teams have 24 hours to report game misconducts; must report to D2 Level Director; if not, coach will be suspended for 2 games.
 - GameSheet errors; game misconduct and minor penalties are causing some confusion in GameSheet; if not sure how to score it; ask the referee.
 - Suspended coaches/players may not be at the rink 30 mins prior/after
 - Mouthguards and earflaps are mandatory; problematic at the AA level; Refs are shutting games down;
 - 11/12/2023 weekend; 265 games; referees are getting good reviews; young/new refs are getting games; more experience.
 - 15U referee scheduling still a problem due to Stillwater dropping their team.
 - D2 Referee numbers: last season 120; this season 165.
 - District Playoffs; schedules same as last year; Regions – 1st week in March.
 - Mite league in discussions for next year; Mite 3 & Mite 4.
 - Stats being posted on the D2 website will be voted on next meeting.
 - MYHA to host the Bantam C Tournament; work with Joan on dates/ice.

- Final teams need to be rostered by 12/31/2023; no changes after this date.
- PeeWee C Team
 - Issue brought up with our PWC team; Forest Lake Tournament; due to multiple injuries on the PWC team; they brought up to B2 Squirt players; East Metro wanted penalties; Tournament Director advised Manager to bring the B2 Squirt Roster to show their level; D2 said they needed to re-roster and add them to the PWC team.

Director of Coaches/Fundraising (Brandon Sampair)

- **Coaches**
 - Looking for a JG16 coach; Nate reaching out to parents.
- **Fundraising**
 - See Director of Player Development update.

Director of Player Development (Tim Boberg)

- **MEGA**
 - Feedback from MEGA; all going well; there was one coaching change.
- **Fundraising**
 - Pizza Fundraiser – MYHA Rink/Rinc2 (Sheldon Family Pizza, Duluth, MN) is in progress; going well.

Junior Gold (JG) (Nate McClanahan)

- **JG16/J618**
 - JG teams will be announced shortly; need to get puck bags; connect with Abe Appert.
 - Reach out to Kelly Taff once you know who the Managers are; need to get them iPads and Manager information.

LEVEL DIRECTOR REPORTS

Bantam (Brent Sorenson)

- **Bantam Teams for the 2023-2024 Season**
 - Two players moved to the Hill Murray HS team; Landon Sampair, BAA and Sam Dunham, BB2.
 - Bantam C player quit 30 minutes to evaluations; now wants to come back.
 - Looking at numbers/move-ups bases on original vote of 13-15 players per team.
 - Tournaments this past weekend; the Bantam B2's took 1st and 2nd; Bantam took 1st in their tournament.

PeeWee (Tom Larson)

- **PWC's**
 - PWC's, originally had 13 players; one quit right after evals; now have three injuries; currently have 9 skaters with one being a brand-new skater; have been borrowing players; looking at Mounds View, as they have a larger roster; players can't be double rostered.
- **Coach Incident – Nick Marshall, PWAA Assistant Coach**
 - Tom sent an e-mail out to the board members on 11/18/2023; advising that he received a formal complaint from a parent of a skater on the PWAA team regarding an assistant coach; the complaint is the coach is using vulgar language directed at the skaters; Tom spoke to the head coach, confirmed this happened; the head coach had verbally warned this coach a couple weeks ago on his language and it happened again on 11/17/2023; Tom's recommendation to the board was a formal written warning; indicating that any further use of expletives or vulgar language around any MYHA youth teams will result in suspension determined by the MYHA board; Tom requested a Yes or No vote to his proposal.

- E-mail vote took place; it passed based on the number of board responses; not all board members responded yes or no; as there were more follow up questions.
- Tom did speak to Nick prior to their 3:45PM game on Saturday; advised that the direction of the vulgarity was coach speak; not coming out in rage.
- Discussion continued; more information was brought up regarding past incidents with this coach regarding similar behavior; repeat offenses; where he has singled out players; parent disputes where he was formally disciplined in October of 2020.
- Player Handbook indicates disciplinary action is a verbal warning then a written warning; question on does it get reset every year for someone who has had past disciplinary/repeat offenses.
- Alex advised/full disclosure that he is a close friend of Nick's; he has known him since he was 10 years old; and he was a groomsman in his wedding.
- A few parents reached out to Krissy Wright; they did not want to come forward or file a formal complaint due to potential retaliation against their son; believe the coaching feedback provided in the year end surveys should be enough/viewed as coming forward.
- Brandon Sampair also spoke to Nick; seems remorseful; thought the written warning was fair and reasonable at this time; did suggest a Teams/Zoom meeting to discuss this further; allow Nick to speak directly to the situation; Alex stated he asked Nick to attend tonight's meeting; he declined.
- Other questions came up on what our obligation as a board is to report this incident; SafeSport or USA Hockey.
- One suggestion was a two-week suspension; provisional recommended.
- Brent Sorenson did speak with him today; has coached with Nick on Squirt A; Brent and Rogo were assistants; currently Brents son is on PWAA, many parents are talking; at the games Brent has attended, parents ask, why is he still coaching; why is he on the bench; kids are coming out of the locker rooms in tears; when he is sincere it is very sincere; don't believe he can be trusted; goes to zero to 100 quickly; Krissy commented; the two parents she spoke too validate everything that Brent just said.
- Ali Redpath Peterson, MYHA parent in attendance spoke up; recommended that we remove him from the program; no child or parent needs this; would like the board to consider this.
- Amy Unklesbay, MYHA parent in attendance spoke out; parents are not comfortable coming forward, and if this is not taken seriously and addressed; they will continue to not come forward.
- **MOTION** made by Krissy Wright for the immediate expulsion of Nick Marshall from his PWAA Assistant Coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the 2023-2024 season, Second by Brent Sorenson. Vote was tabled until the following event is completed:
 - Teams Meeting scheduled for, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, 8PM; Nick will be given the opportunity to address this issue/speak to the situation; all board members are required to attend. Alex Rogosheske is abstaining.

Squirt (Kevin Bidon) Absent

- No update.

Mite Program (Luke Juhl)

- **Mini Mites/Mite 1/Mite 2/3**
 - No update.

Girls Program (Garth Pawluk) Absent

10U/12U/15U Marauders (Mahtomedi/Roseville Co-Op)

- High School teams were finalized, now down to two teams at U15, A & B;
- All tournaments have been finalized; waiting on a refund from one or two.

- Including Jenny Garrity, MYHA Bookkeeper on tournament payments.

Redpath Legacy Gear Coordinator

- No update.

Intro to Hockey/6U/8U & Recruitment: (Luke Spannbauer)

- **U6/U8**
 - All scrimmages and Jamboree's are scheduled.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Made by Abe Appert, Second by Luke Spannbauer.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:03PM

Minutes Submitted by: Kelly Taff, MYHA Secretary