



NED Minutes - May 6&7, 2022
Presidents and Directors Session

Attendees:

Directors: Chris Wasburn, Cheri Bonawitz, Tom Regan, Richard Oliver (by phone)

Affiliate Presidents: Matt Roy (NH), John Cioffi (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI by phone)

Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer)

Guests: Kyle Peckham, Charlie Fortier, Larry Rocha

***President Reports**

- VT (John Cioffi): done for a few months, Futures Camp went well, 2 Regionals no issues outside of small discipline concerns, more local programs trying to do select/competitive hockey. Pres and both VPs re-elected.
- CT (Chuck Wilkerson): done for a few months, managing a few legal issues with a handful of for-profit programs, Black Bear buying up rinks & programs (already a big presence in Mid-Atlantic area)
- NH (Matt Roy): done for a few months but summer leagues & tourneys starting up. Season & Regionals went well. Finally received 501(c)3 status. Elections upcoming in June, Pres another year but at least 1 other position up.
- RI (Andrew Giuliano): moving right along, back to 'normal' and quiet right now. Elections later this month, Pres another year but 3 open seats with candidates for each
- ME (Mike Keaney): season went really well overall, all things considered with COVID. Biggest issue was officials, especially in the Northern part of the state. Spent significant time on a few very time consuming SafeSport issues

***Financial Report (J. Strong)**

- See presentation
- Discussion about camp revenue
- Discussion about sanctioned tournaments revenue
- In summary, district events did very well for the organization this year

- Potential to move investment funds into a few other vehicles, discuss what to do with the account balances as they currently stand

*Tournaments Report (R. Oliver)

- Many tourneys went off without a hitch
- National bound now has 'play to win' revised OT/Tiebreaker rules
- Non-national bound will review OT/Tiebreaker rules - potentially the same as NB, but at the very least consistent
- Had 3 teams represent NE at Nationals
- 2023 events would be March 10-12 (NB) / March 17-19 (Non-NB) Nationals March 29-April 2
- For June discussions in Colorado
 - selections & rotations
 - Still have enough pins & hats for one more year
 - Discuss 18s moving to a 2-weekend schedule or Thursday to Monday schedule

*Disabled Report (R. Oliver)

- Championships/Festivals (Pittsburg) went really well, after being on hold for 2 years
- Need a registrar's meeting to tighten up process for disabled hockey registrations
- RO would like to meet/travel to each state to attend a State Meeting and discuss Disabled Hockey with the appropriate rep
- Looking for new folks getting involved at the district level

*Futures Camp (R. St.Pierre)

- ~ 480 players in Burlington, VT
- Smaller and smaller group of volunteers, but a strong group (Ray, Kim, John, Nate, Mike Keaney, Mike Mc)
- Cairns (2 sheets) + Leddy (1 sheet) great schedule
- Off-ice sessions not run by USA Hockey but by strong recommendations (Bill Beaney & Bill Mandago), ADM on-ice run by college coaches & players
- Great feedback, Great coaches provided by the affiliates
- NED RIC pulled officials camp at the last minute
- Maine has requested details and may be interested in hosting 2023 Futures

*Player Development - Girls Director (C.Bonawitz)

- ~300 players in Northford, CT
- Advocated for the NED camp with parents & made sure staff felt appreciated
- Tone & communication was an incredible asset this year
- Camp selections will be out May 16th
- Female support staff, coaches & evaluators now get equivalent pay to the respective roles on the boys side

- Discussed location & format concerns and comments

*Player Development - Boys (T.Regan)

- ~200 players in Attleboro, MA
- Staff did a great job, very successful weekend
- Providing the best environment for the players experience, great location
- National Camp selections were submitted, invitations for NED camps going out soon
- Reevaluate how to allocate the best player pool, discuss more with B.Rodrigue

*Youth Council (R. Oliver)

- National Tournaments were held, couple of issues with facilities (specifically alcohol related), fairly quiet with committees
- Registration portal is open for 2022-23 season

*Legal/Governance (T. Regan)

- Board structure amendments presented in January, no proposed changes since then, should be voted on in June
- Group looking to restructure ByLaw 10 to make it easier for all to understand and apply
- Group looking at ways to assist districts in discipline arbitration
- Group looking at precedent, there is no standard for discipline across the districts

*Finance (C. Washburn)

- Committed after January to continue FEE discussions, since January's increases were for 1-year only
- Hope next proposal is long term, potentially gradually changes
- May see net profits next year but that won't last if future changes aren't made
- More details closer to Colorado

GRANT RECAP / requested

ELECTIONS:

*4 positions up for re-election, no nominations from the floor, no objections

Ray St. Pierre / District Admin
Kim Gaines / Secretary
Jake Strong / Treasurer

Chris Washburn / NED Director

Chris has been re-elected, following USA Hockey policy, with the majority of the presidents representing the majority of the members in the district. Mike Keaney (Maine) 1st / Chuck Wilkerson (Connecticut) 2nd, all approved

Risk Manager (C. Fortier)

- New broker, new insurance, liability reduced from \$2m to \$1m with an umbrella
- Change in insurance forms process
- Turnaround is midweek only, plan ahead with requests
- Form can be found on the NED website

Player Safety (K. Peckham)

- Formal concussion form will get rolled out this fall
- Received 20 reports this past season
- Better education of local affiliates - not suggested, it's required
- Registration will include additional language
- Grant money usage Stop the bleed kits (1 per rink), vs. education tools.
 - Proposing concussion symptom cards for coaches wallet and signage for rinks
- DIRECTORS propose both programs and ask Kyle to present a formal request in June
- Neck guards - USA Hockey isn't going to mandate, will continue to recommend its use - evidence lacking for or against its usage
 - CT implemented it as an affiliate rule (regardless of where they're playing)

Safe Sport (R. St. Pierre)

- Handbook changes, must be redone within 1 year - need to make sure registrars are watching redline changes
- Need to figure out how to manage officials timing

Ref-in-Chief (B. Zalcman)

- 1553 for the season (11% increase from last year but still down from the year before), 460 to 751 Level 1 registration increases and bodes well for the future, but only 68% became certified
- Average 7 games a weekend is now 12-15 games a weekend
- Re-registration will open 6/1, level ones required in person - the rest a hybrid
- No more close book exam but increased number of questions
- The Pilot program of training + patch in one day was successful in NED, does encourage more within our district
- Task force continue to discuss official/coach meetings prior to games and formalizing the process a bit more

Coach-in-Chief (L. Rocha)

- 34 courses this year (30 virtual / 4 in person)
- Mostly spearheaded by 3 or 4 people
- Certified over 2,000 coaches
- Have new volunteers helping as coach developers (4 ME, 1 CT, 5 VT)
- For upcoming season: 12 Level 1, 10 Level 2, 10 Level 3
- National office will be managing Level 4
- Still ongoing discussions of new format and timing
- Will work with Player Safety to help better educate coaches

OLD BUSINESS - n/a

NEW BUSINESS

- Burnout is real at all levels, finding it harder and harder to get volunteers to fill positions, especially key positions

ADJOURN 10:15am

ADD ANNUAL CALENDAR DATES

October 14-15 Fall NED Meeting

March 10-12 NB Regionals Tourneys

March 17-19 Non-NB Regionals Tourneys

March 29-Apr 4 Nationals

- Affiliate (state) updates - Presidents
- Financial report – Jacob Strong
- NED regional tournaments report – Richard Oliver
- Futures Camp Update
- Disabled Section – Richard Oliver
- Girls Director Update – Cheri Bonawitz
- Player Development Update – Cheri & Tom
- Youth Council Report – Richard Oliver
- Legal Report/governance Change Update – Tom Regan
- Finance Committee Update – Chris Washburn

8:00 am – 12:00 pm – Executive Boardroom

- Approval of Fall Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- NED Elections – District Administrator, Secretary, Treasurer, Director - Washburn
- Affiliate (state) updates, including COVID - Presidents
- Financial report/grant update – Jacob Strong
- Risk Manager – Charlie Fortier
- Player Safety – Kyle Peckham
- Safesport – Cheri & Ray
- Registrars – Mike McCullough
- Officials – Barry Zalcman
- Coaching – Larry Rocha
- NED regional tournaments – Richard Oliver
- Futures Camp Update
- Girls Director Update – Cheri Bonawitz

- Player Development Update – Cheri & Tom
- NED Camp Updates – Bobby Rodrigue
 - Any assistance needed from affiliates
 - Planning for 2022-2023 tryouts & camps
- Youth Council Report – Richard Oliver
- Disabled Section – Richard Oliver
- Legal Report/governance Change Update – Tom Regan
- Finance Committee Update – Chris Washburn
- Set Date and Location for Fall Meeting = do we plan larger meeting with all district groups in attendance?
- Old Business
- New Business