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MASS HOCKEY BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 - Sheraton Needham

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, September 9th, 2019 at the Needham Sheraton, Needham, Massachusetts.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:35pm

Bob Joyce welcomed members to the start of the 2019-2020 season, noticing the new members. The Executive Board meeting was held last night so they can socialize with other Board Members prior to the meeting. District registrar reports will be sent to members ahead of time to streamline communication. Important issues can be discussed at meeting. Looking to do the same thing for committees as they get rolling. Committee assignments have been sent out and they should meet soon.

Kevin Kavanagh explained the transition of email from Godaddy to Office 365. Spearheaded by Liz Cohen, this has been a smooth transition. A new addition with system is the ability to setup groups for committees, etc. Also, this is a lower cost solution over 3 years.

Kevin mentioned the Annual Guide and Tournament Guide were available at the meeting. The covers have images that focus on our membership. Zoom is available for all committees, meetings, etc. Rooms can also be set-up with the Sheraton Needham. Just let Kevin know and he'll arrange.

Mike DiOrio shared program data collected over the last couple years. He built a profile for every organization with players per age group. He used Framingham Youth Hockey data as example. This profile highlights number of Cheever Grants, spotlights in newsletter, and other initiatives like hard dividers, Intermediate nets to see the Impact of these to grow membership. This data can be available to District Registrars and others. Future spotlights can highlight best practices.

Kevin shared that nearly 5000 screens have been completed year to date. Roughly 100-150 per day at this time of year. Issues with using the system are the dealt with quickly. Local programs like the reduced burden for screening. Liz said USA Hockey is backed up with screening and their system updates particularly off-ice officials and volunteers.

Tim McMahon shared a summary of the compliance. There are 88 board members of which 81 have USAH Registration Number, 71 have been Safesport trained, 76 have been screened, and 77 have filled a Conflict of Interest Form. This brings the total compliance to 66 of 88 members, 75%. Emails have been sent to all members with details of compliance by district.

A motion was made to untable rule proposal 12 & 13 dealing with regulations for town and club



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teams/organizations from June meeting by Chris Mayer, seconded by Rick Vadnais. This was passed. Additionally, a motion was made to retable till the October meeting which passed. It was decided a comprehensive review of the interaction of Mass Hockey Rules and Bylaws. It has been more than 20 years since said review and the landscape has changed significantly with hometown and club teams.

Christopher Gong has shared the Affiliate agreement draft with all members. The Rules Committee will meet and discuss this. The rule to adopt the Affiliate Agreement would be voted on in the October meeting. Once adopted a notice will be sent to all program registrars, as they are the key contact, requiring compliance to agreement. We will use the registration portal online to collect this agreement compliance.

Chris Mayer passed out Safesport handbooks to those who wanted them. She shared that on opening weekend there were 5 match penalties already. Chris will hold a discipline committee meeting to train members on how to run discipline hearings.

Jay O'Neill mentioned the first Safety Committee meeting was last week. Tom Smith talked about advocating "Heads Up, Don't Duck" and Parent education were focuses. There will be more updates In October.

Greg Sophis was unable to provide a financial update due to access of files while he moves. An update will be provided next month.

Jim Maimone mentioned that Roger Grillo, Regional ADM Manager, will run checking clinics working with local leagues (E9, PHL). On Ice session with up to 20 coaches. Off Ice sessions with more than 20. Targeting 40-48 players. Looking to get referees opinion as well. Meeting will be soon.

No additional District reports.

Tom McGrath talked about Declaration of Player Safety regarding the body checking. USA Hockey Is doing quarterly conference calls on this topic. They want player members on board to go up from 20 to 33%. Adult hockey membership is down country wide. This is not large Impact In Massachusetts since many Adult Leagues are self insured and therefor outside USA Hockey. Dave Klasnick, Chair of Youth Council, passed away. Not filling Chair until winter meeting.

Kevin Donovan talked about how he Is personally delivering the message to referees regarding the Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect. He wants a clear message across the state. This Is a collaborative effort with coaches, players, and officials. Keith Carter and Paul Moore are working to bring this Important message to the coaches as well as clinics and such.

Steve Rizzo is on High School Section Committee at USA Hockey. He added that cost Increases are part of the loss in adult players. The High School section budget cut will affect national tournaments but this will have



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have little Impact to Massachusetts.

Jim Maimone will take Rizzo's spot on Nomination Committee at USA Hockey.

Chris Mayer will move from Safety committee to Legal Counsel at USA Hockey.

We will need to nominate a Safety Coordinator for Mass Hockey based on rule addition at USA Hockey. The job description is very detailed so we need to find right candidate.

Under Old Business a motion was made to untable rule proposal 4 dealing with presidential terms passed and then retabled to the January comprehensive rules review.

Steve Fitzgerald run the elections for USA Hockey positions: High School Section, Girls/Women, Adaptive. High School Nominees: John Murray, Dave Young, and Steve Rizzo. Steve removed his nominee. John Murray was elected to serve as USA Hockey High School Section Director.

Girls/Women nominee: Mark Lissner

Mark Lissner was elected to serve as USA Hockey Girls/Women Section Director.

Adaptive nominee: Nick McCummings

Nick McCummings was elected to serve as USA Hockey Adaptive Section Director.

Under new business Jeff Brown made a motion to assign the East Coast Junior Patriots to District 1, seconded by Rick Vadnais, and passed by the board. Jeff also made a motions to assign Concord-Carlisle to District 8, seconded by Rick Vadnais, and passed by the board.

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

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.