



**MAHOCKEY.ORG**

781-664-2700 / P.O. BOX 1788, DUXBURY, MA 02332

Tim McMahon / Secretary / [tmcmahon@mahockey.org](mailto:tmcmahon@mahockey.org)

**#MASSPROUD**

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

*BOARD MINUTES*

January 9, 2023 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:12 PM and welcomed everyone in person.

1. President's Opening Remarks

So far fairly quiet. Bob skated at Fenway with the assistance of Ray Leblanc. Great experience. Hybrid referee clinics have been completed 1 ½ in-class, 1 hour on-ice, followed by 3-hour Zoom.

Safesport. USOC came out with an interpretation that SafeSport coordinators cannot be USA Hockey Directors or Affiliate Directors. Christine Mayer has chosen to remain as USA Hockey Director and resigned as the SafeSport Coordinator for Massachusetts. Bob spoke with his counterpart from California about Scott Gray, who California uses in this capacity. He charges a flat fee and then extra if there is anything more involved. He handles the SafeSport processing. Mass Hockey EBoard voted to utilize Scott Gray for the remainder of this year.

Program Services Coordinator, Mike DiOrio, has taken another position. Hiring process is being setup. Looking at the role and description of the position. Job posting is expected to be up this week. Mike said a few words thanking all for being involved. Mike declines to volunteer for vacant SafeSport Coordinator position.

2. VARIOUS UPDATES

- A. SAFESPORT COORDINATOR UPDATE – see above.
- B. PROGRAM SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION – see above.
- C. DISCIPLINE TRACKING SYSTEM – see below.

3. RULES PROPOSALS

Christopher Gong, Co-Chair Ruler Committee. Two rules proposals to be considered. One other did not go out in time and will be addressed at another date.



ARTICLE II - TEAMS, TRYOUTS & ROSTERS (attached). Proposal was emailed to the Board today. This change applies to state-bound girls programs/teams only. Includes Tier IIS into the language and does not change the tryout date. Motion to accept and seconded. Passed without opposition and no abstentions.

ARTICLE XII - LOCAL RULINGS, Section 4 (see attached). Amended to bold the first sentence of section 2. Motion to approve and seconded. Approved as amended with no opposition or abstentions.

#### 4. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Met with Mike DiOrio. Audit underway with new auditor.

Bob Joyce and Chris met with USA Hockey's auditor for its periodic review. Chris has received the report. We are in pretty good shape. Some easily fixable items recommended. Chris thanked the Finance Committee members for their work.

Kip St. Germaine and Ed Polis from Finance Committee are working on some investing policies to mitigate risk and/or to get into a simpler investment vehicle. Steve Rizzo from Finance Committee is working on some long-range planning issues.

Chris discussed the financials circulated. Registrations and license plate funds are both down.

Interest in the Girls/Womens Fall tournaments were very successful. Chris thanked Mark Lisner and the other volunteers for their hard work.

Equipment expense associated with the subsidy program have increased threefold. Good to see.

#### 5. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the November 7th, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

#### 6. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

President, Treasurer, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> VP, 2 at-large positions on EBoard and USA Hockey Director position. Deadline to submit name to nomination committee is February 20, 2023. Nominations from the floor will close at the March meeting. Election will take place at the annual meeting expected to be in April, 2023.

#### 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual meeting location is still being investigated. Likely will be the last week in April (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>). The Association Leadership Conference is not expected to be part of the annual meeting this year due to Mike DiOrio leaving and a new person expected to be hired.



Kevin spoke about and thanked Mike DiOrio. Kevin asked Steve Gear from Winthrop to speak about Mike and What he has done.

Need a host facility for a 10U medium tournament at the end of February.

Kevin asked Fiona Doull to show the new Mass Hockey website. Any committee members who think something is missing or needs to be updated let Fiona know.

#### 8. VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH)

##### Jeff Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Administration

Tournaments: Mark Lisner submitted a written report for the Girls Tier I/Tier II State Tournaments (attached). Dave Hymowitz: U 14 tournament March 3, 4 and 5, Tier I and II.

##### Christine Mayer, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Administration

SafeSport. Christine Mayer: A written SafeSport report has been submitted (attached). New USA Hockey SafeSport handbook is out. New SafeSport anniversary is now a member's birthdate. This is going to be going into effect and an unknown date. Christine discussed the Boston vs. Bullies program.

Discipline, Christopher Gong: Match penalties are way down in recent weeks. Probably because half-year Midgets has concluded. Continue to make offers for certain penalties. Continue to conduct hearings for hate speech. John Murray is conducting many of these hearings. Volunteers are needed to sit on hearing panels. Unusual number of incidents of parents putting hands on players at the Mite level. Encouraging programs and leagues to conduct their own discipline hearings.

Rules, Christopher Gong: Requests for proposals will be going out.

Parent Awareness. Dan Esdale will be sending out a report. The committee has also completed a mission statement and goals, which will be distributed.

##### Steve Rizzio, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Operations

Player Development - Steve Rizzo. Tentative schedule for goalie and open tryouts. Information will go out this week to all eligible members and social media outlets. Registration will open February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Adaptive Hockey - Ray Leblanc: Would like to thank Mass Hockey and Paul More for arranging for Ray to speak at the Bruins coaching symposium.

##### Tom McGrath, 4<sup>th</sup> VP, Events



Hall of Fame Committee – Jean Ann Nigro: Hall of Fame Committee met and has voted to have Induction Ceremony held in fall of 2024 at a venue to be determined.

Sportsmanship – Tom McGrath: Sportsmanship Committee will be looking for members and looking to tweak the process. Hope to have applications out in February and advertisement posted on website.

Christopher Gong, 5<sup>th</sup> VP, Planning

Long Range Planning – Jeremiah Tabor: Has its first meeting in over a year. Goal is to come up with structure of what Mass Hockey will look like in the future. Reviewing changes in tournament process to get more participation.

Safety Committee: There is a pending proposal on medical waivers that will be brought up for future consideration.

#### 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

#### 10. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Girls/Women – Written report submitted by Mark Lisner (attached).

Dist 1. Playdowns to start next week.

Dist 2. Playdowns ongoing.

Dist 3. 80% through playdowns. 175 teams participating. Looking for volunteers to help out.

Dist. 4. Playdowns starting this weekend.

Dist 5. No report.

Dist 6. No report.

Dist 7. No report.

Dist 8. No report.

Dist 9. Playdowns ongoing.



Dist 10. Playdowns ongoing. Fall playdowns completed.

Club. All quiet.

## 11. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Steve Rizzo. Meeting this weekend in Orlando with player development group. Invited to attend Goalie Silver Level Coaching Education Clinic at Warrior Center.

Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: Discussed Goalie Silver Level Coaching Education Clinic held at Warrior Center.

Tom McGrath: The Youth Council is in process of continuing to look at the attached Legislative proposals. The Executive Committee has discussed them but no vote has been taken until the Youth Council has weighed in. If approved by the Youth Council, then the Executive Committee could approve them and they would be on the Board agenda in January.

The 2024 National Championship sites have been selected:

High School- West Chester, PA.

Youth Tier I 14U- Plymouth ,MI

Youth Tier I 15O-Fargo , ND

Youth Tier I 16U, 18U-Las Vegas, NV

Youth Tier II 14U- Amherst , NY

Youth Tier II 16U- Dallas, TX

Youth Tier II 18U-Delmont , PA



Girls Tier I 14U, 16U, 19U- Wesley Chapel , FL

Girls Tier II 14U- Sioux Falls, SD

Girls Tier II 16U-Green Bay WI

Girls Tier II 19U-East Lansing , MI

Bob Joyce: Working on USA Hockey referee and Tier I task forces. Discussed efforts to address tryout and recruiting issues.

## 12. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: Well over 300 insurance certificates issued to date. Several inquiries as to what is sanction and what is not. If everybody who touches ice is not USA Hockey certified, there is no coverage. Some programs have their own insurance and it does not cross-over to allow an even to be sanctioned event. Programs that have a skills coach, etc. on the ice and they do not have USA Hockey certification, there will be no coverage. College club teams are covered by USA Hockey if registered.

Insurance Certificate requests must be submitted on proper form.

Officiating – Kevin Donovan: Registrations ended at end of December. 110 new level 1 officials as of today. Considering a mop up seminar to catch any stragglers. Nationally, a fee increase is going to be discussed. Looking at revamping the entire referee education process at each level (1-4). Discussed when suspensions become effective, which is at the time of the game sheet completion. Discussed game sheets.

## 13. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## 14. NEW BUSINESS

Bob Joyce: Keep John Murray and his extended family in your thoughts. John's family lost a nephew.



Kip St. Germain has been added as a Ten Year+ Athlete Representative to the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

Dave Young has received complaints regarding Mass Hockey tournaments being scheduled at the same time as the EHF Playoffs. Resulting in town teams losing players for those weekends.

#### 15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted.