



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.
BOARD MINUTES
October 2, 2023 - Virtual Meeting

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, October 2, 2023, virtually through Zoom.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:01 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci: First time chairing a zoom meeting of this size.

2. VARIOUS UPDATES

Tim McMahon: We have 81% compliance with voting members. 56% if you consider all BOD minus vacant positions.

Christopher Gong: A motion was made to set March 11th, 2024 as Tryout date for non-national bound teams, seconded and unanimously approved.

3. GROWTH PLANS

Stephen Palmacci: Working with Kevin Kavanagh and Jen Dematos on 3 initiatives for now. Creating a welcome patch for new registrations. Organizations which run Try Hockey For Free events will receive a \$500 donation to their organization. Contact Try Hockey For Free and Little Bruins participants after the event encouraging them to join USAH/MAH.

4. LONG RANGE UPDATE

Jeremiah Tabor: Held first meeting last week to collect ideas from new committee members. We want to continue to look at participation in State Tournaments. The committee wants to add participation and attendance at district meetings. Discussed the Referee shortage and ways we can recognize, recruit, and retain referees statewide. They will also revisit redistricting later this year.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: We are in good shape for the closing of last fiscal year and audit inquiry requests have been fulfilled. Nov 1st is the deadline for the state report. We are up 550 registrations so far from this time last year. Total income \$220K from Bruins License plate last year. Check presentation is tomorrow.

6. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES



A motion was made to approve the September 6th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Currently, working on partnership agreements with Mass General Brigham and GELSTX. The partnership renewal with Sparx for tournaments is underway. Jen Dematos has been pulling data on retention rates from Little Bruins and Try Hockey For Free events and it is promising these programs are effective to gain membership. Share National Try Hockey For Free events on Nov 4th where organizations can earn \$500 stipend for participating. Preparing for fall tournaments.

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

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: 19U and 18U tournaments registration closed. Participation is lower than expected.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: Rankings and credentials underway.

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: no update

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: 16 Match penalties, 5 for hate speech. 1 referee assault. Large uptick in coach penalties. Working with leagues on these matters.

Rules, Christopher Gong: A motion was made to postpone the League Affiliate Agreement to the November meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved.

We are meeting with leagues to get feedback on affiliate agreement, so it works for all. Gary Gates is going to revisit the discipline tracking app.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Adaptive Hockey - Ray Leblanc: No update.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee – Dan Esdale: Sent media release for Hall of Fame Ceremony on Nov 19th. Looking for sponsors for the event.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Safety - Nicole Siglin: We must report to USA Hockey all return to play forms so they can use data to help identify concerns and trends regarding concussions.



Diversity& Inclusion – Christopher Gong: Working on process to grow the game within diversity and inclusion so funds can be supplied to support specific initiatives and programs.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

10. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. Meeting this week.
Dist 2. All quiet.
Dist 3. Playdowns for 18U.
Dist 4. Meeting Wednesday. Mini 1on1 at end of Oct
Dist 5. Looking for a registrar.
Dist 6. Ryan Scott is returning as registrar.
Dist 7. Zoom meeting on the 18th.
Dist 8. No update.
Dist 9. Meeting next Monday night.
Dist 10. Meeting next week. Planning mini 1on1
G/W. No Update.
Club. Planning Mini 1on1.

11. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Bob Joyce: None.

Steve Rizzo: None

Tom McGrath: Youth council discussing concussion return to play protocol. Mass Hockey is interested in hosting the National Tournament.

Christine Mayer: Legal counsel meetings organized in focused sub-groups. Chris is focusing on sub-group regarding billeting rules and requirements.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: Completed 150 COIs so far. Please, fill out the form completely to get a timely response. No injury claims to date. Midget teams that play under



high school rules and not USA Hockey are not covered under insurance and claims may be denied.

Officiating – Kevin Donovan: None

Coaching - Paul Moore: None

13. OLD BUSINESS

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Kavanagh: Annual guide will be up on the website in next 24 hours. Printed copies available at Nov Meeting.

Dan Esdale: Big shout out to Fiona for support with Hall of Fame.

Stephen Palmacci: Thanked the staff for wonderful support in all areas of Mass Hockey.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 7:50pm.