

RHA Board meeting
September 18, 2023

Members in attendance: Brad Eggers, Dan Laughlin, Rachelle Williams, Ben Nelson, Dominic Janitell, Joelle Neutzling, Ronda Simmons, Rachael Hepper, Loren Jensen

Absent: Robert Steffy, Cody Minnerath, Rebecca Mann, Megan Archer, Brad Lee, Corey Norris, Sandra Weaver, David Bender

1. Call meeting to order: 6:07 pm
2. Rachelle motioned, Ben 2nd
3. Ben motioned, Loren 2nd
4. A) Northern Plains meeting: Safesport was heavily discussed and the need for locker room monitors at all levels this season. Monitors must have Safesport and Background check to be able to monitor. Older levels (Varsity) are allowed to have a monitor within arms reach of the door outside per Ben Tronnes at USA Hockey.
 - Will need monitors at Klotz Kamp
 - If an incident occurs in a locker room, it needs to be reported by anyone who knows about it. If you are aware and do not report, you can be reprimanded for not reporting.
 - SafeSport includes referee rooms for underage refs. Adult refs cannot share a locker room with underage refs with a closed door, open door is ok, otherwise may also need a monitor.
 - Discussed recruiting and the need to get more kids playing hockey.
- B) SDAHA Meeting: Safesport was discussed again and the need for locker room monitors at all levels.
 - Sioux Falls and how they split teams was discusses, SDAHA decided as to how SF will need to split teams. They planned to split kids by age, oldest to youngest. SDAHA did not approve of this split and they will have to split teams geographically beginning this season. Sioux Falls asked for this change to occur next season however, SDAHA changed bylaws for the geographic split to go into effect as of 10/25/23. Sioux Falls already had a roster planned, left the meeting and is planning to appeal.
 - SDAHA changed some bylaws to determine how to split is based on the entirety of registration. Brad clarified for RHA that the deadline would be our registration end date to determine how many kids are playing. Since House registration is open past the travel registration end date, they do not have to be included in the numbers on how to be split. Rushmore and Sioux Falls are the biggest programs in the state and the only programs in the state that have House programs. Rushmore is looked at for having big numbers for registrations even though we do not, as some registrations are for House.
 - beginning in the 2024-2025 season the State tournament format for Boys/Girls Varsity will change to Thursday, Friday, Saturday format to avoid late games on Sunday for travel.

--Hall of fame nominees—needed from RHA, Brad asked board to nominate someone deserving from RHA, Boys Varsity Coach Dick Novak was nominated and inducted last year.

--RHA received a player development grant from SDAHA for \$2000. Everyone that applied was awarded the grant.

--Sioux Center requested to play down to Peewee B this season, they will not be eligible for the State tournament this season. They will continue to host Peewee A State tournament this year.

--Mitchell requested to play down to Bantam B this season, will not be eligible for the state tournament this season.

--Mites numbers were discussed, numbers have ebbed and flowed for the past few seasons, and expects approximately 85 mites this season.

C): Recruitment: We are participating at the Rush Fan Fest event and the Main Street Square Pumpkin Festival on Saturday Sept 23, 2023. Hoping to be able to recruit new players to RHA and hockey. Fliers and Stickers were printed to give out at these events to increase awareness. Joelle mentioned a Halloween event at The Box in October to use for recruiting.

D): Safesport: Addressed need for locker room monitors at each level.

5. No rep from House program at meeting. Brad discussed coaches are trying to get a rep from each team for communication to parents. Some House players have signed up for travel hockey for tryouts.

Organization numbers: 189 registered players for all levels of RHA.

Squirt Tournament registration is light with 1 team signed up.

Peewee Early Bird has 5 teams registered so far.

Wyoming does half ice for Squirt level. This is not a nationwide thing. We don't expect to go to half ice at Squirts. Will stay at full ice for now.

6. Sandra sent reports for financials via email for board to review. Discussion to move \$150,00 to high yield CD for financial health. Discussion to use money for loan, Ben Nelson motioned to move \$150,000 to CD, Dan Laughlin 2nd. Board approved. Motion passed. No opposition.

7. Ben said ice is in. There are small projects in concessions. Clean up date scheduled for Tuesday Sept 19, 2023 at 6pm

8. Girls have Team SD weekend September 22-24th, RHA will be paid for ice rental for games. Dibs are available for the weekend.

9. Loren and Chris are receiving requests for ice time. House has requested ice but has been asked to wait until more calendar items have been added.

10. Tryouts are scheduled the week of Oct 23rd, coaches are working on tryouts and looking for evaluators. Will meet in October to finalize schedule and discuss tryout format.

11. Chase the Ace is live and accepting payments. First Drawing is September 23rd, 2023 at Buffalo Wings and Rings. This fundraiser has been in the works for a long time, hoping to use funds to offset the general building fund.

--Sabres Fundraiser-Jerseys were sponsored for the Sabers fundraiser and a jersey auction will occur for fundraising. Lindsey Ruml is the contact for this fundraiser.

--Wreath brochures are available for annual wreath fundraiser. Orders need to be turned in by October 25th. This fundraiser is built to return funds back to the player to offset registration costs for the next year.

12. Another play up request was received from a player to play up from mites to Squirts. In past play up policy has not been followed from mites to squirts. Discussion regarding policy, board agrees that play up policy needs to be updated/reworded to allow adjustment for organization health, current wording does not support. Discussion that there may be a more current policy, but not available at time of meeting. Will update policy to be in effect for next season.

Discussion amongst board that play up from mites to squirts is allowed to tryout, and follow current policy on website that player can make B team after coach discussion, evaluation from tryout and if board approves play up after tryouts and there is no safety issue.

--Reconsideration for Bantam Play up request was reviewed ,request was denied at previous meeting. Parent of player asking for reconsideration asked to withdraw reconsideration of Bantam to JV/Varsity play up. Motion to accept withdrawal of reconsideration from Dan Laughlin, 2nd by Dominic Janitell. Motion Approved by board. Board approved. No opposition.

14. Next meeting scheduled for October 16th, 6pm Thunderdome.

Meeting Adjourned: motion Dominic Janitell, 2nd by Dan Laughlin. Adjourned at 7:28 pm

Notes by: Ronda Simmons