

North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association 2004 Fall Board of Directors Meeting Saturday, September 18th, 2004 - Devils Lake

CALL TO ORDER [Kleven]: 1:10 PM

ROLL CALL [Gunderson]: **President Kleven Asked for the Role Call of the Board Of Directors**

Jack Kleven	(President)
Peter Sonnesyn	(Vice President)
Brad Bekkedahl	(Past President/Minnkota Director)
Connie Gunderson	(Secretary)
Dave Duckworth	(NE District Director)
Julie Howatt	(NE District Director)
Bob Gustafson	(SE District Director)
Greg Evenson	(SE District Director)
Randy Bina	(SW District Director)
Jeff Gustafson	(SW District Director)
Bruce Rostad	(NW District Director)
Scott Ellis	(NW District Director)
Bob Gillen	(Coaching Program Director)
Gary Splichal	(Girls/Woman's Director)
Dennis Nybo	(ND League Director)
Phil Sedo	(Jr. Gold Director)

Also Present: John Colter (Associate Registrar).

Members Absent: Gary Almquist (Treasurer), Jeff Bredahl (Player Development Director), Gary Fiddler, (Referee In Chief Director).

Minutes: [Kleven]: Kleven asked to approve the minutes of the April 25th, 2004 meeting. Howatt stated that the 2005 tournament assignments dates were incorrect. The tournament assignments are as follows:

2005 State Tournament Assignments:

Bantam "A1" & "A2"	Grand Forks, ND	March 11-12-13,2005
Bantam "B1"	Minot, ND	March 11-12-13,2005
Bantam "B2"	Wahpeton, ND	March 11-12-13,2005
Bantam "B3"	T.B.D.	March 11-12-13,2005
PeeWee "A1" & "A2"	Williston, ND	March 4-5-6, 2005
PeeWee "B1"	Mandan, ND	March 4-5-6, 2005

PeeWee "B2"	Devils Lake, ND	March 4-5-6, 2005
PeeWee "B3"	T.B.D.	March 4-5-6, 2005
Jr. Gold	Rugby, ND	March 4-5-6, 2005
Girls 19U	Dickinson, ND	March 4-5-6, 2005
Girls 16U	Bismarck, ND	March 11-12-13, 2005
Girls 12U	Minot, ND	February 19-20, 2005

Gustafson made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Evenson. Unanimous to approve the 2004 spring minutes. MSC.

Financial Report: [Kleven] Gary Almquist (Treasurer) not present to give report, but will have a full report at the spring meeting in 2005.

Introduction of Guests: Bruce Krueger -- Minnkota District Risk Manager. There are several new changes this year. There are essentially four insurance policies' that can be purchased through USA Hockey.

The first one that everyone is most familiar with is the medical; this is extra coverage that the players insurance may not pick up. There is a new company and a new claims office. Coverage is the same with a different phone number. **The second** policy is the Liability Policy. USA Hockey has voted to self-insure, they have formed their own insurance company that is totally owned. The coverage basically is the same, and K. & K. is still handling the claims. If you need certificates of insurance for your arenas, contact Bruce Krueger. He will need a written application and a copy of the rental agreement. **The third** policy is the Catastrophic Medical; this has same carrier and the same procedure. If there is an injury that appears to be catastrophic/life-threatening or the child needs to be carried out on a backboard please call Bruce the immediately from the arena if possible. **The fourth** coverage is optional; this is Directors and Officers/ D&O Insurance. This covers Directors, Officers, Agents, and volunteers, against claims that did not result from property damage or personal injury. An example of this would be if one of the local associations discriminated against girls. If that association were sued this type of coverage would cover that. In Minnesota approximately one-third of the Associations carry this coverage. The concern of USA Hockey is to come up with a way to cover all of our affiliates in the Minnkota district. The goal is to have all of the affiliates and the local associations carry this coverage. The premium would be paid by the state and the state may choose to recover the fees from the local associations. The premiums are computed on the basis of approximately \$15 per team, this will be based on the previous year's registration. This is currently a work in progress. This coverage is optional and North Dakota can decide if they would like to opt in or out. If ND decides to opt out then the local associations will be unable to purchase this coverage through USA Hockey. If ND decides to opt in than all of the local associations are in. The coverage is \$1 million per claim, and \$10 million per year. This is not 10 \$1 million claims, it is \$10 million of claims. One of the coverage's that this policy does not cover is crime. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Mr. Krueger.

President's Report: [Kleven]

Jack would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and support he has received. The World Juniors Tournament is getting closer and coming along. Bob Gillen is now involved

and is looking forward to helping. Volunteers are still needed; if you would like to volunteer please go www.theralph.com. Click on the World Junior logo which will bring you to the World Junior web site, click on volunteers and there's a very simple form to fill out and submit. You'll be contacted very soon; there'll be a large volunteer meeting on the fourth of November. They're looking for 1800 volunteers just for the Grand Forks site and another 300 to 400 volunteers for Thief River, MN.

Treasurer's Report: [Kleven]

Gary Almquist is not present today and will give a full report at the spring meeting.

Associate Registrar: [Colter]

There are several items to pick up including pamphlets, rule books, the 2004 -- 2005 age breakdown including girls. There's also an affiliate information form to fill out for all the local associations. Please fill out the information and either mail or e-mail them to John or Gary Splichal. The registrars meeting was Sept. 11th, all but four of the local registrars attended the meeting. New requirements this year require all teams to be registered and rostered before any games are played. The final deadline for being included in the state tournament is December 1st for the TMA's, and Dec. 15th for the rosters. If games are going to be played prior to that date the rosters must be done prior to that date. The December 15th deadline covers in the event of new transfers, or kids moving to town. The rosters that are sent to John will not have addresses on them, and this is done for security purposes. John suggested that in regards to the D & O insurance that in the future it would be much easier to raise the individual fees from \$10 to \$12, than it would be to go back and figure out how much to charge each team per community. John also welcomed Sidney, MT who is now an official affiliated member of NDAHA.

Referee in Chief: [Sonnesyn]

Pete spoke on behalf of Referee in Chief Gary Fiddler. The referee committee met on Sept. 12th in Jamestown after the level four-referee seminar, in which there were 14 attendees. The seminar turned out very well. Some of the recommendations that were discussed are having a three-man system at the Bantam B-1 state tournament for the 2005- 2006 season. This will be brought up at the spring meeting and discussed at that time. The selection process for the state tournament will be done as it was last year. About 80 percent of the referee slots were filled through the referee committee, with the assistance of Gary Fiddler and the District Referee in Chiefs. The state Referee in Chief will assign the referee's positions for the Jr. Gold tournament. A recommendation was also made in regard to the State Tournament fees for the referee's. If a dad is coming to the games and also ref's a game the recommendation would be to give them per diem expenses only, mileage both ways, no rooms. This will also be brought up at the spring meeting shall and not go in affect until the following season. Hometown referee's per diem no other expenses. Jack also stated that the referee committee does not need the state to approve any recommendations. They also discussed calling the Jr. Gold games tighter. The recommendation for using non-certified referees is that a warning given to the community, and possibly a fine imposed. If the official works a game and they're not certified they would be suspended for two weeks after he receives his card. The easiest way to control this would be to have the referee show his card before they go out on the ice. The referee's are still required to write their card number on the score sheet. It was also stressed at the meeting that the referee's print their name on the score sheet. It may be easier for the referee to print their name prior to the game or have the scorekeeper print it for them and have the official initial the score sheet after the game to approve the score sheet. There is supposed to be a \$250 fee for hosting the referee seminar, this has not been done.

This year a billing will go out to the communities that are holding the seminars. Next year the recommendation at the spring meeting will be that every community will be charged a flat fee, to cover the cost. A monthly newsletter is in the works for the referee's, and hopefully this will be put on the web site. They are also in the process of putting together volunteers to evaluate the referee's. The Minnkota referee in chief is retiring this year and the committee voted to help subsidize a gift. They are also working on a mentoring program with the referee's, some places it's going very well and some places it is not. The referee seminar dates can be found at www.minkotahockey.org.

Coaching Director: [Gillen]

A meeting was held in Fergus Falls on Sept. 17. The last chance clinic will be held in Minot this year, November 21st. The master's clinic will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 22nd - 26th, 2005. Steve Carroll who is the Minnkota District coach in chief will be offering a goalie coaching workshop in Minot on December 19th at the Minot Ice Arena, from 1:00 PM-4:15 PM. USA Hockey now has on their web site the coaching certification list. Coach's can register for the clinic on USA Hockey web site. If you do not pre-register by either calling or signing up on the web site you will not be allowed into the clinic until all pre-registered coaches have checked in and the clinic coordinator determines if there is enough space to add more coaches.

Bob passed out a sheet listing the 2004 clinic dates. Any coaches who have a certification sticker for the 01-02 year or before is due to renew their identification card. You must move up to the next level if you have the above year or earlier on your cards. Mike Wald who is the state ACE coordinator would like all of the affiliates fill in the section that asks who your ACE coaching coordinator is. In checking the web site a lot of affiliates do not have this information filled in.

Coaches on the bench must have their coaching card with them. They do not have their card they cannot be on the bench. The USA Hockey student coach information and form can be found on the USA hockey web site. Bob also talked about the HEP program, which is the Hockey Education Program. Several items were handed out as a sample for your coaches. This is for skills development, player evaluation. There are Hockey Skills Challenge for all levels of play, and goalies. Student coaches must comply with the requirements of USA hockey. The local registrars also received this form at the USA Hockey Cyber Sports meeting. Mike Wald and Bob were planning to do a high school, Jr. Gold coaches clinic this fall, because of a timing issue this may not take place this year. Bob and Jack are currently working on an International Coaches Symposium, which may be December 28th and 29th in conjunction with the World Jr. Tournament. This would be the first International Coaches Symposium held in the United States.

Girls/Women's Report: [Splichal]

Gary stated that they would like to add a girl's 12U into the league this year. His proposal for the league would be laid out as follows: 19U, there would be 17 teams, this is to be statewide and they would play home and away. 16U, is 13 teams they would split 7 in the East and 6 in the West, they would play East and West. 12U, right now we have 6 teams, there would be 3 East and 3 West, and the possibility of picking up a few more numbers.

That 2005 tournaments are follows: 19U Dickinson-March 4 -- 6

16U Bismarck- March 11 – 13

12U Minot-Feb. 19 – 20

Gary made a motion to bring before the board a vote to allow the 12U girls into the league. Sonnesyn seconded the motion. By a show of hands the motion was passed. Splichal made a motion to allow the girls 12U into the league. Duckworth seconded the motion. By a show of hands the board voted to allow the girls 12U into the Girls/Women's league. Motion passed. Gary stated that the girls and women's group would help grow girls hockey in the state North Dakota. Discussion was held on traveling at that age because all of the girls are not 12 years old. This is why it was split into East West. Brad Bekkedahl stated that NDAHA does not allow girls to be dual rostered.

Jr. Gold Report: [Sedo]

Jr. Gold had its fall meeting this morning. The state tournament will be in Rugby, ND, March 6 – 8, 2005. The Leagues position regarding item 6A on the agenda under old business is unchanged. A question was brought up by Greg Evenson regarding the \$500 fee charged per team to schedule Jr. Gold league games. The Jr. Gold league made the decision to charge this fee. The money is returned at the end of the season. Greg was concerned that the committees are making decisions without going before the director's. This fee was an incentive for teams to come to the meetings and schedule their games, and then not participating in the season.

ND League Director: [Nybo]

This is a new position after the board was reorganized. This position is in charge of all of the A's & B's. This year all of the communities with "A" teams came together and had a scheduling meeting. Dennis is proposing that next year the same thing is done for the B's, and possibly the girls. All of these would be done at one central location. A scheduler's list was put together and sent out via e-mail. The league secretaries for the following year will be as follows: PeeWee's & Bantam's "B" SE District-Connie Gunderson, NE District-Julie Howatt, West-Ron Seeley, and the "A" league secretary will be Matt Stockert and the girls league secretary will be Gary Splichal.

OLD BUSINESS

OB-A - Inadequate Jr. Gold Numbers: [Kleven] The Jr. Gold would like to use Bantam age players to fill out a Jr. Gold team to a max of 20 players without the Bantam player losing his/her age correct level. The rule now states Bantam to Jr. Gold is 16. The other rule is for PeeWees to Bantams is 14. Sedo makes a motion to accept 20 players on a Jr. Gold roster. Howatt seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Colter feels that 20 players are too many and we should stay with 16, and work from there. There is concern about the younger kids that are being brought up. This would be adding 4 more kids that would be eligible to move up. Will the skill level of the kids moving up be sufficient to play at the Jr. Gold level without a high risk of injury?

The Jr. Gold periods are 20 minutes long. Could the periods be changed to 15 minutes? USA hockey rulebook states that periods can be no more than 20 minutes. Bob Gustafson's concern is that if your child is the 16th kid on that team currently and 4 more Bantam's are moved up, will your kid play or sit on the bench?

A vote by show of hands to allow Jr. Gold to raise their numbers to 20 was taken. Motion defeated. Jr. Gold will stay with 16.

OB-B- Team And Player Eligibility: [Bekkedahl]

1.c. Add to the last line of this paragraph **“Approval of transfer requests are only valid for the current season and expire and must be renewed for the next season.”**

2. Selection and use of a player for All Star Team play is permitted upon completion of the schedule of play during the normal season, **which is defined as midnight of the final day of that players age category State Tournament.**

4. No player, residing in the boundaries... involved and approval of the District Directors involved, **such approval is valid for the current season.**

Greg Evenson makes a motion that the waivers will be in on an annual basis. Players will be eligible to participate on a select team-all star team from midnight after the state tournament through November 15th. Splichal seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION-in order to be eligible to play on a select team you have to play on an NDAHA affiliated team/registered team or a ND sanctioned high school team, during the regular playing season.

A vote by show of hands was taken. Motion passed.

OB-C-Select Team Eligibility: [Halda]

All players must play their regular season hockey [Oct. 1st through March 31st] with an NDAHA affiliated/registered team or a ND sanctioned High School team. If a player does not abide by this rule they will not be eligible to play select hockey on any NDAHA team during the summer months [April 1st through September 30th].

The motion in B has taken care of this item.

OB-D-Fargo Saints Request: [Noah/B. /Gustafson]

Proposal is for NDAHA to accept and approve a new Bantam, PeeWee and squirt program being developed for the children in the Fargo Catholic Schools Network and its co-opting affiliated schools out of Oak Grove and Park Christian, and for those kids who intend to enroll in either A Network school or an affiliated schools in the future. Our request is for one "A" and one "B" team at the squirt and PeeWee levels and one "A" team at the Bantam level for next year. Kleven stated that kids should not be arbitrarily waived if they're not attending a network school but wish to play hockey with the Fargo Saints. Evenson asked if the District Directors should speak to each child individually? Jack stated that the district directors should speak to each child and that there should be a compelling reason why they should have a waiver. There have been several calls concerning the recruiting by the Fargo Saints/Angels. Evenson stated that both either himself or Bob Gustafson would be talking with the kids and the parents who are requesting waivers to play with the Fargo Saints. A conference call was done this summer and the Fargo Saints were given permission to have "A" league teams.

OB-E- Affiliated Organizations/Teams: [Sonnesyn]

1. Member -- a USA hockey registered hockey team that is a member of an affiliated organization that is registered and in good standing with the NDAHA and USA hockey. **2. Affiliated Organization as that organization which submits a signed" Affiliate Agreement" and complies with all its provisions and is approved by the Executive Committee & signed by the president of NDAHA.** This would be a change in the definitions of the rules, and adds item 2.

This is a general statement of what would have to be done for affiliated organization. Sonnesyn makes a motion to approve the changes. Evenson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Gustafson would like to make a motion to amend the above motion to read “& by a member of the Executive Committee of NDAHA. Splichal seconded the motion. Motion to accept the amendment passed. Motion passed to accept the amended motion.

OB-F-AAA/All Star Teams: [Gunderson]

This item was taken care of within the district.

OB-G-Residency Policy: [Gunderson/B. Gustafson]

1] Youth hockey players must play within the natural hockey community as defined by NDAHA. If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player’s natural hockey community, a player must receive a written waiver **prior** to participating, from the President of the governing body of both the releasing and receiving organization, along with approval from the District Directors.

2] Appeals (written only) may be made to the District Directors, who after investigation, decision is final.

3] In a case of a private or parochial school, a natural school boundary is defined as a player must be a student in attendance of the school in question.

4] A player having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the residency rule. This proposal was withdrawn.

OB-H-Fargo Grizzlies: [Nelson]

Proposal for NDAHA to accept and approve the Metro Grizzly organization to include possibly a PeeWee, 2 Squirt, and 2 Mite teams. Eligible participants for the program would be those children in the Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead area. [Moorhead only at the squirt and mite levels]. The plan would be to have an “A” Pee Wee team, and 2 squirt “A” teams and 2 mite teams. Evenson stated that the Grizzlies might only have a mite team this year. No motion made. Motion died.

New Business

NB-A- New Affiliate Agreement: [Bekkedahl]

The Affiliate Agreement which is now called” Local Affiliate Agreement”, the reason for this is that ND has had an Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey. Any changes that were put into place with the USA Hockey Affiliate Agreement, we have to comply with and have transferred the changes into our Affiliate Agreement. The biggest change that Brad saw was the change in the identity for the teams that states, now all teams of local affiliates shall register with NDAHA prior to this used read all travel teams. This can be found on page 3, section 3; paragraph A. of the Local Affiliate Agreement. Colter asked what kind of impact this would have on associations with in-house teams. As far as the Minnkota District is concerned you’re not a team until the roster comes in with it. As far as USA Hockey is concerned because the fees are paid they are team whether they have the roster are not. In order to roster the players each of them have to be registered, now it’s going to cost \$35 per player on top of the \$20 fee. Bekkedahl stated one of the reasons for the change is to take care of the teams that are actually functioning as travel teams but are not registering. This trying to take care of the gray area. Colter stated according to USA hockey if you are a register team and you play an out-of-town team that is not registered technically you are ineligible to be USA hockey insured. Your team would be disbanded because you have played an outlaw team. This is why you need to check credentials. If this would happen at the Bantam level this could be quite serious.

If you choose not to register your team and players, it is suggested that you do not travel with these teams, play in-house only. There is also the liability issue to consider.

Another reason why this is written into the agreement is because ND must follow USA Hockey rules and procedures. USA Hockey will not to protect you. They will not provide legal assistance, and they will not support what you're doing. The burden will fall on the state and/or the association. If you follow the rules of USA Hockey and something should happen they will step in with their own attorneys and their insurance coverage and help you. Colter recommended that if your team is leaving town no matter what age group it is, the team needs to be registered and rostered. If your team is playing teams from out-of-town you need to check to make sure that the teams you are playing are registered and rostered. Teams need to carry the TMA, roster with a red card and birth certificates. Gustafson made a motion to amend the Affiliate Agreement to read: All teams, that participate in on-ice activities with any team from outside the Local Affiliate community, shall register with the NDAHA and USA Hockey. Evenson seconded the motion. By a show of hands vote the amendment passed. The new Local Affiliate Agreement would be in effect immediately. Jack asked for objections by the board of directors that this item is on the agenda. There were no objections. A vote was taken by a show of hands to approve the amended Local Affiliate Agreement. Passed.

Overtime Procedure: [Schmidt]

Some communities in the state are using an overtime procedure of going to three on three, to have a game end quicker. This procedure is used for tournaments to save ice time. I have been involved in games where a team is penalized and the on ice strength is three on two. I have check with USA Hockey and there is no violation of rules doing this, as long as teams know the procedure prior to the game. However, I believe that having a team playing with two skaters is not hockey. The team the penalty was against should get another player on the ice resulting in a four on three and possibly a five on three if another penalty is called against the offending team. This procedure keeps in line with the rules of hockey.

Duckworth made motion. Sonnesyn seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Colter stated that this would affect the state tournament overtime procedures. This issue came up in Devils Lake for the 16U. This is the way some of the invitational tournaments take care of their overtime procedure. Motion failed.

Tournament Assignments: The tournaments were assigned in the spring with exception to the girl's tournaments, and the B3 tournaments. Bantam and PeeWee B3 tournament assignments will be decided after it is known how many teams are in the league, this will not be known until January.

For the Good of Hockey

A reminder that the spring 2005 meeting will be held April 23rd and 24th in Mandan, ND. A block of rooms have been set aside at the Seven Seas Motor Inn, under NDAHA for \$59.99 per night. The phone number is 701 -- 663 -- 7401.

Jeff Gustafson took this time to thank everyone for all the support that they've given him and his family.

Jay Marshall commented on the trip that several members took to Colorado to host the USA Hockey's open house. Everyone had a great time and would like to go back next year.

Jack stated that ND set a new standard this year it was very successful. Jack also thanked State Farm Insurance for donating money to help defray the cost of the trip. State Farm may also be donating money to defray the cost of our specialty programs.

Brad Bekkedahl also thanked everyone who helped at the USA Hockey open house in Colorado. North Dakota received glowing reviews from everyone.

This elevated NDAHA in their eyes, and is overall good for our programs. USA Hockey will now pay all expenses for the president to attend both the summer and winter meetings, this is the first year that USA Hockey will do so. USA Hockey has formed its own captive insurance program, which is a self-insured fund.

The USA Hockey winter meeting will be held January 19th - 24th in Florida, and the annual meeting will again be in Colorado Springs in June. The new president of USA Hockey has a new goal in having one million members in USA Hockey by the year 2010. Currently our members are at about 600,000.

The councils and committees for USA Hockey, which is the backbone of USA Hockey will have several meetings that take place throughout the year. The Minnkota District has representation on every council and committee of USA Hockey. Dennis Green president of Minnesota is on the youth council, the executive committee and is also chairing a special recreational hockey club committee where there can be teams that play fun recreational hockey. Brad Bekkedahl is on the legal council, the recreational hockey committee and also the redistricting committee.

John Colter stated that as a reminder in January he will be meeting with four district directors, four league secretaries, and three section directors. The meeting will take place in a central location to set up tournament brackets for all levels of play.

Motion made by Duckworth to the adjourn meeting, seconded by Bob Gustafson. MSC
5:00PM