

Logical questions regarding the newly formed Interim Hockey Committee

1. Why an AAHA hockey committee now? Where did this come from?

Answer: The websites of the healthiest associations will show that having a hockey committee is the norm not the exception. The hockey committee will collectively do work that was a) formerly conducted unilaterally by a coordinator; b) done informally by whichever "hockey people" happened to be around, able and willing to address something when the need arose; or c) not effectively done at all, leaving a void where there should have been a policy, practice or decision in place. This committee should help us be more proactive than reactive.

<http://brainerd.pucksystems2.com/> and <http://www.moorheadyouthhockey.com/>

2. Who decided this? How were the interim members picked?

Answer: Amidst a consistent history of coordinator overwork and burnout, as well as missed opportunities in our program, hockey people in Alex talked informally for years about the need for a formal hockey committee. The acting coordinators, in the Spring of 2009, called for the establishment of that formal hockey committee to address all issues related to the philosophy and execution of on-ice programming. Using the logical nucleus of the 3 coordinators, the 2 varsity HS coaches and a board member, those people, then tapped a collection of experienced coaches from our current coaching staff (8 more coaches) to sit on the interim committee as well, paying special attention to make sure that 1) both genders were well, and equally represented, and 2) all ages levels were represented.

3. Why did you leave some people out? How can someone else get on the committee?

Answer: Just as there are many excellent potential board members not currently serving on the AAHA board, there are also many excellent coaches not currently serving on the hockey committee, We have a pool of superb A level, B level, head and assistant coaches; and even former coaches in our community all who may have the opportunity to serve in future years. For this committee to be agile enough to be effective it couldn't be composed of ALL of the good candidates at once. The size of the committee would have become unmanageable and inefficient. One critical expectation of this 2009-10 interim committee, is to work with the AAHA board over the season to develop a system of rotating members that will allow the committee to perpetually best represent the entire AAHA as it executes its mission. People interested in serving should contact either the coordinator or Board President to make that known for future consideration.

4. How will this committee be accountable for its responsibilities and actions?

Answer: There are intentionally a number of parallel systems through which the actions of the committee will be held to the utmost standards of ethics, responsibility and service:

1. **TRANSPARENCY:** All hockey committee activities will be reported to the AAHA board at every meeting. Also, meeting minutes reflecting not only actions taken by the hockey committee, but also all hockey committee discussions currently in progress, will be posted online for the public and interpreted for the board.

2. **ACCESSIBILITY:** The hockey committee roster will be accessible on the website with contact information. We hope to eventually even note the specific topics, projects and sub-committees with which each hockey committee member may be more actively involved, so that all AAHA families have an efficient way of getting information and providing the committee with input on specific issues and projects.

3. **CROSSOVER MEMBERSHIP:** At all AAHA board meetings not only will the chair of the hockey committee be there to report on and field inquiries regarding the hockey committee, but an AAHA board representative who sits on the hockey committee will also be there to confirm and clarify those reports. In turn, at the hockey committee meetings the board (and AAHA at large) interests are represented by the presence of that same representative.

5. Why didn't I hear all of this before?

Answer: Since May 2009, we have had 5 meetings (2 in summer, 3 this fall). There has admittedly been a lag between hockey committee activity and the accountability and reporting explained above. Some of that stemmed from the need to be organized ourselves before unveiling the concept. Hopefully, as the season approaches, offering more opportunity for communication, that lag is beginning to diminish. Please contact us if there are things that we can do to improve that communication further, or to answer any other questions you may have.