



## WHAM Fall Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 24, 2011  
Schwan's Event Center 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

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### **Roll Call of Teams:**

A1: All teams present  
A2: Absent: MN Maroons  
B1: Absent: Blizzard  
B2: Absent: Cougars  
C1: Absent: Inside Edge  
C2: Absent: Galaxy  
C3: All teams present

### **WHAM Board Overview**

Open positions on the Board currently: President, Treasurer, B Division Vice President. All of these are interim positions and will end as of the Spring Meeting in April. Parties interested in filling these vacant positions should contact Erika Hockinson-Spande at [leagueadmin@whamhockey.org](mailto:leagueadmin@whamhockey.org) by October 1 with qualifications.

### **Treasurer's Report—presented by Alison Hanson**

Year-end, 2010 financials will be made available on the website along with 2011 proposed budget. The 2010 year posted a net loss because of the new format of the League End of Season Tournament. This was expected, and the amount of the loss was also in the expected range. Teams with outstanding fines have received invoices in their ballot envelopes.

### **League Updates—presented by Gina Wright**

This year, we will field 87 teams across 8 divisions. Divisions with more than 15 teams will be sending 6 teams to the League Tournament at the end of the season rather than the 4 every division sent last year.

- **Membership Survey:** The membership survey was sent to 1480 individuals, of which 387 responded. The survey highlighted that a majority of WHAM members play for fun or exercise (79.6% of respondents) and that approximately half of the respondents prefer a season 20-25 games in length. To improve the league, respondents suggested fewer games in December, allowing more teams to go to the League Tournament, and working to improve assessments. Further details regarding the survey responses may be found in the Fall Meeting 2011 presentation slides on the website: <http://www.whamhockey.org/page/show/101489-board-meetings>.
- **Rule Changes:** There have been some rule changes that have been documented in the WHAM Handbook which will be posted to the WHAM website once the changes have been finalized. The Handbook may be found here: <http://www.whamhockey.org/page/show/101484-wham-rules-and-forms>. The main changes are that if a 40+ player is assessed at a particular level, she may not choose to drop down 1 level because she is over 40 until she plays one season at the level at which she was assessed. The date for teams to declare for the season has also been moved to August 15 from September 1 which gives the Board a little more time for planning purposes.
- **Grievance Committee:** There is a need for a volunteer from each division to serve on the Grievance Committee. Currently B1, B2, C1, & C3 have a volunteer. Volunteers from the other divisions, please contact Erica Weiler at [secretary@whamhockey.org](mailto:secretary@whamhockey.org).
- **Nationals:** Teams must declare for Nationals by October 1. Teams planning to attend Nationals will need to credential while the rest of the teams do not need to do so.

**Referees:** The survey highlighted that some teams have been unsatisfied with the quality of their referees. Teams are encouraged to contact Dennis Alm (his email address may be found here: <http://www.whamhockey.org/page/show/114398-administrative-contacts>) with comments or concerns regarding



the referees. If teams would like the games called more closely, either for a better learning experience or because the teams are concerned about what may potentially be an especially physical game, the teams are encouraged to discuss that with the referees prior to the start of the game.

**Registration:** Online registration is expected to open on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Because of the current format of registration, there is no longer a “priority” registration period. The close of registration is December 20, 2011. After that time, it will no longer be possible to add any new players to a team for the 2011-12 season. Registration costs will be the same as last year -- \$30 to USA Hockey, \$10 to MN Hockey, and \$15 to WHAM. Wisconsin residents may notice an additional fee which in previous years was reimbursed by Wisconsin; that reimbursement will not be happening this year, so the fee is being passed on to the effected players.

**Voting:** Four votes were taken to amend the bylaws. 2 of the votes dealt with changing the language regarding the “State Tournament” to the League End of Season Tournament, one in the description of the Division Vice Presidents, and one in the description of the Division Commissioners. **Both changes passed.** A third vote was taken to remove the “State Tournament” duties from the list of responsibilities for the MN Hockey Women’s Director because those duties now belong to the League Administrator. **The change passed unanimously.** A final vote was taken to amend the bylaws to permit electronic (or virtual) meetings, similar to the Spring Meeting 2010 format. **The amendment passed.** The bylaws will be amended in the 2011-12 copy of the WHAM Handbook before it is posted to the website.

#### **MN Hockey Report—Nancy Wefler**

The big push from Minnesota Hockey this year to make sure players with concussions are healthy before allowing them to return to the ice. Minnesota Legislature has actually passed into law that if a player is under 18 & has suffered a concussion, s/he must be seen by a doctor before returning to sports. MN Hockey rule books are also available. Contact Nancy if your team would like one.

**Divisional Breakouts as needed.**

**Meeting adjourned.**