

MINNESOTA HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
2005 SPRING MEETING – ARDEN HILLS, MN.
4/30/2005

Meeting Called To Order: 8:05 a.m.

Roll Call

Present

<i>President</i>	<i>Eric Olson</i>
<i>North Vice President</i>	<i>Steve Tatro (Minnkota Data Base Coordinator)</i>
<i>South Vice President (T.C. District)</i>	<i>Dennis Alm</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Roger Stephens</i>
<i>District 2</i>	<i>Greg Cosgrove</i>
<i>District 3</i>	<i>Jim Gates</i>
<i>District 4</i>	<i>Tom Leary</i>
<i>District 5</i>	<i>Steve Kirshbaum</i>
<i>District 6</i>	<i>Dave Kemp</i>
<i>District 8</i>	<i>Paul Moen</i>
<i>District 10</i>	<i>Bruce Carlson (Minnkota Evaluation Coordinator)</i>
<i>District 11</i>	<i>Scott Patten</i>
<i>District 15</i>	<i>Howard Breitkruetz</i>
<i>District 16</i>	<i>Dan Dow</i>
<i>District I.R.</i>	<i>Tod Plackner</i>
<i>Minnkota RIC</i>	<i>Bill Leslie</i>

Absent

<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Corky Jechorek</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Skip Trumble</i>

Guests – *Matt Leaf (USA Hockey), Pete Lindbergh (USA Hockey), Mike Schmidt, Brandon Schmidt (N.D. Hockey Officials, Jack Kleven (N.D. Hockey President), Gary Fidler (N.D. Referee-in-Chief), Jim Albright (District 6 Officials Assoc. President)*

REPORTS

Secretary Report - Roger Stephens

* *2004 Fall Meeting Minutes*: Having no additions or corrections to the minutes, District 5 motioned to accept the Secretary's Report, and was seconded by District 3. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Corky Jechorek

*No Report

Evaluations – Bruce Carlson

* Bruce went over the totals for the season, and said he had some more that were going to be coming in. With the mentoring program going on, it has affected evaluations totals, and this could work out for next where evaluations & mentoring will go hand in hand.

Seminars – Bill Leslie

*Bill handed out a sheet, with the totals of attendance of each of the seminars, and registration totals. He said it would be a good idea to get Greg Cosgrove involved with our seminars for next year since he attended the National Seminar Instructors School last summer.

Communications Committee – Dave Kemp/Roger Stephens

*Dave talked about the idea of having a credit card account in place, and said it would be too expensive for

us to have one for just a seasonal program. Dave thanked Roger for his work, and time that was put in to the web site.

*Roger passed around a copy of the survey form that was on-line, and discussed the surveys that had been sent. There were approximately 24 surveys filled out. An idea that came from the survey was to have an on going discussion page where officials could get on to that page and discuss rule interpretations, and situations that have developed over the season. The board discussed the idea of having a link to USA Hockey where the official can ask for those interpretations on their web site. Roger's concern was if people got on the page and abused the service. Bruce said there could be way to monitor for language, etc., and have those blocked from the website.

The biggest complaint was from officials, or from those who knew officials, they felt were not given a fair chance to participate in post season play-offs. The supervisors all get the registration report on a monthly basis, and should make sure they are getting out to see these people, or have someone in their district evaluate these people, and get to know them.

Roger would like to have all the State Tournament, National Tournament, & all of the camp participants so they can get posted on to the Who's Who web page.

The following suggestions were discussed, and Roger will check on getting these ideas put together.

- 1) Providing links to other web sites, such as, USA Hockey, District Referee Association's, Minnesota Hockey's HEP page, etc.
- 2) Posting pictures of our Apparel on the web site.
- 3) Putting a 3rd blank space as an optional e-mail address to be manually submitted on the Game Report Form.
- 4) Having a web page for each district that each Supervisor can edit on a monthly basis for information for their officials.
- 5) Putting together information for the Supervisor's, as part of their seminars this fall.

Roger will contact everyone to keep them updated to changes on the website. Eric thanked Dave and Roger for their work putting this together. Eric also mentioned a big thank you for the support on the web site from Minnesota Hockey also.

State Tournament Reports

- Jr. Gold A – Tod Plackner stated that the tourney held at Hoyt Lakes, and they had very good officials working the tournament. They had no major problems, and the 3 penalty rule works very good for this level of competition.
- Jr. Gold B & 16UB – Jim Gates reported they had a few problems at the “B” level, and most of the problems came as a team was facing elimination. They used 3 crews for each level. The only issue was making sure there was an on-site supervisor at each tournament.
- Bantam A – Tom Leary reported the tournament was held at New Ulm at their new facility with 2 sheets of ice. No major problems and Tom said New Ulm was a great host. Tom thanked Howard for helping also.
- Bantam B & Pee wee B – Dave Kemp said Jim Partlow helped with his tournament, and he thanked Jim for his help. It was a great tournament & they had no complaints the whole weekend. They used 3 man system at the Bantam Level & the 2 man system at the Pee wee Level. They had very good crews.
- Pee wee A – Bruce Carlson said he had happy parents, good crews, and all games went well.
- Senior Women's & 19U – Dennis used 6 districts for the officiating, and all went well, and the senior Women's would like to see the 3 man system.
- Girls 14UA – Buzz said Bemidji did a great job hosting the tournament, and they had all different ages of officials working the games. All the officials did a great job.
- Girls 12UA – Tournament was held at Richfield. They had problems with 1 coach, and a couple of the officials were a little disappointed they weren't using the 3 man system.

- Girls 14UB & Girls 12UB – Steve Kirshbaum said Buffalo was the host, and they did a great job. He said the Buffalo Hockey people treated the officials very well also. All the girls had a great time, and it was a little bit of a problem getting evaluations done with both rinks going at the same time.

Supervisor Reports

District TC - Dennis Alm – They had 2150 games, used 102 officials, had 48 game misconducts, and the mentoring program is growing. The mentoring program is helping him with the new officials.

District 2 – Greg Cosgrove – Greg said the new 3 penalty rule in their district has helped with cutting down the game misconducts tremendously.

District 3 – Jim Gates – Jim thanked Bill Leslie for all of his help over the years. They had 79 game misconducts, and 26 of those were for Abuse of Officials. He thought the game misconduct totals were approximately the same as last year, except he thinks the number of game misconducts is on the rise for Abuse of Officials. Last year their association had to show proof of registration before they would get a schedule to work games.

District 4 – Tom Leary – Tom didn't really have many problems this past season. He said his district director does a good job dealing with problems. Tom may be moving this summer to the Alexandria area, and will know more about it in a few weeks.

District 5 – Steve Kirshbaum – Season went well for the most part. He is looking at setting up a Referee's Association in the district. He has received some help from a couple of the districts who already have refs associations, and really appreciated the help. Steve had a few issues with a couple of local schedulers.

District 6 – Dave Kemp – Dave sent 2 people to the Instructors School in Colorado, and their season was good.

District 8 – Paul Moen – Paul has his seminar dates set, and he has asked his district about the possibility of purchasing a projector to use for their seminars for next fall. Paul had a little issue regarding the delay of getting their state Tournament officials paid. He also wondered why officials are getting paid less the farther into the season they go, such as select tournaments mostly. Paul also wondered if we are really sending our best officials to the State Tournaments. It looks as though the coaches will be setting up a coaches association much like ours. He said their district is suspended from the Metro League. Paul is happy about the proposed redistricting if it goes, because their district is too big. They had over 220 invitational tournaments last season.

District 10 – Bruce Carlson – Bruce said they had fewer penalties than the year before, but he said the Abuse of Officials was up in their district also. He said the biggest problem area is at the Bantam B level & Jr. Gold, and they accounted for most of their major penalties.

District 11 – Scott Patten – Scott said he was contacted from the local media about the HEP Program, and said he really had no comment, and that Minnesota Hockey is the ones they should talk to. Scott said Jr. Gold & Bantam B accounted for most of their major penalties as well.

District 15 – Howard Breitkruetz – Howard sent 1 guy to Colorado for the Instructors Seminar, and that same person will be going to MHOA Camp. Howard said he liked the Game Report form on the web site, and thought it worked very well. There was some HEP confusion with some of the officials.

District 16 – Buzz Olson – Buzz gave his last report. They have a few communities that struggle putting teams together. He said he will still be sticking around to help out their new Supervisor, Dan Dow, and next season. He helped out with the World Junior Tournament this past season. He said Rick Looker is in Austria working the World Tournament there right now. Buzz thanked everyone for their support over the last few years.

District IR – Tod Plackner – They did not have very many game misconducts, and that is probably due to the fact that they just do not have very many teams. The ones they did have were mostly involving one team at the Jr. Gold level.

South Vice Presidents Report – Dennis Alm

- Senior Women's – Will possibly not schedule games after 9:30 pm. There were a few complaints of

some of the officials who are working the lower level Senior Women's games. They would like to see the same respect given to all the teams the same way.

- **Women's MHOA Camp** – Dennis has been working on this camp, and getting volunteers for the instructors. So far he has 9 women for the camp, and he would like more names if possible.

North Vice Presidents Report – Steve Tatro

- **MHOA Camp** – Steve passed out information regarding the camp for this year. This information included the itinerary, instructors and participants.
- **MHOA Dues** – Steve handed out information on the MHOA dues paid for the season. It listed the paid members by district, and also out-state officials who are working in Minnesota. Our dues collection was at 78% this year.
- **USA Hockey Registration** – Steve handed out the complete synopsis of this year's registration for Minnesota. He said completed registration was up just a little this year. That was a good sign for possibly things to come.

Presidents Report – Eric Olson

- **Penalty Summaries** - Eric thanked everyone for getting their penalty summaries to him in a timely manner.
- **3 Penalty Rule** - Eric talked about the possibility of adopting the 3 penalty rule with a player receiving only a game disqualification, and that it might cut down the number of major penalties, game misconducts. Tom Leary made a motion to send forward the 3 penalty rule to the rules committee of Minnesota Hockey. The motion was seconded by Steve Kirshbaum. Motion passed with Paul Moen and Bruce Carlson voting against.
- **Budget** – Eric handed out a proposed budget breakdown for the year.
- **Yearly Review** – Eric said, overall everything went well, and there were no major issues. He thanked everyone for all their help and support for the season.

Minnkota Hockey Report - Minnkota RIC Bill Leslie

- **Miscellaneous** – Bill was not sure how the 2005 National Select Camp will go this year. Bill is concerned about the amount of level 4 officials we had this year. He encourages all the supervisors to get their level 3 referees to apply for level 4 next season. Bill would also like to see the supervisors encouraging all officials to keep going to the next level of officiating, and attend the officiating camps for further development.
- **Rule Change Year** – Bill said the possible rule that could change would be the tag up rule, curvature of the stick blade, the 5 penalty rule to go to 4 penalties, 15 penalty rule to go to 12 penalties, and icing when short handed.
- **Referee Manuals & Rule Book** – The USA Hockey Officials manuals are all going to go to a workbook style. This way the official can write down items in the book. The new Rule Book will have the rule interpretations in the book as well as the rules
- **Seminars** – USA Hockey is talking about level officials being able to take a seminar on-line.

USA Hockey

Matt Leaf talked briefly in honor of Bill Leslie and wished him the best on his retirement. Matt said Bill was an active participant in USA Hockey's Officiating Program. His dedication and loyalty to the program was a sign of Bill's commitment to the program. Matt thanked Bill for his years of service. Matt said USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey are in the process of evaluating candidates as Bill's replacement.

Pete Lindbergh who is the legal counsel for USA Hockey also said Bill will be missed at USA Hockey. Pete said, Bill was highly honored and respected at the USA Hockey Level. Pete wished him the very best with his retirement.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

- **Suspension of Officials** – Discussion was held regarding the process of suspending officials, who can suspend officials, and the clarification pertaining for what officials may be suspended for.
- **Women MHOA Camp** – Discussion was held regarding whether there should be a stipend allowed for the instructors helping at the Women’s MHOA Camp. After some discussion, a motion was made by Dave Kemp to allow a \$1200.00 stipend to pay the instructors for their expenses for the week of camp. The motion was seconded by Tom Leary. The motion carried.
- **USA Hockey Annual Congress** – Eric wanted to know if we should send someone out to Colorado for the Annual Congress again this year to represent MHOA. After some discussion, Steve Tatro made a motion to send the MHOA President to the USA Hockey Annual Congress this summer. The motion was seconded by Steve Kirshbaum. The motion carries with Paul Moen abstaining.
- **Election of Officers** – There was a discussion of our by-laws which states the election of officers are to be held every other year. The discussion was in regards of having a couple of the officer’s positions staggered for elections, so the whole executive board wouldn’t have a complete turn over in one year. Steve Tatro made a motion to have the President & the North Vice President’s position up for election on the odd years, and the South Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer elected on the even years. The motion was seconded by Howard Breikruetz. The motion Carried to have a notice given to the general membership for vote at the 2005 Fall Meeting. This can be done by making notice to the general membership on our web site.
- **Selection of Supervisor’s** – Bill brought up the USA Hockey’s by-law which states, the Minnkota District Referee-in-Chief would be involved with the selection of the local district supervisor’s.
- **HEP** – It was generally felt that we as group have been already working to improve the areas of concern by Minnesota Hockey, and the HEP Committee. It was felt that communication was the key to success. The web site was just one example where MHOA is working to open the lines of communication for all who are involved with HEP. The mentoring program was another area we have seen improvements over the last few years, with the training of young officials. Many of our Supervisors are already attending the coach’s seminars to go over topics of concern. We will also look at putting together any information that may be needed to discuss at our Referee’s seminars this fall.
- **Select Tournaments** – There was some concern as to why we are changing the rules for the select tournaments, such as, the tag up rule, and players not serving their penalties. It was felt this should be discussed with the directors of these tournaments. Steve, and Bill would like to see us get some volunteers to have some small off-ice sessions with some of the participants after they work some of the games at the National Select Festival
- **Game Fee’s** – Roger was asked to gather information from all of the supervisors to get their current rates, and have this information distributed to all of the supervisors.

Motion to adjourn the MHOA Board Meeting made by District TC, and seconded by District 3. Motion carried. 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by;
Roger Stephens
MHOA Secretary

MHOA ANNUAL MEETING

April 30, 2005

Arden Hills, MN.

Meeting called to order at 2:50 pm.

Election of Officers

Secretary –

Motion made by Dennis Alm to re-elect Roger Stephens as Secretary, and motion was seconded by Tod Plackner. After a call for any other nominations, Dennis moved to close the nominations, and asked for a white ballot. Motion carried.

Treasurer –

Motion by Dave Kemp made to nominate Kurt Hyster, and seconded by Jim Gates.

Motion made by Steve Tatro to nominate Jim Gates. Jim Gates declines.

Motion made by Dennis Alm to nominate Tom Leary, and seconded by Steve Kirshbaum.

After a call for any other nominations, Eric moved to close the nominations. Vote was taken, and Tom Leary was elected by majority vote.

South Vice President –

Motion made by Steve Kirshbaum, to re-elect Dennis Alm as South Vice President, and seconded by Scott Patten. After a call for any other nominations, Eric moved to close the nominations, and asked for a white ballot. Motion Carried.

North Vice President –

Motion made by Roger Stephens to re-elect Steve Tatro, and seconded by Tod Plackner.

Motion made by Scott Patten to elect Buzz Olson, and seconded by Dennis Alm.

After a call for any other nominations, Eric moved to close the nominations. Vote was taken, and Buzz Olson was elected by majority vote.

President –

Motion was made by Steve Kirshbaum to re-elect Eric Olson, and seconded by Tod Plackner. After a call for any other nominations, Tom Leary motioned to close the nominations, and asked for a white ballot, and the motion was seconded by Greg Cosgrove. Motion carried.

With there being no other business, motion was made by Steve Kirshbaum to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Bruce Carlson. Motion carried. 3:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Roger Stephens

MHOA Secretary