



**Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors
Sunday, January 25, 2009
Holiday Inn – Maple Grove, MN**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by Dennis Green.

Roll call was taken and the following voting members were in attendance:

Dennis Green	Dave Bakke	Barry Ford
Dave Margenau	Dave Meisner	Jerry DeMeo
Jim Bullard	Dave Stigen	Tom Mickus
Jeff Merth for Greg Nagan	John Perry	Tom Christensen for Mark Jacobs
Doug Kephart	Brad Hewitt	Rich Rakness
Tim Timm	Pete Hill	Steve Oleheiser
Dennis Bushy	Mark Elliott	Bob Breu
Patt Ligman	Tim Morris	Dave Swenson
Eric Olson		

Eligible voter present = 25 Simple majority = 13 2/3 Majority = 17

Non-Voting members present:

John Carter	Wally Odell	Phil Graber
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USA Hockey MN District Directors Present:

Jerry DeMeo	Phil Graber	Dennis Green	Hal Tearse
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USA Hockey MN District Present:

Toni Boelter – Disabled Hockey	Carol Carlson – Registrar
Mike MacMillan – Coach-in-Chief	Lynn Olson – Girls/Women's Representative

Motion made by Director John Perry to approve the minutes as distributed. Second by Director Bob Breu. Secretary-Treasurer Jerry DeMeo called attention to an omission on the Conflict of Interest that the policy will be implemented at the winter meeting. Motion carried to accept the minutes as amended.

Agenda Additions and Changes

Ginny Altman – Parliamentarian - was added to the agenda to speak on parliamentary conduct.

Ms. Altman reminded the board that motions arising out of committee do not need a Second. When the Committee Chair is a Board member, the correct format for such motions is "I move that the board accept the recommendations of the committee". If not a board member, the individual can state the board member's name of the person who will make the motion to accept the recommendations of the committee. The presiding officer could say, "if there are no objections the committee recommendations should be adopted".

Using "I so move" to make a formal motion leaves the subject of the motion vague and unclear. It is preferred to say, "I move that..." and then proceed with the details of the motion. Ms. Altman suggested that the maker of a motion write down the motion before making it for clarity and completeness.

Ms. Altman also stated that a Second to any motion is no longer required when you have launched into discussion before the assembly realizes there is no Second.

Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo announced the arrival of Referee-In-Chief Eric Olson and added him to the roll, bringing the total voting number to 25

Treasurer's Report

Current Bank Balances as of January 22, 2009

Grand Rapids Bank: \$149,100 – this is the registration money from USA Hockey electronic registrations
MidCountry Bank, Buffalo: \$92,106
TCF Checking: \$123,685
TCF Money Market 1 - \$287,506
TCF Money Market 2 - \$288,216
Grand total - \$940,613

Motion by Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo that the report be accepted as submitted. Second by Controller Bullard - Motion carried unanimously.

President's Report

President Dennis Green thanked Kathy Timm for the hospitality suite this weekend along with District 10. Beverages for the hospitality suite was to be supplied through donations and Dennis has found out that that is not the case. The District Directors have requested that the supply be depleted and then it will become a BYOB situation for future hospitality events.

President Green was in Detroit for Affiliate Presidents meeting MI, Mass, WI, Illinois and MN. Vice President Margenau went with Dennis this year to become familiar with the group. Items discussed:

- Use of birth certificates – there is an issue with carrying copies of birth certificates, as it is illegal in some parts of the country.
- The group decided to put together a marketing plan to help drive recruitment and retention but will wait until they get more information from USA Hockey and what their plans are for the future.
- Wisconsin Fire teams were not going to be registered by Central District this season. The teams are registered in Wisconsin this year, but because residency requirements were not met they will not participate in post-season play. For future years they would have to be registered in Minnesota or meet the USA Hockey and Wisconsin residency requirements.

President Green reminded the Board not to take anything for granted for the region and state tournaments. Executive Director Mike Snee is new and not totally aware of what is required.

There was discussion on governance changes at USA Hockey from the USOC. This is on hold for now and no changes are expected. Changes would be at the Executive Committee level.

It was brought to President Green's attention that some committee members were not notified that they were no longer on the committee. It is the responsibility of the Committee Chairs to notify the individuals involved and recognize their contributions.

Co-chairs for the LTAD task team are Vice-President Margenau and Coach-in-Chief McMillan. All expenses will go through HEP so Vice-President Margenau will handle the reporting of expenses. We need to take advantage of this opportunity and become a leader in this program.

Executive Directors' Report

Executive Director Mike Snee reported that MN Hockey has a desire to improve the web site. He will work on this project with a small committee and report back to the board.

Executive Director Snee will continue to attend all of the District meetings and has attended 7 to this point.

Jersey bid for the Advanced camps will go out this year to vendors.

Committee Reports

Administrative Management – haven't had a meeting recently will have a meeting the first part of February. President Green thanked Executive Director Snee for all his work in getting up to speed with his responsibilities.

Adult Committee Report - Adult Director David Swenson gave this report;

Registration Update

- Both the Adult Hockey Association and the MN Wild Adult League have registered players with USA Hockey again this year.
- The MN Wild league had 131 teams in their Fall 2008 league, up from 106 teams in the prior year. The Winter 2009 League currently has 148 teams participating.
- The Adult Hockey Association (AHA) has 109 teams in their Winter League and Winter Beginner program representing 10% growth in participation, which is consistent with prior winter league growth. Growth is expected to continue at this rate their Spring and Summer League programs.

Other News

- The Adult Hockey Association will be increasing participation in their highest skill level by combining with the Richfield Monday Night Adult league. AHA's Elite level will compete with the Richfield league beginning in March, 2009. This effectively will sanction the Richfield league, potentially adding 8 new teams to adult registration figures.
- AHA and the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center are working to create a program to provide a league for players of the former Parks & Recreation city league as well as opportunities for adult beginner players.
- The USA Hockey Adult Council is developing plans for a National Recreational Hockey tournament event combining ice hockey with non-hockey activities.
- Promotion events are being planned with the Minnesota Wild league operating at the National Sports Center as well as with the Adult Hockey Association.

Adult Women – Director Patt Ligman reported that the program was expanded by four teams this year for a total of 80 with 1,400 members. vijapatt@comcast.net is Director Ligman's new email.

Audit – Director Mark Elliott will continue as the Chair of the committee. One project he will work on is to send to associations a survey to see if they are in compliance with the 501(c)3 status. Director Elliott will send out the survey to all board members.

Disabled – Toni Boelter reported that this group was having a great year. Have more players than they know what to do with. Sled has an adult team and youth team. Adult team will travel to Buffalo, NY for festival. They have been asked to host festival in 2010. 2011 International Special Festival would like to come to MN. Money is an issue for sled hockey - \$500 per sled. MNH would like to bring the festivals here so that we can grow the game. District 10 will donate \$1,000 for the purchase of sleds. Executive Director Snee will be trying to identify sponsors for the festivals. Disabled Hockey Representative Boelter asked the Directors to please contact her if you have kids with Autism that want to play as they have individuals to work with them.

District Directors – Director Steve Oleheiser reported that at the Directors' meeting they received the chart of stipends. Will talk to the local associations to find out what they like, dislike, etc about the region format and give to tournament committee. Would like to see more recreational hockey for the families that want to play but not make the full commitment to traveling hockey. Director Brad Hewitt and Director Tom Mickus will gather information on this and present at the spring meeting. The directors are working on re-districting and will keep Discernment informed as to what they are doing.

Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo moved to suspend the rules to consider a request from the Minnesota Crunch for an exemption from Minnesota Hockey Youth Rules & Regulations Sections IA and 5B to allow two girls that have completed their high school eligibility to be added to his Crunch team. Second by Director Oleheiser. This Motion required a unanimous vote. It was defeated.

Diversity – nothing to report

Executive Committee – President Green reported that the money from the Kemp's promotion will be spent based on the suggestions from the Directors. Disabled, Recruitment HEP, will be able to submit to the Budget/Finance committee for funds to be added to their program.

Girls League – Vice President Margenau reported that all leagues were formed in October. Growth in 19U B to seven teams. 12U last year 113 teams to 125 teams this year. 14U dropped a few teams – from 44 to 41 this year.

Grievance – no report

High School Boys – Vice President Barry Ford stated that the report from Saturday stand as submitted.

High School Girls – Director Tim Morris reported that the MSHSL has recommendations to reduce the number of contests for high school sports. We will be kept apprised as this moves forward. These cuts would be across the board except for football. Anything under 10 contests would not be touched.

Hockey Ops – Vice President Ford stated that the reports from Saturday stand as submitted.

Handbook – nothing to report

Jr Gold – nothing to report

Juniors – Director Breu reported that a meeting is planned for mid-April. There are nine teams in the league but the economy may limit the growth of the teams. The economy could affect all the hockey programs across the state.

MIAMA – no report. President Green reminded everyone that we need to work with the rink owners to make sure that they are on board with growing the game.

Planning – Vice-President Bakke thanked the board members for their work and Bob Halverson for getting the report done for today's meeting. Timeline – report passed to Rules Committee and then a tele-conference to discuss proposed rule and then vote on at the April meeting. The complete report will be included in these minutes. Vice-President Bakke will respond to questions from the public.

Discernment Committee Report - The Discernment Committee met on Saturday January 24, 2009 during the Winter MN Hockey State Meeting. It was a joint meeting of both the Steering Committee and Working Committee.

The Steering Committee stated that any change to the residency rule would be controversial, that one statewide residency policy was desirable, and that we would be better able to analyze and make a decision if we could limit ourselves to one topic at a time. Accordingly, the Steering Committee recommended that we consider the residency policy only as it relates to current MN Hockey Associations. Discussion and consideration of private school teams would be deferred for now.

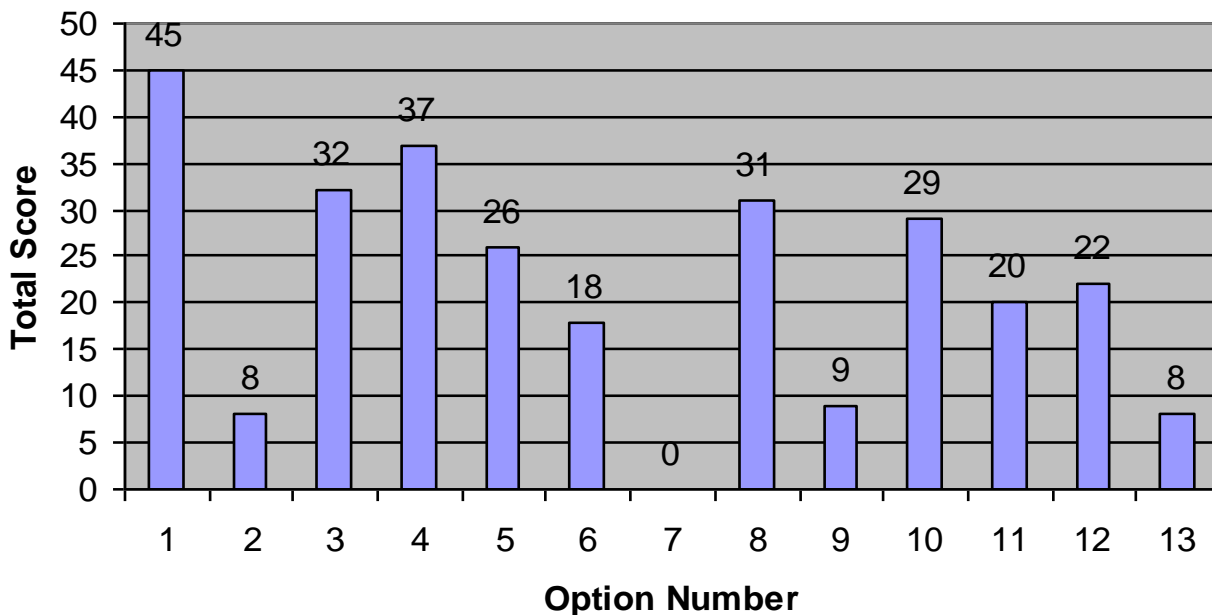
The results of the Working Committee small group sessions from the Fall 2008 Meeting (Rochester) were reviewed in some detail. Based on the small group reports, there was consensus that the Residency Rule needed work, that "Doing Nothing" was not a good option, and that we needed to keep working this issue to some conclusion.

At the previous request of Co-Chair Nagan, the survey results were re-sliced using only input from those representing Associations. This turned out to be 352 survey respondents, including Association Presidents, Officers, Directors, Coordinators, and District Rep's. When asked what they thought was "important" in considering where a player should participate, 69% said school attended was important and 58% said playing with schoolmates was important. 54% said residence was the "most important," 25% said school attended was "most important" and 12% said skill of player was "most important." These responses were not much different than the composite responses previously analyzed.

The Working Committee small groups were reformed (same as or similar to the previous groups), and the small groups considered a list of scenarios that could potentially be included in a residency rule/policy. They were asked to categorize the scenarios as either "possibly include" or "do not include," and then force rank the "possibly include" choices. The rating sheet with thirteen scenario descriptions is attached. The small group results were then combined and ranked, using a system where a team's highest force-ranked option received 13 points, next highest 12 points, etc. The "don't include" options were given zero points. The small groups' results are shown in the following table.

Option	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3		Group 4		Total Score
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	
1 Player has open-enrolled to another public school	7	7	2	12	1	13	1	13	45
2 One-year waiting period for open-enrolled Peewee or higher	6	8		0		0		0	8
3 Releasing and Accepting Ass'n Presidents support a waiver	1	13	3	11	6	8		0	32
4 Home Affiliate does not offer a program at the player's skill level	5	9	7	7	4	10	3	11	37
5 Make some waivers "permanent"	2	12	6	8		0	8	6	26
6 Waive to Association where private school is located		0	8	6		0	2	12	18
7 Irreconcilable dispute with Home Affiliate		0		0		0		0	0
8 Recognize residence of either parent		0	4	10	3	11	4	10	31
9 Allow initial registration in program of choice		0	5	9		0		0	9
10 2nd year Bantam - playing for Association where open enrolled	3	11		0	5	9	5	9	29
11 Association mergers/agreements		0	1	13		0	7	7	20
12 Teams in District complete before being waived out of District	4	10		0	2	12		0	22
13 Proximity to arena		0		0		0	6	8	8

The results are shown graphically below:



The discussion then centered on where to "draw the line" as to options which should be included in the proposed Residency Rule. A proposal was made to establish a cut-off at 15 points, under which nine of the scenarios would be included. That was followed by a second proposal to cut off at 20 points, reducing the included scenarios to eight. No other proposals were made, so these two were considered.

The option whose fate was at stake was #6 – Allow players to waive to the Association where the private school they are attending is located. There was significant full group discussion about this option. Some thought that participation the Association where the private school a player is attending is located made no sense unless we allowed the private school to have their own team. That community also gets no tax money (that supports their arena) if a player is attending a private school there. Others felt that if we allow a player to waive to the Association where the public school they are attending is located, it would not be proper to prohibit them from waiving to the Association where the private school they are attending is located.

After considerable debate, the large group felt that the small group ratings for Option #6 may have been biased based on how we phrased the question. Dennis Green asked how the groups would have responded if Option #1 had simply said "Player has enrolled in a school in another community." Most felt that they would have supported that concept.

The matter was finally brought to a vote, and passed with three dissenters. The line will be drawn at 15 points, and Options 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 & 12 will be included.

There was additional discussion about two of the options. The Committee felt Option #4 should apply only to the Peewee level and above, and Associations should be required to have a process to determine a player's skill level. The Committee also felt that rather than saying "open-enroll in another school" we should just say "enroll in another school."

The above Discernment Committee results will be passed to the Rules Committee to craft a rule allowing waivers for the approved options. Bob Halverson stated the Rules Committee would meet in the next month or so to consider this, and would send the resulting proposed rule back to this committee. It is planned that the Discernment Steering and Working Committees will meet (likely by teleconference in early-March) to discuss the rule and propose adjustments as needed. The Rules Committee would then finalize the verbiage and submit to the MH Secretary for consideration at the April 26, 2009 Annual Meeting. This should allow ample time for the proposal to be discussed at the District and Association levels prior to the Annual Meeting.

Residency and Waiver Rule - Considerations for a revised MN Hockey policy

It was clear from the recent survey that a significant percentage of our constituents want some changes to the present MN Hockey Residency/Waiver policy. The Steering Committee feels we should strive to achieve a statewide policy that addresses most of the common waiver situations. Accordingly, please consider and categorize the following for inclusion in our possible upcoming rule revision:

	Possibly Include	Rank	Don't Include
1. Player has open-enrolled to another public school	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. One-year waiting period for open-enrolled Peewee or higher	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Releasing and Accepting Ass'n Presidents support a waiver	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Home Affiliate does not offer a program at the player's skill level	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Make some waivers "permanent"	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Waive to Association where private school is located	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Irreconcilable dispute with Home Affiliate	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Recognize residence of either parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Allow initial registration in program of choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. 2nd year Bantam - playing for Association where open enrolled	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Association mergers/agreements	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Teams in District complete before being waived out of District	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Proximity to arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.			

15.

Publicity - Vice President Meisner moved that the Board ratify the Committee's action to approved the apparel contract between MNH and Custom Lettering as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. Report stand as given on Saturday

Referees – Referee-In-Chief Olson presented a written report. The report was compiled from information provided by the Minnesota Referee-in-Chief and the MN Hockey Referee Section Director.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 73 with 2701 attendees and 117 Instructors. This is an increase of about 1% over last year. There is one final Seminar taking place Sunday January 25, at 3pm in Blaine. All officials who are missing the seminar element of registration were notified by e-mail or regular mail twice during January.

Registration: 2745 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official and 2401 completed the registration process. The completion rate remains at about 87%. This is about a 3% increase over last season.

Evaluations: Evaluations are ongoing this season. A final count will be presented at the spring meeting.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program is being conducted in most of the districts. This program has been one of the best tools in training new officials.

Physical Assaults: To date, there has been one physical assault hearing. The Suspension Hearing Committee has ruled on the player and has reinstated the player. There is one still pending, and one that was reclassified by the Referee-in-Chief.

Injured Officials: To date, 4 injuries have been reported.

Officiating Issues: New Line of Enforcement – there has been positive response overall.

Positives:

Less stick work

Slashing and holding being called

Negatives:

Interference is not being called consistently

State Tournaments: Crews have been assigned to each tournament. Sue Olson will be acting as supervisor for the Women's Tournament.

Development Camps: MHOA will be running both a men's and women's officiating camp again this summer in conjunction with the Advance 15's for boys and girls. There will also be a Minnkota Camp held in St. Cloud in conjunction with the Select 16 & 17 Girl's National Festival. We hope to send a number of officials to the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado Springs, and other USA Hockey Development Camps.

Regional Coordinators – Maroon region and state tournament packets handed out and will be posted on the web site. Directors will get packets to give to teams advancing. Maroon Directors met to discuss the issues faced by District 1 with reduced number of teams and players. Consensus was to support cross-district play and work with them on recruitment and retention of players.

Gold will get the packets finished and out to the areas involved.

Rules – Committee Chair Bob Halverson reported that the committee will be having a meeting within the next month

Safety – Committee Chair Hal Tearse reported that the committee was conducting ongoing data collection in District 3 on injuries

Scholarships – Committee Chair Lynn Olson reported that the information has been sent out to all the teams but only two have been sent to the office. Ms. Olson thanked Tim Morris for brining in the certificates. President Green asked the District Directors to sit at the tables with their winners at the banquet.

Screening – Committee Chair Scott Gray reported that everyone has been screened this year. Recommendations for changes to the screening rules will be reviewed by the Rules Committee. Committee Chair Gray will ask for time on the agenda at the April meeting to discuss the changes and any financial matters.

Committee Chair Gray thanked his committee members for all their work and thoughtfulness as they listen to the various appeals. Kathy Hayes has been added to the committee.

Tournaments/Awards – Assistant Committee Chair Tim Timm states that report from Saturday stands
Controller Bullard reminded people to send in applications for the Don Clark Award

Finance – Secretary-DeMeo reported that at the fall meeting, the Board approved the Conflict of Interest policy with implementation of that policy to take place at the winter meeting. Several have complained that the language in the policy is confusing. Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo moved that we post-pone the implementation until the spring meeting to allow sufficient time to draft new language that will be more acceptable, with the caveat that the new language will not affect the intent of the policy. Second by Director Elliott. Motion carried unanimously

The committee received a request from Coach in Chief Tearse to have \$5,000 moved from preparation of DVD's to the coaching clinics to cover the additional clinics. The program will be expanded next year to include goal tending instruction The committee approved this request and is asking for ratification from the board. Motion carried.

In a routine check of contracts it was discovered that we had inadvertently overlooked a commission payment due the Minnesota Wild for their contracted marketing services. The committee authorized payment to the Wild for 10,084 fiscal year 2007 and 11,562.50 for fiscal year 2008 and moved that Board ratify this action. Motion carried unanimously.

The committee asked for ratification of its decision to participate with the Minnesota Wild in the Lester Patrick Award dinner in the amount of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously

Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo discussed with our auditors their recommendation that we maintain 100% of our annual operating budget in a reserve fund. Our Financial Management policy requires a reserve of 10%. Our auditors felt that because we operate primarily on a cash basis, a 10% reserve was too low. The Finance/Budget Committee felt that 100% was too high. After discussion, our auditors agreed that, because of the consistency with both revenues and expenses, a reserve of 50% would be adequate. The committee amended our Financial Management policy accordingly and asked the Board for ratification of this action. Motion carried unanimously..

The committee was asked by the Vice-President Meisner to increase the Publicity & Promotions budget by \$15,000 to cover the cost of participating in Let's Play Hockey with a full page in their publication. Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo moved for Board approval of this request. Motion carried unanimously.

President Green formed a task team to study USA Hockey's Long Term Athlete Development model and its effect on our current Minnesota Hockey. The team was formed under the HEP Committee, who asked that \$5,000 be added to their budget to cover the task team expenses. Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo moved that the Board approve this request. Motion carried unanimously

The budget will be re-stated and everyone on the board will receive copies.

Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo presented the certified public audit for fiscal year 2008 as prepared by Miller, McDonald, together their recommendation and moved that the Board accept the audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Vice-President Ford challenged his colleagues to either donate a sled or money to help support the sled hockey program. Director Timm responded with a \$1,000 donation from District 10. Director Emeritus Carter stated that he will ask Roseau Youth Hockey to meet the donation from District 10. Vice-President Ford already has commitments from Director Emeritus Phil Graber, USA Hockey Coach-In-Chief Mike McMillan, Director Brad Hewitt, Vice President Dave Stigen, and Coach-In-Chief Hal Tearse for \$500 of their own money for this program.

USA Hockey Directors Reports

Coach-in-Chief Report

Coach-In-Chief McMillan reported that Level 4 Clinic for women and girls will now move to Blaine and will be open to all who wish to attend. Trying to expand a clinic format to Level 1, 2, and 3 in one step for girls and women.

Level 5 Clinic coming to St Paul August 12 – 15 and will host coaches from around the world. Two new CIC coaches will be from the Districts 15 and 10.

Registrar's Report

USA Hockey Registrar Carol Carlson reported that as of January 21, we have a total of 60,417 registrations for Minnesota. The break down by district is on the spreadsheet. Until the members are claimed, the numbers are not given to the association and district counts.

Play Down Requests

We have a number of players this season that are playing down to a lower level without the required written approval from the District Registrar. It is the responsibility of each District Director to forward any requests for play downs to the cognizant USA Hockey District Registrar for written approval for the play down. When a player is playing down without the written permission of the USA Hockey District Registrar, the local program can be held responsible for the first \$20,000 of an insurance claim and I don't think that they are aware of this situation.

Roster Changes After December 31

There have been several requests this season for changes to rosters after December 31st. The December 31st cutoff date is a Minnesota Hockey rule for all teams. Due to recent problems with adding players to rosters, I am requiring any future requests for adding players to a roster after December 31st that requires my involvement, will have to be submitted in writing stating the reasons for the additions and giving a brief background of the player involved. This procedure will eliminate misunderstandings between the parties involved.

Change of Registration Season

The USA Hockey Board of Directors approved the changing of the season date from September 1 through August 31 to May 1 through April 30. Any of our players that are registered for the 2008-2009 season will continue to have coverage through August 31 for this transition year. If we have teams that will be playing during the summer months, they will have insurance coverage for their season as long as it ends on or before August 31. If these teams have a season that runs after August 31, they will need to register for the 2009-2010 season. For our pre-season high school leagues, they will no longer need to register for the 2008-2009 season and then register again for the 2009-2010 season. They will register in July or August as they have always done, but will register for 2009-2010 season.

The Cyber Sport software and online registration will be available before May 1 so the associations can begin their registration process much earlier if they so choose. If they do not want to begin their registration process until August or September as they have done in the past that will also be OK.

Software Distribution

The Cyber Sport software will now be distributed through the web. All associations will have to go to the USA Hockey web site to download the new version. They will then receive an email with their activation key and the Technical Bulletins. These emails will be sent to the associations after they have attended the mandatory training sessions.

To facilitate this change, I will be renumbering all the associations. The first two digits of the number will reflect the Minnesota District, i.e. MNH01** will designate all the associations in District 1, MNH02** will designate the associations in District 2, etc. All of these changes will be made at the national office and will be reflected in the new software that is downloaded. I will send each District Director a spreadsheet with the new numbers for their associations.

I will also be working with the Associate Registrars to establish new training dates for those associations that want to start their registration earlier than the August time frame. Since we just got this information last week, I have not had time to work out all the details for the training but the goal is to have the Associate Registrars ready to hold their training sessions in May if that is what their associations need.

Birth Certificate Pilot Project

Minnesota will be part of a pilot project for verification of birth certificates to eliminate the need for copies of these to be carried in the team books. A form will be signed by either an Associate Registrar or the Registrar that certifies that all of the birth certificates have been verified and that the birth dates on the roster match those on the birth certificates. We will still require government issued birth certificates or passports be presented at roster sign off as that will be the time that the verification sheet will be signed. The verification will be kept in the team book

and replace the birth certificates. This means that teams are not fully certified until this form is with the roster. Again, only Association Registrars or the Registrar will be allowed to sign this verification.

Registration Requirements

I have put together a rather extensive document that covers the registration requirements from the USA Hockey Handbook, the Minnesota Hockey Handbook, and the Insurance Handbook. Any questions you have about where the rules exist should be found in this document. I have used the page numbers from the two handbooks so that you can easily find the information.

One of the biggest problems we face is allowing players to play below their appropriate age level. I have included the Minnesota ages in the document for your reference.

The Frequently Asked Question section of the Insurance Handbook covers the questions that seem to be unclear in the USA and MNH Handbooks. Question 31 covers play downs and I am including it in this report so that it will be in the meeting minutes.

31. What about allowing a player to 'play down' an age group? Is that ever allowed?

In order for a player (of any age), regardless of physical size or skill level, to 'play down,' it must be shown by the child's physician that it is medically necessary for the child to do so. USA Hockey's current rules do NOT permit 'playing down;' however, in an effort to prevent litigation over disabilities and the ADA, USA Hockey has shown its' willingness to make some [though not all] accommodations, based on physician's medical evidence and their statement regarding the child's safety and health. The doctor (M.D. or D.O.) must detail the specific medical condition that causes the child to incur this medical necessity of 'playing down.' Players who are granted permission to 'play down' should be limited to participation in in-house and/or recreational leagues and are not eligible to compete on a team bound for a national championship tournament.

NOTE: Simply being "small for their age" or "not very skilled" are not considered to be adequate reasons for granting a 'play down' exception, since they do not rise to the level of a handicap under definitions and current court decisions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As you see, it clearly states that a player must play at their appropriate age level. Because this is a USA Hockey stipulation, Minnesota District Directors are not allowed to approve a play down request. All play down requests must be submitted in writing with medical documentation to the USA Hockey District Registrar. If the play down is granted, a letter will be sent to the District Director for distribution to the team and local association. The individual involved should not be placed on the lower level roster until the letter has been received and is placed in the team book as part of their credentials package

I have already found several players that are on rosters below their appropriate age level. I have asked my Associate Registrars to remove these individuals from the rosters and make sure that they are also removed from the team's copy of the roster. In this situation, these individuals could be added to a roster for their appropriate age level even though we have passed the December 31 roster freeze date. Requiring birth certificates at the time of roster signoff ensures that we are not letting players be rostered on teams below their appropriate age level.

The other issue that has raised its head several times this year is a question about USA/MN Hockey registered individuals/teams having insurance coverage. The USA Hockey insurance coverage is in effect when the event is a USA Hockey sanctioned event. A sanctioned event or activity is one which: is authorized by a USA Hockey organization; is played under the Playing Rules of USA Hockey; has all members (players and coaches) properly registered; and is officiated by properly registered and certified USA Hockey officials. There are certain situations which cannot be covered by USA Hockey's policy since they are considered too risky for USA Hockey to cover; for example, the sale of liquor, private "for profit" clinics, sales of home-cooked food products, etc. Bruce Kruger, Minnesota District Risk Manager, is the contact for any off-ice activities and I am the contact for any on-ice activities. He and I work together on a regular basis on questions of this kind. Although we do allow teams to play against high school JV teams on a very limited basis, this does not mean that the high school teams can invite future high school players to participate in their activities and have the USA Hockey insurance coverage in effect.

As the rosters are being turned in to me, I will be auditing them to verify that they are being signed properly. For next season it may be only the Associate Registrars and I that will be allowed to sign rosters. It is always difficult to make this type of change, but it is becoming more and more evident that a change needs to be made.

Girls/Women Report

Girls/Women's Representative Lynn Olson provided the following report:

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Section Meeting and Conference Calls

The Section has had several conference calls since September to work on descriptions for Tier I and Tier II hockey for girls, growth and retention information and adult women's hockey. A cooperative agreement between the Adult Council and Girls'/Women's Section was completed and adopted at the January 2009 meeting. The proposed bylaw to move the adult women out of the Girls'/Women's Section into the Adult Council was tabled in June and was not brought back at the January meeting. The Adult Council will have Yvette Anderson sit on their Council representing the Adult Women and Ray Ferry will sit on the Girls'/Women's Section representing the Adult Council. Hockey Weekend Across America was discussed and it was learned that several other parts of the country do not host their event on the same weekend as USA Hockey.

Minnesota Hockey District 19 Under Playoff

The playoff for the 19 Under Girl's National Tournament bound teams will be held February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009, at Schwan's Super Rink. There are two teams participating, Minnesota Thoroughbreds and Shattuck St. Mary's, and there will be a best of three game series. Ms Olson has instructed the teams to provide their credentials book to Carol Carlson for approval prior to participation in the event. The winning team will advance to the USA Hockey National Tournament. Ms Olson is the coordinator for this event.

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's National Championships

The National Tournament for Women's A, B, C and 30 & Over will take place March 27-29, 2009, in Rochester, NY. Minnesota will be represented by the Maneraqs and Blue J's in A and the Blue J Hawks in B. The Girl's National Championships will be held in Rochester, NY, April 1-5, 2009. Shattuck will represent Minnesota in the 16 under and the winner of the 19 Under playoff will represent us at 19 Under. A 40 & Over Women's Tournament will be added in 2011. The 50 & Over Women's Tournament will take place April 24-26, 2009, in Ellenton, Florida, at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex. The Minnesota Ladyslippers have won the last two 50 & Over Tournaments.

USA Hockey High School National Tournament

A National Tournament for High School teams will be held in 2010. There will be two divisions, community based (pure) high school teams and prep/private high school teams. Shattuck St. Mary's will fall into the second category if they elect to participate in this tournament instead of the Tier I tournament. This tournament is for teams that register with USA Hockey.

USA Hockey Under-18 Women's National Team

Minnesota placed only one girl (we had five last year) on the roster for the team that participated in the Under-18 World Championships in Fussen, Germany in January, 2009. The team beat Russia 17-0, Germany 11-0, Sweden 9-2, Czech Republic 18-0 and defeated Canada 3-2 in overtime in the championship game to win the Gold Medal in the second IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship. Ms Olson asked Ben Smith if the fact that Minnesota does not participate in the National Championships at 14 and 16 Under and the Select 14 Girls' Development Camp had a negative impact on Minnesota girls not being selected to the Under-18 team and he responded that it did. Also, because MH 15 year old female players are not being selected until June (instead of early May which is the cutoff for at-large selections), we do not get any additional at-large selections to the 15 Under Camp. Ben Smith will talk to Mike MacMillan regarding these matters. Ben Smith said they do not get enough time to view the players without their participation in these events and USA Hockey selects individuals who have been seen more than one year. The Under-18 Team is comprised of 15, 16 and 17 year old players. We are doing a disservice to our younger female players who do not have the same advantage as other girls across the country who participate in Nationals and the Select 14 Development Camp.

USA Hockey Newsletter – Play Like a Girl

Anyone having any information or articles that you would like placed in the USA Hockey Newsletter, please send written stories by e-mail to me, deadline is January 25 for the next newsletter and April 25 for articles for the spring newsletter. Each District Representative for the Girls'/Women's Section has been asked to collect this information for the Section.

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Section Minutes

Anyone interested in the minutes from the Section can contact Ms Olson for a copy.

USA Hockey Girls' Player Development Camps

In Florida last weekend we discussed Player Development and the Girls 14, 15, 16, 17 and Women's Camps and received our allocations. USA Hockey is looking for the name and contact information of coaches and female team leaders for the girls camps. The National Office will be sending a representative to observe the Minnesota Development Camp Tryouts for the 16/17s in April, 2009. Dates for the Girls' Camps are:

Select 15 (1994) July 22-July 28 at ESL Sports Centre, Rochester, NY (102 players)

Select 16 (1993) June 26-July 2 at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (102 players)

Select 17 (1992) June 26-July 2 St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (76 players)

Blaine Residency Program

Minnesota will continue to be the site for the USA Hockey Women's National Team and will be training for the Olympics in February 2010. There will be an Olympic Tryout for interested women this summer. The Olympic Coach for the Women's Team will be announced next week.

Warren Strelow Goalie Camp

The goalie camp will be May 28-31, 2009, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. There will be 12 female goalies included at the camp this year.

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Level 4 Coaching Workshop

A Level 4 Coaching Workshop may be offered again this year. Information is to be announced at a later date and will be found on the USA Hockey web site at www.usahockey.com.

All USA camps have been moved to Rochester, New York from St. Cloud. All camps' monies have been cut for this year.

Referee Section

Combined report with MN Coach in Chief. Grew by about 3 – 4 % or 100 officials. 2 from MN will go to Pittsburgh for 18U nationals.

District Director Reports

Director Jerry DeMeo provided the following report:

Although I was unable to participate during the winter meeting, I was able to spend some time to study information on the recent USA Hockey routine audits conducted on the accounts of several Referees-In-Chiefs and Coaches-In-Chief from the Michigan, Mid-American, Southeastern & Central Districts. Our Minnesota District was among that group. Bob Weldon, USA Hockey's Assistant Executive Director, Finance and Administration and Ken Waugh, of Waugh & Goodwin, USA Hockey's auditors conducted the audits during the fall of 2008. None of the audits discovered any material deficiencies for any of the programs

In Minnesota, The RIC audit found no control deficiencies but recommended that USA Hockey verify the legal entity status of the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association and also verify that the entity is filing the appropriate forms with the state and federal government.

The Minnesota CIC audit found that, while certain control deficiencies existed, all funds were accurately reported and accounted for. To remedy the control deficiencies, it was recommended that the CIC using some type of accounting software to control revenue & expenses, be more timely with the submission of expense reimbursement requests and reconcile the USA Hockey seed money on a monthly basis.

USA Hockey will be conducting a training session during the winter meeting for both CIC and RIC staff.

I also reviewed the USA Hockey consolidated statement for the year ending August 31, 2008. The statement includes consolidation of USA Hockey, Inc., USA Hockey Foundation and USA Hockey's captive insurance company, Hockey and Rink Protection (HARP).

USA Hockey Inc., experienced a change in unrestricted net assets of approximately \$2,000,000. This is compared with a 1.3 million increase in 2007. Most of this negativity resulted from investment losses. Key indicators such as registration, sponsorship, marketing revenues and USOC grants rose in 2008 and, as these areas seem to be currently unaffected by the recent economy, there is cautious optimism for the coming season. As was recently reported, the NHL grant for the NDTP will provide some revenue relief, forestalling any need for an increase in membership fees at this time.

Director Hal Tearse reported that he participated with Finance Committee. Discussion to have all affiliates get a certified audit each year has been put on hold.

Director Phil Graber reported that all board members were given the spreadsheet for the playing rules that will be voted on at the June meeting. All the changes are on the USA Hockey web site and can be printed for review. One of the hot topics will be no icing when there is a penalty. Contact Phil or Dennis with any concerns that you have on the proposed rule changes. The tag up rule is up again for consideration. There will be time at the April meeting to discuss these changes and express your feelings.

Director-At-Large Dave Meisner reported he had nothing to add

Vice-President Margenau was a guest at the Winter meeting and reported that his first experience at a USA Hockey meeting was very interesting and informative.

Director Dennis Green reported on the new Tier II national tournament concept on the Youth Council. There is a concern about the size of the affiliates making a difference in the quality of play by the various teams. He asks that the tournament committee take a second look at this issue.

He also talked about the possibility of a national tournament for the high school level and asked that we take a look at the proposal.

There is a discussion going on about tier definitions. All the definitions of tiers have been placed on hold at this time and will be addressed at a later time. This could affect MNH participating in national tournaments.

There are no fee increases for the coming season.

OLD BUSINESS

MN Hockey Investment Policy

At the fall meeting the board asked the Finance Committee to look at investing MN Hockey funds. The committee considered investments by meeting with several investment advisors. Due to the current volatility of the investment markets, the recommendation was to acquire Certificates of Deposit (CD) and not move into more risky investments. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo presented the Board with a worksheet to show transfer of funds to CDs. He moved that the Board empower him to invest the funds in CDs as outlined on the worksheet dated January 5, 2009 with some latitude based on potential change of funds available at the time the CDs are purchased. As the motion came from committee no second required. Motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Record Retention Policy

Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo reported that a draft of a policy is currently being prepared but was not ready for presentation at this time. He moved that any action be postponed until the spring meeting so that the list of records to be retained can be reviewed. Second by Director Elliott. Motion carried unanimously

Minnesota Hockey Code of Conduct

Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo stated that The Code of Conduct was distributed to the board prior to the meeting and in accordance with MH Bylaws. Because it goes hand in hand with the Conflict of Interest policy, he moved that the Board postpone taking action on this topic until the spring meeting. Second by Vice-President Meisner. Motion carried unanimously

Vice-President Meisner moved that the board reconsider the motion to suspend the rules to allow discussion for of the rationale to allow two high school girls to be added to the Minnesota Crunch roster when their high school season ends. Second by Director Elliott. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion wherein the benefits of suspending the rules to consider the request from the Minnesota Crunch followed.

Following this discussion, President Green restated the motion to suspend the rules to consider a request from the Minnesota Crunch for an exemption from Minnesota Hockey Youth Rules & Regulations Sections IA and 5B to allow two girls that have completed their high school eligibility to be added to his Crunch team. He reminded the Board that this Motion required a unanimous vote. It was defeated with 19 in favor, 3 opposed.

President Green thanked all present for their hard work over the weekend and for the wonderful job that they are doing.

The spring meeting is at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center April 24 – 26.

Motion to adjourn by Vice-President Meisner with second by Director Elliott.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Respectfully submitted

Carol D. Carlson

I have reviewed the above Minutes and confirm that they represent the proceedings of this meeting of the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors, held on the 25th day of January, 2009

***Gerald R. DeMeo, Secretary-Treasurer
Minnesota Hockey***