

**MIDWEST AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009—1:00PM**

1. President Ted Ohmart, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05pm
2. Welcome, introduction of attendees and sign in sheet was distributed. Mr Ohmart asks for a motion to approve the agenda. Mark from Sioux City so moves, Evan from Fremont 2nds and motion carries.
3. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, Jack from OMAHA moved to approve, Roland Taff 2nds and motion carries.
4. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Showcase and Year end tournaments: The former Chicago Showcase is now the Pittsburgh Showcase. USA Hockey has now intervened with this tournament. MWAHA will more than likely play in the B pool of the tournament. The team will be selected via tryout as in the past and exclusive to Junior and Senior players within the MWAHA

The USA Hockey High School Tournament is a new program USA Hockey has launched in order to facilitate a national level tournament for pure high school teams. After long discussion it is felt that the MWAHA is in a different type of Hockey environment than what the tournament is intended for. However, it is felt that a overall representative from our affiliate be sent to the tournament as most organizations in our affiliate do not have pure HS programs that would qualify to compete at a relative level.

The top ranked team or league champion from the Midwest High School Hockey League will represent the MWAHA. Challenges were identified from the stand point of the Showcase tourney and the HS tourney being scheduled on the same weekend and into April. Discussion ensued regarding the conflict of tournaments as well as the conflict of other sports skewing the teams ability to field a competitive team as well as the league champion being able to compete as a complete team. Other concerns such as costs and practice schedule for the entire month of March leading into these tournaments.

Other showcase events such as the USHL showcase also potentially conflict with the HS Tourney and Pittsburgh showcase. Players eligible for all these events will have some tough choices to make.

Larry moved that the MWHSHL Champion be the participant in the High School Natl Championship Tourney. 2nd came from Mark S.C.

The affiliate would help subsidize the teams attending up to \$5K. Overall financing will be determined later. Aaron motions, Joe Strako 2nds motion carries.

Discussion also ensued regarding the issue that if the MWHSHL champion cannot compete that a high school tournament be held in order to select an alternate team. Further discussion addressed that the next available or runner up from the MWHSHL be the team to send based on the results of the MWHSHL tournament held in late February, in lieu of another high school tournament.

- b. Tier 1, Tier 2: Tier II tournaments will be broken down into State champion representatives and the former regional format will be excluded. Teams from each age group will participate in their respective state tournaments in order to produce championship teams to attend nationals.

Tier I: Guidelines remain the same, 60 games, foreign born players outside your district, billets. It was discussed that many of the elite players in this economy are electing to play Tier II with less travel requirements and the representative talent pool may be skewed based on the fact that not all high level players will compete at the highest level of competition available due to extraneous circumstances.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Adult registrations: Discussion ensued; opinion was that adult registrations should be kept separate from youth. Registering Adults as separate or affiliate organizations of the parent association.
- b) Parent Code of Conduct: Zero Tolerance. (Reference Lesøhand out from his committee conf call)
 - All should sign the code of conduct form provided by USA Hockey. It is incumbent on all associations to provide these forms to their parents.
 - For all league games and tournaments there will be designated officials working in an off-ice capacity wearing bright colored vests with USA Hockey Zero Tolerance on front and back, to act as a visible deterrent.
 - Code of Conduct posted visibly at each rink.
 - A standardized sanction or penalty-punishment list will be developed.
 - ACE Directors will be responsible to present the Zero Tol Rules to parents, and make them accountable.
 - Associations would have to enforce sanctions recommended by the MWAHA parent conduct committee.
 - Associations would also have the right to ultimately enforce more stringent penalties as they see fit.

Les Moves to pass parent code of conduct stipulations, Cary 2nds and motion carries.

 - Zero tolerance Vests will be ordered and 1 free vest provided to each Association, additional vests can be purchased as well as vests that are identified as Tournament Director.

6. STAFF REPORTS:

Referee-in-Chief: Jeff Huber,

Motion that MWAHA Discipline Committee will continue to review all Match penalties and other serious infractions involving MWAHA teams with one exception, the MWHSHL who handles discipline in their league..The MWAHA Discipline Committee will be comprised of the MWAHA RIC and two others that do not hold a voting position on the MWAHA Board. 2nd by Neil Kraus, motion carried.

b) Rule Changes: all on line USA Hockey website.

Fisticuffs that result in a 5-Minute Major penalty for fighting, will be subject to another 5-Minutes if helmets are removed.

Coaching: (reference Lesøhand out)

- Many clinics to be offered in our region and should be accessible to coaches who want to re-certify and get certification.
- Coach Mike Kemp will be c^{on}tacted to consider the plausibility of holding a level 4 in the Omaha area in November.
- Coaches should become familiar with the USA web site as it contains volumes of curriculum, and supplemental material.
- Coaches MUST start at Level 1 and progress toward their appropriate level. Only one level per year will be authorized by USA Hockey. After Level 3 is achieved on-line re-ups will be available.

Risk Mgt: Ron Byrd current chair was not available for report: Mr Ohmart mentioned that one company will be utilized for all affiliate screening of coaches and billets.

Registrar / Treasurer: Joe Strako (Reference Joes Excel Budget and numbers report)

- Joe stated that on-line registrations is the mandated method for registering players now through all MWL associations.

Web Site: Mark Erbstein

- 500k visitors since 2004, New services to be added. Probations, Disciplinary actions and other links.

Womanø Hockey: 3- Girls from our affiliate attended USA Hockey National Camp.

Player Development: Doug Dietz

- 3- Players from our Affiliate attended the USA Hockey National Camp.
- All interested Coaches or representatives can apply for TEAM leader positions for the National Development program.
- Wisconsin, in previous years has not participated in the affiliate process in the past but will now be included within our affiliate. This may result in less affiliate spots earned, however, will raise the level of the overall camp.
- Bantam Camp Was discussed: Les moved to have the affiliate pay up to 5K in order to keep the camp in our area. 10-12 Bantams from our affiliate were selected this past season.

Compliance: Roland Taff

- Only 1 organization needs to complete its application

Rink Liaison: Evan Schinasi

- Associations certificates of Insurance should name their resident rinks as co-insured
- Association Rinks Should seriously consider enrolling arena personnel into STAR Serving the American Rinks association, USA Hockey.

7. LEAGUE REPORTS:

- a. High School: the MWSHSL will have 14 teams 7 in the West Division, and 7 in the East Division. Kearney has merged with Lincoln and Sioux Falls is the expansion franchise for this season.
- b. Midwest: Match Penalties: (Reference Jeff Hubers Report)

8. OTHER MATTERS:

Association attendance without legitimate excused absence will be subject to a \$250 fine for the first offense, 2nd consecutive offense is \$500, 3rd consecutive offense is \$1000 plus teams from that organization are ineligible for National Level Tournaments. Les moved to pass, 2nd by Evan Motion Carried.

9. NEXT MTG: April 2010 TBA Elections upcoming; President, Secretary and two At large Vice President.