

David Margenau  
USA Hockey Winter Meeting  
January 20 – 23, 2011

The following is a summary of my notes from the meetings I attended:

Mite/8U Cross Ice Mandates. Michigan and New York are mandating only cross ice games for Mites/8U. Michigan 100% effective 2011-12 season. New York has mandated cross-ice for 7U. At affiliate presidents meeting straw vote to mandate 100% cross-ice was unanimous with mine being only abstention.

Play Down Policies – Massachusetts has formal policy and review board as outlined in their bylaws. All require documentation from a medical professional. Some use CDC height/weight as criteria to allow player to play down.

Expansion of Juniors – At issue is the expansion of Tier III teams and impact on youth (Midget and High School) programs. Task team proposal was presented which created a Junior Hockey Expansion Review Board to approve expansions approved by the Jr. Council was not supported by both Juniors and Youth. Junior Council is developing an expansion policy defining what was required in the application and standards for expansion.

Other tidbits:

- Michigan eliminating Squirt AAA in 11-12
- New York eliminating Squirt State Tournament
- Wisconsin eliminating Mite State Tournament
- Illinois – 10% of their players reside out of state

Scope of Suspensions – for suspensions to go beyond the jurisdictional geography of the affiliate the Executive Director of USA Hockey must so be advised. See page 90 and 91 of annual guide.

Social Media Guideline has been developed and available from USA Hockey.

Growth

- USA Hockey 8U registrations have exceeded 100,000 for the first time
- Minnesota Hockey registered player through Jan. 15, 2011 is at 53,550 as compared to all of last season 53,450.

- Michigan #2 at 50,561, thru Jan. 15, 2011

- MN Mites/8U registered players through nine months (April – December) is 16,682 as compared to 16,692 all of last season..

- MN “new” Mite/8U registered players through nine months (April – December) is 6,442 as compared to 6,528 all of last season.

- MN “retained” Mite/8U registered players through nine months (April – December) is 10,240 as compared to 10,164 for last season.

Volunteers programs vs. entrepreneur programs – challenge of find a way to work together for the betterment of the kids.

Concussion Education – Video produced by Hockey Canada with USAH edits will be available for 2011-12 season. 24 minute video should be viewed by coaches, parents and players. How best to get this accomplished?

CEP Changes for 2011-12 season.

Basically a new coach must attend one clinic per season through Level 3.

And complete a online age specific module (If coaching Squirts must complete 10U module)

Age specific modules have 10 chapters and take approximately 5 hours to complete.

Cost \$10.

All current registered coaches will receive email from USAH outlining the new requirements.

Checking Rule Change Proposal

Delaying body checking to Bantams not body contact.

Observed that without body checking players were more likely to develop basic skills.

The window of opportunity to learn develop skills is 11 -12.

Body contact, checking should be thought from Mites on up. Use of SAG to develop body contact and puck protection skills.

The 11-12 brain is not developed cognitively enough to respond to the demands of playing the game and anticipating being hit.

Emergy Study – among 11 to 12 year old checking leagues had 3 fold increase in game related injuries as compared to leagues without body checking.

The 11-12 year old brain is more susceptible to a concussion. Once having a concussion there is evidence that the player is more likely to sustain another concussion.

There didn't appear to be much opposition to the rule change from others.

NHL/ADM High Performance Program

Proposed program for 14U and 13U Bantams. Weekend program in September. 1920 players, regional sites. Focus to provide age appropriate education to players and parents.

Degree Jersey Program

90,000 jerseys were given away to local association for the 10-11 season. Program closed after 42 minutes, about half of the associations were given jerseys. No idea as to how many MN associations participated. My vote for the process this year was to reserve the jerseys for association who did participate in the program last season and after their requests have been satisfied open up to others.

### RBC Play Hockey Program

RBC will give away one million dollars in the form of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 to local associations with great ideas to grow the game and keep hockey vital. Go to [RBCPlayHockey.com](http://RBCPlayHockey.com) for details.

### Grow the Game Initiatives

Encourage all local associations to have a growth coordinator to lead the charge.

November 2011, with partnership of the NHL, will be hockey awareness month and "Try Hockey for Free" events. Better fits with the association calendar, February too late.

### Junior Council

Presentation from the Iron Range Steel, Jr A Tier III, team requesting certification. The team would be located in Virginia, Eveleth, Hibbing or Coloraine. The team would play in the Superior International Junior Hockey League along with the Duluth Clydesdales, the Wisconsin Wilderness (Spooner, WI) and four Canadian teams. The request for certification was not acted upon by the Jr. Council because of the Executive moratorium on Tier III expansion

There was a lengthy discussion regarding expansion requirements and documents that would be required in an expansion application.

The issue of 15 year old participating on Junior teams was discussed. By straw vote of the council, by a close margin, 15 year olds would not be allowed to play on a Junior team without a waiver.

Interesting to note that 94% of the players in the MJHL are 18, 19 and 20 years of age. As compared to the Empire League in New York where 24% are 15 and 16 years old, 38% are 17 and 18 years old and 17% are 19 and 20 years old. In the East the Tier III programs are an alternative to High School or Midget hockey.

### Membership Fees

No change for 11-12 seasons, eighth season at \$30

Anticipate increasing membership fee to \$35 for 12-13 seasons.

### Bob O'Connor

Bob was recognized for his generous gifts to the Bob O'Connor International Resource Center. The center is an extensive collection of ice hockey coaching resources in the worlds and located in USA Hockey's national office in Colorado Springs.