



**Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors
Sunday, January 22, 2012
Marriott Minneapolis West**

Board Members Present:

President Dave Margenau	Vice President Barry Ford	Vice President Scott Gray
Controller Jim Bullard	Secretary-Treasurer Jerry DeMeo	Director Tom Mickus
Director Michelle Brennan	Director Scott Dornfeld	Director Mark Jacobs
Director Doug Kephart	Director Brad Hewitt	Director Rich Rakness
Director Tom Christensen	Director Tim Timm	Director Pete Hill
Director Steve Oleheiser	Director Dennis Bushy	Director Mark Elliott
Director Ralph Hayne	Director Dave Swenson	Director Jon Bittner
Director Tim Morris	Director Antonia O'Brien	Vice President John Perry
Vice President Dave Stigen	Director Nancy Weffler	Referee-In-Chief Eric Olson

Staff Present:

Executive Director Mike Snee Administrative Assistant Kathy Hayes

Parliamentarian:

Ginny Altman

Minnesota District Representatives:

Dave Margenau, Director	Steve Oleheiser, Director	John Perry, Director
Risk Manager Bruce Kruger	Referee-In-Chief Steve Tatro	Registrar Diane Yuarte
Disabled Representative Toni O'Brien	High School Representative Chris Lonke	

Guests:

USA Coach-in-Chief Mike McMillan, Greg Evanson- North Dakota

President Margenau called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM The roll was taken, with 27 voting members present. The simple majority was 14; Two thirds majority was 18

A moment of silence was held for Gerry Brown, who has served both USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey for a number of years.

Minutes for the Fall Meeting were distributed previously for consideration and were approved with no corrections or additions.

The Agenda was changed to remove the subject of controller succession plan from New Business as it will be dealt with as a part of the Finance/Budget Committee report and to add to New Business a rules change proposal for making the penalties for boarding, head contact and checking from behind more severe. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo raised a point of order, indicating that for this rules change to be considered, the Board would need to suspend the rules; thus, approving this agenda change did not constitute that the topic could automatically be placed on the agenda for consideration. With that understanding, the agenda changes were approved without objection

Treasurer's Report – Secretary-Treasurer distributed the Annual Report for Fiscal 2011 for consideration. Within this report was the balance sheet and profit & loss statement for first quarter of FY 2012. It was noted that as is typical with the organizations experience, revenues are plentiful and expenses are minimal during the 1st quarter, making for a substantial amount of excess revenue. This will balance out as we progress through the year. The treasurer's report is referred to audit.

The Annual Report included a copy of the certified audit for FY 2011 which was submitted to the Board for acceptance. There was a brief discussion relative to certain accounting changes made to be consistent with the conversion to using an accrual method rather than the

cash method traditionally used by Minnesota Hockey. It was moved by Director Timm and seconded by Director Elliott to accept the certified audit as prepared by Smith-Schaeffer. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Presidents Report – President Margenau acknowledged the Board for its diligence, patience and hard work working through the challenging issues presented to them this weekend. He also complimented those associations who came to present their viewpoints relative to the agenda proposal for redistricting. Particular note was made of the expression and dedication to grow the game.

Executive Director – Executive Director Snee referred to his written report contained within the Board's folders. He reminded the Board that applications for the Gear up Minnesota programs are due by the 28th February. There is \$60,000 worth of starter equipment available for this program. He also spoke of additional efforts to promote Minnesota Hockey State Tournaments this year.

Administrative Management Committee – President Margenau reported that the committee met last fall to review to Executive Director Snee's performance for the past year and conduct an overall compensation review. Based on performance and compensation review, his compensation and benefits were adjusted accordingly. His contract was amended and extended one (1) year.

Adults - Director Swenson reported that there are 16 new teams this year. The adults are concerned about the \$10 USA Hockey fee increase and his committee is preparing its strategies to explain this to its membership. The number one point will be the fact that \$2.00 that is coming back to Minnesota Hockey.

Adult Women- Director Wefler reported that all issues pertaining to her status as the Women's Director have been resolved. The Women program numbers are down but they are looking at recruiting options to help grow the senior women. On February 1st National Girls and Women in Sports will be recognizing 21 women as pioneers in sports in Minnesota.

Audit – No Report

Disabled – Director O'Brien reported that the winner of the contest for the Minnesota Wild Essay contest is from Moose Lake. Next year the Disabled Festival will include a Coaches Clinic and referee's Clinic. The Committee is reaching out to the places such as Courage Center to show options for them to get involved.

District Directors- They have 12 items currently on their agenda. There are no Motions coming out of the District Director meeting to be voted on today. The individual districts provided the following reports:

- District 1 – Up and running.
- District 2 - No Report
- District 3- Only item will be discussed at new business
- District 4- Provided letters to the board from the Luverne Association.
- District 5- No report
- District 6- District 6 is very disappointed in USA Hockey increase in fees.
- District 8- No Report
- District 9- No Report
- District 10- Going well
- District 11- No Report
- District 12- The Ely Association will host the Regional Peewee tournament but due to issues with ice, the games will move to the Babbitt rink.
- District 15- Added an A team in Walker
- District 16- District 16 is very disappointed in USA Hockey increase in fees

Diversity - No Report

Executive Committee Report – The Committee brought forth a Motion that the 2012-2013 Minnesota Hockey Handbooks to be dedicated to Gerry Brown **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Committee discussed the need to provide financial oversight for district treasuries. Because many of these treasuries are controlled by corporations that have no nexus with Minnesota Hockey, there is a question as to how this oversight might be performed. President

Margenau asked Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo, Finance/Budget Committee and the Audit Committee to come up with a process for a financial oversight for Districts.

President Margenau discussed the presentation given on Friday, January 20th by people representing the Jack Jablonski family, wherein they asked Minnesota Hockey to make the penalties for hockey offenses such as checking from behind, head contact and boarding more stringent. The Committee will address this topic further under New Business.

Finance/Budget – The Committee considered a request from Head Coach Hal Tearse for a departure from Minnesota Financial Policy MH-FM-18 (Rev. 2) to use his Minnesota Hockey credit card to pay recurring expenses for the distribution and publication of the coaching newsletter. The service is provided by a New York company Mad Mimi, who will only accept this form of payment. The agreement may be terminated at any time without any additional cost or penalty. This Committee recommends that the Board approve this departure from policy for the purpose of doing business with Mad Mimi to publish & distribute the coaching newsletter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Committee was asked to consider the transfer funds within the Minnesota Head Hockey Coach budget from a yet to be determined line item to cover expenses for air travel. Hal Tearse was not present at the meeting so the matter will be deferred this until such time as he is available to answer questions.

Hockey Operations moved the Girls High Performance program from Mankato to St Cloud without following financial protocol. The Committee learned that the decision was a prudent one with positive financial and performance benefits. The timing for this decision was such as to preclude the opportunity to first bring it before Board for approval. The Committee recommended that the Board ratified the decision made by Hockey Operations to relocate the camp from Mankato to St. Cloud. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Hockey Operations submitted a revised FY2012 stipend schedule to serve its realignment of positions within its programs. The schedule contained a stipend for a new position entitled “Disabled Hockey Development Director”, a position that was not accompanied by a description of expectations & responsibilities. The Committee recommended that the revised stipend schedule not be approved with this position incorporated in the schedule. Hockey Operations Vice President Ford stated that he would not object to the removal of any reference to this position from the stipend schedule. With the removal of any reference to a position for the “Disabled Hockey Development Director”, the Committee recommended that the revised FY 2012 Stipend schedule be approved. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Director Swenson requested that the Minutes reflect removing the position of “Disabled Hockey Development Director” from the stipend schedule not be construed that Minnesota Hockey does not support the development of those programs.

The Committee anticipates a request from the Recreational Hockey Committee to realign funding in its budget. This topic will be addressed during the April meeting.

The Committee informed the Board that our Controller would not be seeking reelection. The Board was reminded that it was previously recommended and approved that the tasks performed by the Controller become a staff position so as to afford a better segregation of duties relative to our accounting & cash management procedures. The appropriate salary & benefits funding for this was included in the FY 2012 budget previously approved by the Board. In light of this, the Committee recommends a change be made to Minnesota Hockey Bylaw Article 7 to remove the position of Controller from the language within Minnesota Hockey Bylaw Article 7 and any other pertinent documents.

Director Morris questioned as to how much effort was given to search for another volunteer to take the position. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo responded that there was no effort given to locate another volunteer inasmuch as the Committee was unanimous with its opinion that the financial needs of the organization have increased to the point where they require full time attention. Further, the need to provide a broader segregation of duties exists and, after discussion with our accounting firm, it was determined that making this a staff position was the best way to proceed. He informed the Board that the plan calls for promoting from within the existing staff to fill this position and, given her experience with our systems and policies, Kathy Hayes was fully qualified to perform the duties currently performed by Jim Bullard.

A question was raised by the Rules Committee as to whether or not this Bylaw amendment could be acted upon without first reviewing all other governing documents to determine if other language changes are also needed. After discussion with the Parliamentarian, it was determined that the Motion could go forward with the stipulation that the Rules Committee review all other governing documents and bring them forward for consideration at the next scheduled meeting. With no further discussion, the **Motion carried unanimously.**

Girls League – Vice President Perry reported that the regional tournaments have been set up.

Grievance Committee – Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Committee met in November to hear a matter where a Peewee age player was not permitted to register due to the fact that his parents were considered as members not in good standing with the association. After considering the information submitted, the committee determined that it was not the intention of USA Hockey or Minnesota Hockey to hold youth accountable for the actions of their parents and ordered that the player be reinstated with full privileges.

The player's parents grieved that the association had no basis for denying them the same membership privileges accorded to other parents within the association. They also challenged the length of time for which this suspension was levied. After reviewing the information, and clarifying the term for the applied discipline to be one year, the Committee determined that the evidence submitted was sufficient for a decision to be rendered without a Hearing and upheld the association's position to discipline the family.

The player's father grieved that the District 5 Director acted improperly when he made a ruling that prevented the father from entering any arena in District 5 for the balance of the 2011-12 season. After reviewing the information, the Committee determined that the evidence submitted was sufficient for such a decision to be rendered without a Hearing, and upheld the District Director's decision.

High School Boys – Director Bittner provided a written report which was included within the Board's information folder.

High School Girls - Director Morris reported that the girls High School program is very disappointed with the USA Hockey increase of \$10. He feels it may adversely affect the girls High School Senior Classic to a point where they may choose not to participate under the USA Hockey banner.

Hockey Operations- Vice President Ford referred to the written reports submitted by the ACE/ADM Coordinator, the HEP Committee and the Minnesota Hockey Head Coach. Todd Elmer reported that he intended to withdraw the revised Off Season Affiliate agreement and resubmit it at the April meeting.

Handbook – Committee Chair Bob Halverson reported that the contributions from Gerry Brown were very instrumental in putting the Handbook together and he will be greatly missed.

Junior Gold – Committee Chair Bruce Kruger referred to a proposal from the Committee to create new categories for Junior Gold teams participating in the Metro League. The levels would be Junior Gold A, Junior Gold B American and Junior Gold B National. Teams playing in the Junior Gold National would not qualify for state tournament play. After some discussion, it was determined by the Parliamentarian that a Motion was not necessary. The Minutes will reflect that the Board has been informed of this plan and takes no objection.

Juniors – Director Haynes reported that there will be 2 more Junior A Tier III teams applying for membership in Minnesota. The Tier II Alexandria team has been failing financially for a number of years so they chose to move to Tier III so as to be able to charge tuition to its players. They are considering becoming a member of the MJHL. Another team applied for membership at Breezy Point. They applied 2 years ago but were denied on the basis of their finances.

The MJHL is hosting the Tier III Junior Nationals. USA hockey has opted not to organize it so the MJHL will organize it.

Vice President Ford expressed a concern with the increase of teams that they may want to recruit High School eligible players. President Margenau responded that a formal understanding is in place with all junior teams based in Minnesota that they will adhere to our protocol regarding the recruitment of players with high school eligibility

It is anticipated that there will be an MJHL team in Owatonna next fall.

MIAMA- No report

Nominating Committee – President Margenau appointed Dennis Green to serve as Chair of the nominating committee for the upcoming elections coming up in April. There are - thee (3) Minnesota Hockey positions that need to be filled: Vice President Tournaments (remainder of term), VP Gold Coordinator and Vice President Hockey Operations. There are two (2) USA Hockey Minnesota District Director positions up for election. The positions currently held by Dennis Green and David Margenau. Both indicated that they will seek reelection.

Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo informed the board that he intends to bring forth a motion in accordance to our bylaws to remove the position of Vice President of Tournaments, replacing this office with a standing committee. In light of this, President Margenau will ask Dennis to

inform any candidates interested in the VP-Tournaments position that, if the proposal to eliminate that office passes, there will be no election for the position.

President Margenau appointed Dennis Green to chair the election for the Minnesota Hockey Disabled Director

Publicity and Promotions-Vice President Gray report stands as submitted.

Recreational Hockey – Director Mickus reported that they expected 16 teams but ended up with 15. Finding ice is still a concern.

An advisory subcommittee was formed consisting of interested parents. Known as the Minnesota Hockey Recreational League Parents Advisory Committee, this group is expected to provide vision to expand the program. The League is on the agenda at the MIAMA Annual meeting in April, with a plan to target rinks to become homes for Rec League teams. 3 rinks have already committed ice to host teams.

Referees – Director Olson reported that he will provide a full report at the April meeting.

Rules Committee – Chair Bob Halverson presented the Rules Committee report which included required actions by the Board relative to bylaw & playing rules changes. Each member of the Board was provided a copy of the required actions in advance. To expedite the voting process, proposed changes were grouped as follows:

Proposed Bylaw changes consisting of:

- A change in Article 4 to require a member to cast his/her vote for a District Director within the district to which the member is assigned.
- A change in Article 5 to clarify the language regarding participation in invitational tournaments outside of Minnesota and in USA Hockey national tournaments
- A change in Article 7 to modify the forum in which the Director for Minnesota junior hockey is elected by his/her members.
- A change in Article 7 to change the language applicable to Directors Emeriti.
- A change in Article 7 to modify the procedure for filling vacant positions on the Board of Directors.
- A change in Article 11 to incorporate the Whistleblowers policy and the Conflict of Interest policy as governing documents.

The Committee recommended that all proposed Bylaw changes be approved by the Board. Without further discussion, the **Motion carried unanimously.**

Proposed Playing Rules Changes consisting of:

- A change in Section II REGISTRATION, paragraph B which eliminated the language dealing with dual rostering for girls.
- A change in Section VII LEVELS OF PLAY, paragraph D indicating that our Youth 16&Under Division will be called Junior Gold 16.
- A change in Section XII ON-ICE OFFICIALS, paragraph A referring to the Junior Gold 16 playing level.
- A change in Section IV PARTICIPATION, paragraph B.1.c., changing the language dealing with restrictions placed on Participation Waivers.
- A change in Section IV PARTICIPATION, paragraph B.2 defining the term "Residence".
- A change in Section IV PARTICIPATION, paragraph B.3.b. to establish a policy applied to conditions where players from more than one association attend the same school based on residence.
- Changes in Section IV PARTICIPATION, paragraph 5.B.3 and 5.B.3. to establish a policy applied to students who are changing schools based upon completing the curriculum in their existing schools.
- A change in Section IV PARTICIPATION, paragraph 7 to clarify the policy for the appeal of waivers at the district level.
- A change in Section IX, PROTESTS, paragraph B to clarify the protocol when officials fail to assess an in-game suspension to a player.

The Committee recommended that all proposed Youth Playing Rules changes be approved by the Board. Without further discussion, the **Motion carried unanimously.**

Safety- Head Coach Hal Tearse provided a written report which was distributed to all members during the meeting. The report called attention to a recommendation from the committee to create an ongoing dialogue between coaches and referees.

Scholarship- Vice President Gray reported that Lynn Olson has again agreed to chair the Scholarship Committee. Applications are due at the end of February.

Screening – Vice President Gray reported that the process appears to be working well. Some glitches have been identified. Suggestions came from the Board to help the process become more user friendly.

Tournaments and Awards – Co-Chairs Tim Sweezo and Tim Timm filed a combined report. Requests for District Directors Awards need to get in as soon as possible. The Committee is looking for ways to reduce costs for tournaments and recommends that compensation for referees lodging for State tournaments be eliminated effective with the 2012-13 season. The Motion carried by majority vote, 22 for and 5 opposed.

USA Hockey Minnesota District Reports

Dave Margenau presented a written report containing his comments on happenings during the USA Hockey winter meeting. He reiterated that the USA Hockey Board approved an increase of \$10 in USA Hockey registration fees for the 2012-13 season, with a vote of 37 in favor and 26 opposed. A document from Jim Smith, USA Hockey Treasurer providing rationale for the increase was distributed. The last increase was 7 years ago. Major drivers for the increase included, inflationary pressures, insurance costs (Sexual and Molestation Insurance), a \$2 per player increase in the affiliate block grant and new programs. The Minnesota delegation intends to go back to USA Hockey with several other supporters and challenge this increase. They will suggest that other options be reviewed which would include tightening the belt.

The Degree Jersey Program for associations has been renewed for the 2012-13 season. Discussion continues regarding a USA Hockey mandate for cross-ice (only) hockey for Mites. Our position has been that this decision is best made by the local affiliate. Education is the best approach to achieve cross-ice acceptance not mandates. Safety and Protective Equipment Committee - USA Hockey continues with its neck laceration study, currently evaluating 10 different products. USA Hockey is also working with Rochester Junior Tier 3 team to do a study on concussions.

Dennis Green submitted a written report which was distributed to the Board in its information folder.

Steve Oleheiser reported that he found the experience of attending his first meeting an interesting one. He attended as many committee meetings as time would permit, hearing a lot of discussion on interesting issues and problems throughout USA.

John Perry reported that he found the experience interesting. He felt that we need to promote the good things of Minnesota Hockey. He attended Girl/Women's Section meetings. Most discussion was about National Bound teams but there was some discussion on a gender specific ADM symposium. They also discussed focusing on the 10u and 8U developing more programs and more on-ice teaching in coaches' classes.

Bruce Kruger reported that there is a concern for the cost and availability for sexual abuse and molestation insurance. USA Hockey has found that the premiums for organizations like ours that deal primarily with youth is extremely high and coverage is difficult to get. It appears as though our best option is to self-insure and a portion of the \$10 fee increase will be reserved for that purpose. Since crime coverage that has been in place there have been 31 claims nationally. Minnesota Hockey has 6 of those.

Chris Lonke- No report

Diane Yuarte- called attention to the report of the registration numbers that was included in the Board's information folder. In addition, the Registrars are considering the best way to deal with non-citizen players, which is a large problem in other areas and taking birth dates off of team rosters, showing only the year and month of birth.

Toni O'Brien- reported that the 2012 National Disabled Festival will be held during April in Dallas, Texas. USA Hockey is looking for host sites in 2013 and 2014. Currently there is work in progress for coaches manuals for the disabled hockey. Also there is action on developing training modules specifically for disabled hockey players. Both are expected to be ready by the 2012-13 season.

Christian Koelling – submitted a written report that was distributed to the Board in its information folder.

Steve Tatro – deferred his report until after the Annual Congress in June as that's usually the time the referees are most active with playing rules discussions.

Old Business

A/AA Tournament Format. Director Timm informed the Board that the District Directors had not yet completed the revised format and brackets. Also, the criteria for changing classifications were not finalized. Because of this, the District Directors suggested that the matter be once again postponed until the spring meeting. A Motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Vice President Gray that the board expresses its general approval of the concept but postpone taking final action until the April meeting so it may be approved in its full form. **The Motion carried by majority for with 26 for and 1 one opposed.**

Modification of Bylaw Article 11 - A Motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Director Swenson that the matter be referred to an ad hoc committee for study and brought back on the agenda for the April meeting. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

President Margenau appointed the following to the ad hoc committee: Chair Jerry DeMeo, Doug Kephart, Tom Christenson, Tim Morris, and John Perry. They will be charged at looking at alternative Board structures to determine if there is a more effective & efficient method to structure our Board.

Proposal For Modification of Board Meeting Format – A Motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Director Timm that in as much it is adjoined with Bylaw Article 1. this proposal is postponed indefinitely. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business

Redistricting Proposal – Vice President Perry, speaking on behalf of the Redistricting ad hoc Committee requested to remove the proposal from the agenda for further study and communication with the associations involved. Without hearing any objection, the proposal was withdrawn.

Hockey Operations Reorganization – a proposed reorganization of the Hockey Operations Committee was distributed to the Board. Vice President Ford stated that he was not seeking any action at this time but wanted the Board to have this information, as they will be requested to act on it sometime in the future. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo recommended the proposal be reviewed by the Rules Committee to determine if any conflicts with either the Bylaws or Playing Rules exist. Without hearing any objection, the proposal was referred to the Rules Committee for study & determination.

Proposed Playing Rules Changes - A Motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Director Bittner that the rules requiring prior notice as it applies to governing documents be suspended to permit consideration of an amendment for existing playing rules to incorporate more stringent penalties for infractions known as "Boarding, Head Contact and Checking From Behind." Director Swenson requested a clarification of the Motion so he might understand that the rules would be suspended to discuss approving a rules amendment or to act upon amending the rules. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo, with concurrence from Director Bittner and without objection from the Board, withdrew the Motion.

A Motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Director Timm that the rules requiring prior notice as it applies to governing documents be suspended to permit discussion of an amendment for existing playing rules to incorporate more stringent penalties for infractions known as "Boarding, Head Contact and Checking From Behind." **The Motion carried unanimously.**

A draft of a resolution to amend the appropriate playing rules was distributed to the Board. Within the resolution, it was defined that these amended rules would apply to the balance of the 2011-12 season and be re-visited during the summer meeting to determine if this rule change would be extended. Director Hewitt stated he felt it appropriate to mirror similar rules issued by the Minnesota State High School League.

Director Swenson asked if this amendment would apply this rule to the women's playing rules and adults. After some discussion, it was suggested that the proposed resolution be amended to refer to youth and girls programs only.

Director Wefler questioned why everyone is referring this to being temporary. President Margenau responded that it was the intention to provide an opportunity for reconsideration of its position.

Director Wefler suggested that there be more clarification to define the "end of the season". President Margenau responded that the season carried through the last date of the High Performance Programs which could essentially be the end of our fiscal year or August 31, 2012.

There was some discussion on removing the penalty for head contact from the amendment. He referred to the difference in the sizes of Pee Wee players and feared that any contact between a large player and a smaller player would be determined as "head contact" and felt that the current wording of that rule was appropriate if the referees enforced it properly. A straw poll was taken of the assembly to determine the wishes of the Board relative to removing "head contact" from our proposal. With a vote of 14-7, the Board indicated it would prefer to have "head contact" removed from the resolution. Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo abstained from this vote

Director Oleheiser suggested that a strong statement come from Minnesota Hockey regarding head contact, including the proper definition of the penalty. He felt that players of Pee Wee and Bantam age likely don't clearly understand the term.

President Margenau stated that the penalty schedule for calculating Fair Play points shall remain as currently published in the Minnesota Hockey 2011-2012 Handbook.

Director Elliot suggested that the effective date for implementation be changed from January 27, 2012 to January 25, 2012, with the announcement date for the rules change being January 24, 2012.

As a result of the discussion, Secretary-Treasurer amended the resolution to eliminate reference to "head contact", adding language to make the rule change applicable to youth and girls teams only and to change the date for the announcement and implementation as suggested.

A Motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo and seconded by Director Bittner that the rules requiring prior notice as it applies to governing documents be suspended to permit the Board to act upon a resolution to amend existing playing rules to incorporate more stringent penalties for infractions known as "Boarding, and Checking From Behind", with such change becoming effective on January 25, 2012. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

A Motion was made by Director Kephart and seconded by Vice President Perry that the Board approve the re-draft of the Resolution to Amend Currently Existing USA/Minnesota Hockey Playing Rules Intended to Manage the Risk Associated with Certain On-ice Occurrences Associated with the Sport, to wit:

The Board of Directors of Minnesota Hockey, Inc., an affiliate of USA Hockey, Inc., in accordance with its Bylaws, hereby adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS there have been recent incidents wherein Minnesota youth playing hockey have been unintentionally exposed to undue risks that either have or could have resulted in serious injury, and

WHEREAS there are USA Hockey playing rules currently in place to penalize any player who has intentionally or unintentionally caused a player to be subject to undue risk of injury by a.) being thrown violently into the boards (also known as "Boarding") or b.) to be checked or pushed from behind (also known as "Checking from behind"), and

WHEREAS we believe that, as a critical component to manage the risks associated with any contact sport, additional emphasis should be placed on the enforcement of those rules in place to manage such risks, with **zero tolerance**, to cause players, coaches, referees and spectators to be more aware of these rules and the potential benefits from their stringent enforcement, and

WHEREAS the Minnesota State High School League has issued a proclamation calling for its referees to be more diligent in their enforcement of these rules and have made the penalties associated with violation of them more severe; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors support the recent proclamation from the Minnesota State High School League by amending the USA Hockey playing rules to change the penalty time for any infraction of those rules for "Boarding"(playing rule 603) from a minor penalty having two minutes of penalty time to a major penalty having a minimum of five minutes of penalty time, with those infractions of a more serious nature to be considered a major penalty plus a game misconduct penalty, resulting in disqualification of the offending player for the balance of the game in which the infraction occurred and the next scheduled game.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the penalty for infraction of the USA Hockey rule for "Checking from behind"(playing rule 608) be amended from two minutes, with a ten minute misconduct penalty to five minutes, with a ten minute misconduct penalty, with those infractions of a more serious nature to be considered a major penalty plus a game misconduct penalty, resulting in disqualification of the offending player for the balance of the game in which the infraction occurred and the next scheduled game.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, Minnesota Hockey Bylaws notwithstanding, this rules amendment become effective no later than January 25, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this rules amendment be sent via electronic media to all Minnesota Hockey Association presidents, to all Minnesota Hockey coaches and to the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association as soon as practicable, but no later than January 24, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those Minnesota Hockey Associations who have invitational tournaments scheduled to take place after the effective date of this rules amendment are required to communicate this rules amendment to any and all non-Minnesota teams participating in their invitational tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purpose of determining penalty minutes related to determining Minnesota Hockey Fair Play Points, the schedule defined in the Minnesota Hockey Youth Playing Rules & Regulations, Section VIII, section P, paragraph 3 shall be applicable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall remain in effect for the balance of the Minnesota Hockey 2011-12 season, including High Performance Programs, at which time its impact on risk management will be evaluated

With no further discussion, the **Motion carried unanimously.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Olson
Recording Secretary

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 22nd day of January, 2012



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