

Minnesota Hockey Officials Association 2012 Spring Meeting Marriot Hotel - St. Louis Park, Minnesota Saturday April 21st, 2012

- Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM by Eric Olson, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary (Interim)
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

MHOA Board Members

President-Eric Olson	Present
North Vice President-Buzz Olson	Present
South Vice President-Dennis Alm	Present
Secretary-Brian Thul	Present
Treasurer-David Nyquist	Absent
District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm	Present
District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim	Present
District 3 Supervisor-Jim Gates	Present
District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl	Present
District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney	Present
District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp	Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen	Present
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford	Present
District 10 Supervisor-David Weisjahn	Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich	Absent
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh	Absent
District 15 Supervisor-Howard Breitzkreutz	Present
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Storey	Absent
MHOA Past President-Skip Trumble	Present
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro	Present

MHOA Appointed Positions

MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Jeff Walters	Absent
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Skip Trumble	Present
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson	Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Tod Plackner	Absent
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Vacant	N.A.
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse	
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse	Present
Guests: None Present	

1. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Brian Thul and seconded by Mike Mooney. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the fall meeting were distributed and corrections were provided.
- A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Steve Tatro and seconded by Dave Kemp. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Evaluations-Bruce Carlson

- Bruce shared directions for accessing the online evaluation form.
 - Go to USA Hockey Homepage
 - Officials Tab
 - Officiating Program Link
 - Online Referee Evaluation
- *Add this page to your favorites to save time.
Enter USA Hockey # for Username:
Use Password provided by USA Hockey for Evaluations

*Supervisors must send Bruce the names of the evaluators they would like to have access to the online evaluation forms.

*There is a tutorial available once you have log in.

Bruce Carlson showed features of the program with the group. Evaluations can be completed at the rink if internet access is available. Officials will receive their evaluation once the evaluator submits the report.

Steve Tatro encouraged supervisors to use the reports to streamline data collection and tracking of officials who have been evaluated. Online evaluations will be used at MHOA camp this year.

Bruce Carlson thanked the supervisors and evaluators for their continued efforts with the evaluation process. He urged all districts to continue to improve their evaluation process.

Treasurer-Shared by Eric Olson

- Eric read the budget report to the group for Treasurer Dave Nyquist. A motion was made to accept the budget by Mike Mooney and seconded by Dave Kemp.
- Steve Tatro requested that seminar expenses be submitted to him first to speed up the process for approval from Colorado. He forwards the request to Dave Nyquist.
- There was an increase in mileage due to seminar staff traveling for level three seminars. USA Hockey reimburses MHOA for this expense.
- USA Hockey requested each Member District to provide financial information at the annual congress. Steve Tatro will provide the this information for the MHOA.
- Per Diem and mileage checks from state tournaments will be sent out to participants.

State Tournament Reports

- Jr. Gold A, B, and 16 U: Jim Gates

Jim shared that having three tournaments at one site presented a couple of logistical challenges. Making sure the crews were rested required that crews be moved between levels. A recommendation was made for the future to assign crews to the site to allow for flexibility in scheduling. Crews could be slotted for a level with the understanding that they may move.

Overall the tournament was a success with the exception of a couple of games. Jim thanked Mike Mooney for his help and the other supervisors for providing great crews to work the tournament.

- Bantam A: Paul Moen

Paul stated that all the crews did a great job and it was difficult not working one of them on Sunday. He expressed this as a continued concern and asked the board to continue to discuss options to eliminate this factor. Paul shared that the tournament was a success! He thanked Terry for his help with the tournament and all the crews for their effort.

- Bantam B: Chris Kavanaugh (Shared by Steve Tatro)

The Bantam B state tournament in Coleraine went well. There was one off-ice incident where a parent verbally accosted a player from the opposing team, no physical contact was made. Law enforcement was called and the parent was removed from the arena for the balance of the weekend. Coleraine staff did a good job handling the incident.

- PeeWee A: Howard Breitreutz

Howard shared the officials did a great job! He thanked Ron Storey for his help with the tournament. The crews at the tournament were asked if they felt it was better to have four crews and one doesn't work on Sunday or three and then some crews would work two games in one day? The crews shared they liked having four crews at the tourney even though one would not work. The tournament was well run and a success!

- PeeWee B: Nick Biondich (Shared by Steve Tatro) Hoyt Lakes.

All crews did a wonderful job and represented their respective districts with class. I did not receive one single complaint from a coach, parent or tournament official. And in fact, I received at least a dozen compliments on the officiating. Hoyt Lakes should also be commended for running one of best venues and tournaments I have attended.

D12 Jace Friedleib and Jason Strukel (Championship)

D16 Dave White and John Paulouski (3rd Place)

D11 Jack Shearer and Brent Kubis (Consolation)

I would always support having 4 crews attend a state tournament as it makes for a better experience for the officials and easier to schedule for the supervisor.

- WHAM Dennis Alm (Super Rink)

Good tournament overall with a couple of concerns with minor officials.

- 19U B Dave Kemp (Pagel Arena)

Tournament seemed a little choppy due to unbalanced bracket, but overall it was a good tournament.

- 14 U A Ryan Swafford

No issues

- 14 B and 12 A Dave Weisjahn
14 B-Crews did a nice job! Two crews were brought in to cover early round games to prevent officials from working two games in one day. District 3 worked the championship game.
12-A A couple of concerns from parents. District 10 worked the championship.
- 12U B Scott Kuhl (Fairmont)
A nice tourney! Three crews worked tournament. Coaches expressed some concern that the games were being done with the two officials system. Coaches were complimentary of the officiating.
- Eric shared a possible upcoming concern with the scheduling of crews to the state tournaments. Minnesota Hockey is considering ending the reimbursement of hotels for tournament crews. This would impact the way MHOA assigns tournament crews.
- Eric thanked the Supervisors for their efforts with the state tournaments and congratulated the crews for their success during the tournaments!

MHOA Camp Steve Tatro

- Dave Weisjahn shared that he has given the information to Dave Nyquist. Dave is confident that the transition will be smooth.
- Steve Tatro was happy to announce that every district will have a representative at MHOA Camp. All supervisors are invited and encouraged to attend camp!

Supervisor's Reports

District One: Dennis Alm

- Approximately 1500 games
- Dennis expressed concerns with the recreation league that is being run within his district because they are not required to use score sheets and the start times vary based on coaches input. How should officials respond if any major incidents happen.

District Two: Terry Thorsheim

- Approximately 3200 games
- It was a good season!

District Three: Jim Gates

- 3304 Games
- Hosted the Bantam B-1 and Bantam A Regionals, both tournaments went well.
- A good season overall!

District Four: Scott Kuhl

- Approximately 700 games
- Hosted Bantam A and B Regionals
- 12U B State Tournament
- Few Major Penalties and no Match Penalties.
- A good season!

District Five: Submitted by Mike Mooney

D5 will now recognize one scheduling association as the official assigners of all league, tournament and scrimmage games within the geographic boundaries of D5.

We have started a mentoring program, we have experienced some growing pains but we believe we have a good foundation to build from and will continue to develop this program.

We filled 80 mentor slots, and did about 100 evaluations on officials.

The West Suburban Officials Association held elections last month the new President is Duncan Ryhorchuk, Dom Clements will serve as Vice President.

We assigned 1982 games filling 4247 slots.

National Tournaments

Mickey Moran and Kris Moran officiated the Girls Tier II National Tournament in Frisco TX. Ryan Szymanski and Duncan Ryhorchuk officiated the Tier II Pee Wee National Tournament in Ashburn VA. Rick Nelson officiated the 18 U Tier II National Tournament in Lansing MI. All five officials officiated the 2AA National Championship game at their respective tournaments!

Game Reports

We finished with 37 game reports; this is down again slightly from last season. I have included the final reports from the three previous seasons for a comparison. All but one season we are trending down, but we seem to always have about 40 game reports each season. Checking From Behind and Fighting are the two top, on ice, game misconducts called.

Incident Reports

We had 25 Incident Reports this season. We had eight incidents involving Head Contact that were deemed by the officials to be serious enough to make the coach aware that the player hit his/her head and should be looked at before returning to the ice.

District 6: Dave Kemp

State Tournament Reports

- 19UB – Dave (Minnetonka)
- All went well – Pagel Arena
- Mechanics & Communication

Season Ending – Supervisor Report

- 4588 games
- Hosted PA & PB Regions @ Burnsville
- 97 game misconducts
- Lowest number in 5 years
 - 2011 – 147
 - 2010 – 100

- 2009 – 128
- 2008 – 136
- Game Reviews (Electronic form from coaches)
 - 19 Total 14 positives and 5 negatives
 - Called Too Tight - 4
 - Not Called Tight Enough – 2
 - Position – 2
 - Poor Communication – 3
 - Assessed Wrong Penalty – 1 (2&10 with injury)
- **Bill Leslie Fund**
 - Balance – 16,641.10 - (3/30)
 - Paid Out - 600.00 for camps in 2011
 - Golf Tournament-Golf Passes (pass out flier)
 - Letter for “Request for Funding” (posted on website?)
 - Letter for reimbursement for camp
 - Suggest that all fill out form to request reimbursement
 - Handed out @ camp(s)
 - Policy regarding working games at national levels
 - Example – Airfare (quick drain on funds)

District 8: Paul Moen

- Hosted four regional tournaments
- One State Tournament
- The Great 8
- Coaches expressed concerns about the change in penalties in the middle of the season.

District 9: Ryan Swafford

- Overall the season went well.
- 2700 Games
- 27 Game Reports
- 10 Reported Match Penalties
- Hosted 12U A & B Regionals

District 10: Dave Weisjahn

- Approximately 3300 Games
- No major Incidents
- 100 Game Reports
- 2 Match Penalties
- There was a concern regarding parents demanding disciplinary action on officials.
- Some officials were engaging spectators, that issue has been resolved.

District 11: Nick Biondich

1) 101 registered officials, 33 of which were new or had taken multiple years off and now returned. We were hit hard by college kids departing but had a nice number of new officials join our group. Just over 50% of our officials are Level 1 or Level 2.

2) Games worked: 2,149

3) Seminars: D11 hosted 4 total seminars this past fall including the DOS in August.

4) Game Reports: Game Misconduct: 77, Match: 5

Mildly troubling trend with Match penalties not being called properly. There were 4 additional Match penalties that were incorrectly labeled Game Misconducts or lesser offenses.

Incident report continues to be a nice tool to be alerted of any situation I need to be aware of.

5) Formal Evaluations and Mentoring: Both were very poor this year. There were only around 20 of each completed. This will be the primary improvement focus for D11 next season.

6) 6 members of D11 were recognized for 25 plus years of service to USA Hockey and The North East Hockey Officials Association. Duffy Dyer, Steve Tatro, Butch Glesner, Jerry Hill, Bill Zuck, and Pat McCarthy.

7) State Tournaments: D11 did not host a tournament, but I supervised the PWB tournament in Hoyt Lakes.

8) National Tournament: D11 had 2 officials selected to work the Tier I Nationals in Buffalo, NY.

9) MHOA Camp: we had 5 members apply and one was selected. This is strong interest and hopefully it continues to rise.

Respectfully,

Nick Biondich

District 12: Chris Kavanaugh

- We had a pretty good season this year in D12.
- About the same number of games.
- We did have one Match hearing for kicking which resulted in a three game suspension.

District 15: Howard Breikreutz

- Wadena's rink was built!
- Hosted the PeeWee State Tournament.
- It was a good year!

District 16: Ron Storey (Presented by Buzz Olson)

- Overall a good season in District 16
- Three crews worked state tournament from District 16.

South Vice President: Dennis Alm

- 501 (C) 3 status is being resolved which has been the biggest concern.

North Vice President: Buzz Olson

- Communication between leadership is strong.
- I feel the organization is strong and he is proud to serve.

Minnesota Referee-in-Chief: Steve Tatro

April 16, 2012--Annual Report 2011-2012

Minnesota District, Officiating Program

Registration: 2241 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 2182 completed the registration process. The completion rate remains just over 89%. Overall registrants are down 7.19% from last season. This decline in registrations is lower than the national decline in the officiating ranks. I believe this decline is an adjustment to a growth rate in the past two years that was well above the norm.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 66 with 2424 attendees. We used

102 Instructors. This attendance is decreased by 8% from last year, a figure consistent with the national decrease of officials attending seminars. Most of the decrease was in the number of level 2 & 3 officials. Enhanced rule knowledge sessions at Level 3 seminars helped improve the pass rate on the closed book exam from a dismal 38% to 63%. This increase was double the national average.

Evaluations: With the districts reporting, we are at about 37% (800)

of our officials having been formally evaluated this season. A new tool available this season was the development of a web based on-line evaluation program through USA Hockey. This will enable our evaluators and evaluation coordinator improved reporting and documentation. Our officials will also benefit from greater detail in the actual evaluation.

Mentoring: The Mentoring program remains a great teaching tool.

This program puts a seasoned official on the ice to guide new officials, not to call the game for them but to instruct them in positioning and in some cases advise them of the penalty situations. At the conclusion of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

To date there have been about 300 mentored games in Minnesota.

Physical Assaults: There were no "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. This issue seems to be cyclical in nature from season

to season, never exceeding a high of five.

Injured Officials: We had four incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature. This is down from a total of seven last season.

International Tournaments: Once again, Minnesota was represented in International competition. Kristine Langley, Dana Penkivech, Jerilyn Glenn, Tom Sterns, and Johnathan Morrison all worked international tournaments.

National Tournaments: This year we had a record 25 officials from Minnesota working at National Tournaments. This is up from 23 officials that worked last year. I was assigned to supervise the Women and Girls Tier 1 Tournament in Boston.

Development Camps: Five officials will be attending the Western

Instructors Camp in Colorado. The appointments for other camps have

not been made at this time. We have six applicants for the Regional Camp and will receive five or six appointments. There are nine applicants for the Men's National Camp. There are 5 applicants for the women's Regional Camp. Because of diminished applicants and the lack of a viable players camp/tournament, Minnkota Camp will not be held this season. As always, we will hold the MHOA Men's Camp. There are 20 applicants for the 12 slots available. The MHOA Women's camp has been put on hold again for this summer. However, all of our female officials are encouraged to apply for the MHOA Men's camp or work games during the Girls 16-17 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 11-17). They will have to opportunity to work high level hockey and be supervised on each game. There continues to be an abundance of opportunities for officials to develop and deepen the Minnesota officiating talent pool.

Officiating Development Program: Minnesota currently has 40 officials working within this program, an all time high. This program continues to develop officials above and beyond the scope of our camps and local evaluators by assigning and evaluating officials to High School elite, Junior, and Professional games. Our relationship has never been stronger and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials.

American Development Model: 28 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at ADM showcase events around the country. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit to the grass root official who serves as the foundation to our officiating ranks.

Summary: Minnesota officiating remains strong. I credit our success to our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate continued accomplishments for the 2012-2013 season.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief

MHOA President: Eric Olson

The 2011-2012 season presented our group with a number of challenges. MHOA has worked hard to make our organization stronger and to provide our officials with the best training and supervision. I want to thank all of the supervisors for your continued support and all of the work that is accomplished all season long. We were faced with a difficult situation when the MN Hockey board elected to adopt tighter rules for check from behind and boarding calls. Although I can appreciate what they were trying to accomplish with the rule change, I thought there were better options for us to use to strictly enforce those penalties. This season we took a number of steps to try to improve our training and supervision of officials. Some of the accomplishments are:

- New format for Level 3 Seminars
- Ability to produce reports from the online game report forms
- Filing of 1023 form with IRS

One of the issues that I felt negatively affected our group was the decision by MN Hockey to change the rules halfway through the season. Although the Jablonski incident is a great tragedy, I spoke with one the family representatives and they did not want MN Hockey to modify the rules but did ask us to enforce the existing rules more tightly. This decision put the officials in a very difficult position. I received numerous complaints from “hockey experts” who blame the officials for the state of the game. I do hope that our younger officials did not experience a backlash from players, coaches or spectators. I do hope for a better outcome from the MN Hockey board for next year.

Another decision that affected our group was the MN Hockey board’s decision not to provide lodging costs for state tournaments after this season. I would ask each of you to talk with your district director and ask them to reconsider their decision and hopefully we can bring it back up for vote at the summer meeting. Without the support of MN Hockey, I’m afraid we will not be able to rotate crews around the state and have the best crews working state tournaments. This decision came out of the tournament committee, which I sit on. I have to say that I am extremely frustrated and will continue to do my best to get this decision reversed.

I do hope that we will be able to work out these issues with the MN Hockey board. I look forward to MHOA Camp. We will have a new camp director this year. I want to thank Dave Weisjahn for filling that role for a number of years. You did a great job! I also want to welcome Dave Nyquist as the new camp director. Thank you to all of you for stepping up and making MHOA Camp the model for others around the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Olson

MHOA President

Dennis Alm moved to accept the Supervisor’s Reports and Dave Weisjahn seconded the motion. Motion was carried on a voice vote.

Old Business

Level 3 Seminar Survey Results: Brian Thul

- Level 3 survey results were shared with the group.
- Participants overwhelmingly supported the change in format.
- Minnesota had the biggest improvement in pass rate on the level three exam in the nation!
- Members favored having a mix of outside their district staff and local instructors.
- There is a concern amongst some supervisors of under-utilizing their instructors.
- Consideration of sending one instructor from outside the district for level 3 seminars.
- Supervisors are strongly encouraged to send their level three instructors to the fall meeting.

- Board recommends reducing the size of seminars to less than 50. This would require adding more level three seminars.

Founder's Club and Service Awards: Mike Mooney

- Banquet was a huge success last fall and wants to make sure that board continues to recognize the service of its members.

501(C)3: Eric Olson

- Paperwork has been filed and the board is awaiting a response from IRS.

New Business

MN Rule Changes: Dennis Alm

- Members shared their thoughts and concerns with the rule changes.

State Tournament Rotation: Dennis Alm

- Board will wait for clarification from Competition Committee regarding hotels.

A/AA Format: Dennis Alm

- Awaiting decision of Competition Committee.

Gifts and Award: Steve Tatro

- Jackets were given as a gift to be used at hockey functions to promote MHOA.

Change in Per Diem: Ryan Swafford

- Ryan provide scenarios to issue per diem in different ways.
- This will be tabled until the fall meeting.

Buzz Olson moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Mooney seconded. Motion was carried on a voice vote.

Election of Board Members

Secretary, Treasurer, and South Vice President are up for election. These positions are two year terms.

Secretary:

- Skip asked for nominations
- Brian Thul was nominated and accepted the nomination. Dave Kemp moved to close nominations and cast a white ballot. Dave Weisjahn seconded and the motion carried by majority voice vote. Brian will serve a two year term as Secretary.

Treasurer:

- Skip asked for nominations
- Dave Nyquist was nominated and accepted the nomination. Mike Mooney moved to close the nominations and cast a white ballot. Brian Thul seconded and the motion carried by majority voice vote. Dave will serve another two year term.

South Vice President:

- Skip asked for nominations
- Dennis Alm was nominated and accepted the nomination. Buzz Olson moved to close the nominations and cast a white ballot. Howard Breitzkreutz seconded and the motion carried by majority voice vote. Dennis will serve another two year term.

Once approved these minutes become part of the official record for the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Thul

MHOA Secretary