

RMD MEETING MINUTES 1-2000

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING

MINUTES

Saturday and Sunday, January 8-9, 2000

Courtyard by Marriott, Houston, TX

In attendance:

Name	Assoc Position	
Schlass, Larry	AZ	President
Bammert, Ralph	CO	Risk Manager
Bryant, Kathy	CO	Vice President
Sullivan, Dennis	CO	Registrar
Bloomer, Al	District	Director
Delozier, Dave	District	Coach-in-Chief
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
McMann, Bob	District	Referee-in-Chief
VanWagoner, Jill	District	Secretary
Kelly, Mike	ID	Risk Manager
TenEyck, Mike	ID	President
Bekketahl, Bruce	MT	President Elect
Seigfreid, Alan	MT	Risk Manager
Thompson, Wayne	MT	President
Cardasis, Susan	NM	Risk Manager
Nolen, Bob	NM	President
Burns, Vicki	TX	
Callaway, Charles	TX	President
Crabtree, Mike	TX	OK Assoc. Registrar
Johnson, Dennis	TX	Assoc. Registrar
Lewis, TC	TX	Aerodrome Hockey Dir
Waller, Carol	TX	Houston Jr. Aeros
McLaughlin, Kevin	USA	Director, Youth Hockey
Chisholm, Paul	UT	Risk Manager
Holmes, Mike	UT	President
Collier, Bob	WY	President
Gwin, Jim	WY	Risk Manager

Absent: Tom Fletcher, Colorado President

Mike TenEyck, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Houston, TX. A quorum was present to conduct business. He welcomed USA Hockey Representative, Kevin McLaughlin.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 21-22, 1999 meeting were reviewed. Mike TenEyck corrected the item on page 10 regarding his expense reimbursement. The expenses were as an assistant to the Referee-in-Chief. Texas noted that they had committed to two girls teams, not one. Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 21-22, 1999 meeting as corrected. Mike Holmes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Director

Charles Callaway reported on the issue of USA Hockey and the Utah Affiliate. A group of players in Utah reported to USA Hockey that they had not been allowed to register in Utah and asked them to intervene. USA Hockey Executive Committee members arbitrated the issue in Salt Lake City. The arbitration resulted in an agreement being signed by both parties but the underlying issues have not been resolved.

Al Bloomer reported on several items. He feels USA Hockey should have directed the issue in Utah to the district before the Executive Committee heard the issue. He will address that issue at the USA Hockey National meeting. Al recognized the efforts of the District representatives, Dave Delozier as Coach-in-Chief, Bruce Karinen as Treasurer/Registrar, Kelly Grover as Risk Manager, Bob McMann as Referee-in-Chief and Charles Callaway as District Director. Al proposed that a District Executive Committee be created to meet on a monthly basis. The committee would consist of the District representatives and the Chairman of the Council of the Presidents.

Al discussed the issue of for-profit rinks. The Valley Ice Garden in Bozeman has become a success story. Polar Ice in Arizona is still a problem. Cody WY is building a for-profit rink.

Junior hockey is growing in the district. The AWHL and WSL are in the district. Although the Junior Division is not governed by the Affiliate, the Junior team must be in good standing with the Affiliate.

Communication is a big concern in the District. Email is essential to improve this communication. Affiliates are encouraged to invite the District representatives to your affiliate meetings. Al has done two workshops and two parent orientation meetings in the District. Parent expectations are not realistic and that causes problems.

Make expectations realistic and the problems will be less.

We need to generate and train more coaches, including female coaches.

The block grant information will be sent to Affiliate Presidents this month. The applications must be completed and submitted on time to receive the money. AI wants 100% participation from the District Affiliates.

A Utah mite player drowned in a hotel pool while in Boise for a hockey tournament. AI wanted to send a \$250 donation from the District to a trust fund that had been set up for the player's family. He did not have the authority to direct that donation and would like the lines of authority issue to be addressed by the Council.

District Registrar

Bruce Karinen reported that the team count is at 1,718 as of this meeting. A third District Director will be added if the team count reaches 2,000 by April. Bruce would like to modify the procedure for electing district directors to be prepared for the possibility of an election for a third director. Bruce thanked the Affiliate Registrars for their work and encouraged more delegation to help get the work done.

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Risk Manager

Kelly Grover held a special meeting for Affiliate Risk Managers in conjunction with this meeting. The only affiliate without a representative in attendance was Arizona. This training will improve distribution of insurance knowledge and other risk management information.

Coach-in-Chief

Attendance at coaching clinics was down this year. There were 42 clinics held and 792 coaches certified. Dave encourages support of upcoming USA Hockey legislation to mandate the requirement of an associate coaching certification to be on the player bench. Currency certification is also being discussed. He suggested that each Affiliate implement this requirement even if USA Hockey does not make it mandatory. Each Affiliate was given the coaching database on computer disc.

Referee-in-Chief

Bob McMann reported that the referee database would be on the web page soon. The increased requirements for level four certification are working. Bob would like each Affiliate to identify female referees for camp and

tournament participation. Officiating seminars put on by national personnel can be held in the district every three to four years. There should be one of these three-day seminars held in Salt Lake this May. Bob reported that cut pants are being considered legal as long as they are not interfering with the factory padding. There are 1,745 registered officials in the District this year, and increase of about 100 over last year. Four 601(g)(1) gross misconduct penalties have been called so far this season. Two were upheld and two were overruled.

IP Coordinator

Kristen Sandersen has asked to be replaced. She suggests that each affiliate have an IP representative. There is a great need for trainers and coaches in each affiliate. The affiliates asked for the names of attendees at Kristen's training camp in Denver three years ago. Mike TenEyck will follow up on this. It was suggested that the IP program might be put under the Coach-in-Chief.

Affiliate Presidents

WY – Bob Collier reported that the Wyoming Amateur Hockey League started their first season in October 1999. Growth and interest in Wyoming hockey has slumped, especially since Mike Pilon moved out of state. They have implemented an intra-state league that is being received well but the major problem is with association ice scheduling. The first player development camp was successful last year. Cheyenne, Cody, Laramie and Rawlins are all anticipating new rinks. Three cities have talked about starting high school programs. They are trying to coordinate with the youth soccer program for abuse screening.

UT – Mike Holmes reported that their senior team count is down. The number of players has remained was pretty constant even though the number of rinks is increasing. Three new rinks are operating now with an anticipated four more by the Olympics. Rinks are looking for other uses to absorb the ice that usually will not be available to hockey again when growth of players picks up. Olympic people will manage two of the sheets and has been very helpful with Utah Hockey. They do tend to take ice anytime they need it for training events of the Olympics. There is great concern about the 2001-2002 hockey season during the Olympics.

TX – Charles Callaway reported that they are still growing but a lot of teams are not USA Hockey registered. More new rinks are operating and even more being proposed. Number of players has increased through the for-profit rinks. Two associations have folded, and four new ones are operating. They have a new Junior A team in NAHL. There are now more new players at the high school level than the mite level. Houston, Austin and Dallas have high school leagues and a few other cities have teams. The

Affiliate format is being revised due to the large growth. Oklahoma is making a proposal to break off from Texas and become a separate affiliate. Houston is hosting the Midget Nationals in April. Screening program is in place but needs to have follow-up.

NM – Bob Nolan reported Tier I Tier II selection process almost separated the state program. Santa Fe has a new rink opening this month as part of a community center. Taos has a new outdoor covered rink with refrigeration. Los Alamos has been approved for concrete and pipes and new boards for their rink this summer. Growing in small numbers. Intra-state league started. Girls district tournament in March in Albuquerque. Looking at starting a competitive league to aid in less distance travel.

MT – Wayne Thompson reported that a six-team high school league was started this year. Their screening policy is about ready to implement. Bruce Bekketahl has been elected Affiliate President. MT will host the District Tournament in 2001. The PeeWees will probably be in Bozeman and the Bantam and Midget in Billings. A pamphlet on abuse screening received from Rae Briggie is being used to create their process.

ID – Mike TenEyck reported that they have a high school program in effect. They will implement a screening program next season. A player appealed a disciplinary action to the Affiliate and the District process worked well. The growth of last year was not repeated this year but the numbers are still increasing. Hockey is now being played in Salmon and Coeur D'Alene.

CO – Kathy Bryant reported that their team count is at 551 teams and they anticipate 600 by March. They have new rinks running and more being proposed but they still have a lack of ice. There is a hearing scheduled in Denver on January 18 in the embezzlement fourth degree felony. They have recovered \$150,000 from D & O insurance for the State and associations. Boulder has been discussing starting a high school league. They are working on a screening process. Tom Fletcher sends his thanks for supporting him and will not be running for re-election this year.

AZ – Their 501(c)(3) filing is complete. All Arizona reports have been filed and the USA Hockey audit was completed successfully. They have initiated a process to review and revise their Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Their screening process is hampered by the various sizes of associations. Each association is required to submit their policy in writing to the Affiliate and report on implementation by October. Player growth is up 5-10% with 4 new rinks. Affiliate has been working with for-profit rinks to bring them under USA Hockey. A high school association has been admitted to the affiliate. Wild West League is successful. Player/Coach development is still a priority.

District Tournament Directors

Al Bloomer will be the Tournament Director for Tier II Boys in Utah with Cindy Allen as Chairperson. Charles Callaway will be the Tournament Director for Tier I Midgets in Colorado with Dennis Sullivan as Chairman. Bruce Karinen will be the Tournament Director for the Girls in Albuquerque with Mike Cecchini and Bob Pope as Chairmen.

New Mexico reported that their PeeWee team wouldn't know until February if they will be participating. The Wyoming bantams will not be participating. Texas, Arizona, Montana and Colorado all have extra teams to fill slots. A \$200 per team deposit must be paid to Bruce Karinen by January 15 to secure tournament spot. The remainder of the \$500 fee is due at credential meeting.

High School District Playoffs

Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** to hold the first Rocky Mountain District High School Tournament this year and for it to be hosted by Texas subject to approval of Section 19. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Player Development Camp

Al Bloomer presented a proposed budget for the District Player Development Camp to be held May 3-7, 2000. The group visited the new three-sheet rink in Westminster, CO. Wayne Thompson made a **MOTION** to approve the budget as presented. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Al will distribute his staff list to Affiliate Presidents only for approval of those from their Affiliate. USA Hockey has requested that Al no longer use non-American staff. Al will continue to use current staff members, whether American or not. Al needs each Affiliate to give him a person to contact for camp matters. He is still looking for Festival Team staff including managers for the 14, 15 and 16-year-old teams. The following coaches has been chosen: Steve Miller, 17-year-old team; Damien Degilean, 16-year-old team; Jeff Bloomer, 15-year-old team; and Dave Delozier, 14-year-old team. Select 16 Festival is June 23-30 in St Cloud, MN. Select 17 Festival is June 30-July 6 in St. Cloud, MN. National Goalkeepers camp is July 11-16 in Colorado Springs, CO. Select 15 Festival is August 4-11 in St. Cloud, MN. The National Festival is August 13-22 in Lake Placid, NY.

Allocation of camp slots is based on Section 16. The camp director fills at-large slots. Al would like to have any participant from last years' camp that finished in the top 50% at this year's camp. Affiliates must take ownership of their kids. Al will send a list of last year's participants to the Affiliates.

14-year-Old and Girls High Performance Camp

AI talked about the girls and 14-year-old boys' high performance teams. The proposal is to bring in 35 14-year-old boys and 35 18 and under girls to Littleton, CO during the second week in August. There would be 9 hours of ice and intensive dryland training for a budget of \$4500-\$6000. Then a team of 20 from both groups would be selected from the camp participants and would participate in a tournament. AI wants to try this camp for one year to determine the interest level of participants. The participants would not pay a camp fee, but would be responsible for travel costs. Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** to authorize \$6000 of excess funds from the player development camp account to be used for this proposal for this year. Larry Schloss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Skill Workshops

Affiliates were encouraged to take advantage of the skill workshops AI Bloomer and Dave Delozier can put on. The ones that have been held have been successful. Dave will create a list of available camps and get it to each Affiliate to distribute to their local associations.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held in Casper, WY August 19-20, 2000.

Midget/Junior B Team Relationship

There is concern about Junior B teams going into an area to sell their program to the area midget age players. This has caused devastation to midget teams in Utah and New Mexico. The affiliate can register a complaint with the Junior Commissioner, Don Thorne and carbon copy Dave Tyler. Affiliates must encourage educating players and parents of pros/cons of midget vs. junior hockey.

Team Building Session

Mike TenEyck didn't get a great response for this training. It was expressed that a quantified proposal would be much better received. Larry Schloss made a **MOTION** to have two four-hour training sessions on conflict resolution for Affiliate Presidents and District personnel on the agenda for the summer meeting. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed with three negative votes from Mike Holmes, Bob Collier, and Mike TenEyck.

District Incorporation

Bruce Karinen would like the District to incorporate to have the benefit of a legal identity and to create a long-term system of operation. Charles Callaway made a

MOTION to incorporate the Rocky Mountain District as a 501(c)(3) corporation and to authorize the expense of the filing fee. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it was defeated with 6 negative votes. Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to direct Bruce Karinen and Bruce Bekketahl to research the most advantageous way to register the district and to complete it by the August meeting. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Affiliate Agreement and Bylaws to the District

Mike TenEyck has requested that each Affiliate send a copy of their bylaws and completed affiliate agreement to Bruce Karinen as soon as possible.

Review Status of National Midget Tournament

TC Lewis gave a report. USA Hockey has asked for a revision of the schedule and the rink is not cooperating. They will have it settled by next week. The tournament will begin on Thursday evening. Arrangements have been made at four hotels, with this Courtyard by Marriott being the host hotel and location of credential and coaches meetings. The local police department will volunteer security. USA Hockey has provided an individual to work on a web page with real time information. The referees concern on locker room facilities will be alleviated by the Houston Aeros facilities since they will be out of town at that time. They have done a lot of research with former hosts and are taking advantage of lessons learned from others' mistakes. Bruce Karinen is requesting a sample packet for approval by him and Charles and the final packet must go out in February.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to tour the rink.

Sunday, January 9, 2000

Mike TenEyck reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. He reported that he had called Kristin Sandersen and she has trained 8 IP trainers and had no recommendation for a new IP Coordinator.

OLD BUSINESS

Officiating Fees – Bob McMann presented a fee structure for District Women's tournaments at \$80 per game for a 3 official system plus per diem of \$15 per day per traveled official up to a maximum of \$300 for a 4-day tournament and \$400 for a 5-day tournament. Tier I Boys officiating fees for District and National tournaments will be the same as Tier II as approved in August 1999. Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** to approve the women's and Tier I fee structure as presented. Bob Collier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Annual Guide – Jill VanWagoner still needs information

from the Affiliates about their personnel, maps to rinks, etc. to put into the District annual guide.

Annual meeting – Al is going to talk about the issue of Junior teams robbing midget players and the Executive Committee's interference in the Utah issue. Larry Schloss made a **MOTION** to present a request to USA Hockey for a change to be made in the annual guide increase the district tournament fee to \$600 per team. Wayne Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Bruce will take the request to the committee at the annual meeting. There was discussion on the proposed change in the appeal procedure on Rule 601(g) (1) and 601(j)(1) determinations adding an additional appeal avenue to the executive committee after the affiliate has issued a determination. USA Hockey already has a point of review with the referee-in-chief. The change might be a necessary internal change. The consensus of the council was to keep the appeal process as is.

Policy and Procedure Manual

Section 5 – Item #1 should add "or his designee". It was recommended to delete items 5-8 because they are affiliate responsibilities and not district responsibilities. Item 6.A. will be revised to allow the Council of Presidents to waive this requirement as needed. Al Bloomer made a **MOTION** to accept Section 5 as revised. Mike Holmes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** to grant a waiver for the 2000 Tier I Tournament to be held with three teams in Colorado. Bob Collier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 6 - Tim Ross sent a request to add an internal game qualification to the girls' league. It was noted that this is not in accordance with USA Hockey and would not be included. Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to approve section 6 with the correction of the name to Western Girls Advanced Hockey League (WGAHL). Mike Holmes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 7 – There was discussion about allowing a District Director to be an officer in Item #9. The consensus was that an Affiliate President should chair the Council of Presidents. Larry Schloss made a **MOTION** to approve section 7 with the deletion of the last sentence in Item #9 regarding tie-breaking votes. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 8 – Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** to suspend Section 8. Bob Collier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 10 - It was noted that the reference to the USA Annual Guide should state the "current annual guide" and refer to a particular section number.

Section 12 – References to budgets for district tournaments and tournament director should be eliminated because they are the responsibility of the tournament host. Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to approve section 12 as amended. Larry Schloss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 15 – This section will remain suspended. A District Director will get clarification from USA Hockey on this policy.

Section 16 – The last sentence of Item 15 is to be deleted. In Item 9 the term audit will be changed to review. Al Bloomer made a **MOTION** to approve Section 16 as amended. Wayne Thompson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 17 - Wayne Thompson made a **MOTION** accept Section 17 as presented. Mike Holmes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 18 – Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to accept Section 18 with the addition of the statement that an official designee may not serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 19 – It was decided to delete Tier II because the Midget Tier I and Tier II provide a place for high school age players from combined schools to play as a team. The tournament would require a minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 8 teams. Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** to approve section 19 as written except to delete the reference to Tier II. Al Bloomer seconded the motion and it passed with three negative votes from Wayne Thompson, Kathy Bryant, and Al Bloomer. al Motion for this year of roster freeze Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** for the first tournament to be held April 29, 2000 in Texas, to freeze rosters this year, appoint Charles Callaway as Tournament Director, and commitments for participation to be made by January 31, 2000. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Section 20 - It was suggested that the \$300 fine be added in both B and C. Bob Collier made a **MOTION** to approve Section 20 with the fine in all three items. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Meetings – Al Bloomer requested that a monthly conference call be held with the Chairman of the Council of Presidents, the District Directors, and other personnel as needed. Discussions should be reported to the Affiliates as needed.

Donation – Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to donate \$250 to the trust for the Utah Mite player that drowned.

There was discussion about not setting a precedent. Bob Collier seconded the motion. With three negative and three positive votes, the motion did not pass.

Mandatory coaching requirements – Mike Holmes was asked to work with Dave Delozier to write a policy for mandatory coaching requirements. The policy will be emailed to the directors and affiliate presidents.

Coach Education Budget Supplement – Dave Delozier asked the District for \$1000 to supplement his \$10,000 national budget. Bruce Karinen encouraged him to overrun his budget and get national to increase his budget.

IP under Coach-in-Chief – It was suggested that the IP program be put under the direction of the Coach-in-Chief. The fact that USA Hockey appoints both positions creates a problem. The Council's consensus is to have Al Bloomer go ahead with our recommendation of having them work together.

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

Action Items

Ask Bob Bolender to separate the minutes of each meeting on the web page so they can be printed separately.

Mike TenEyck find out who attended the IP training in Denver and let the Affiliate Presidents know.

IP Coordinator replacement

Al will send a list of last year's participants to the Affiliates

Dave will create a list of available skill camps and get it to each Affiliate to distribute to their local associations

Each Affiliate to send a copy of their bylaws and completed affiliate agreement to Bruce Karinen

Affiliate information to Jill VanWagoner for annual guide

A District Director will get clarification from USA Hockey on section 15

Mike Holmes was asked to work with Dave Delozier to write a policy for mandatory coaching requirements

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