

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING  
MINUTES**

Saturday and Sunday, August 20-21, 2005  
Red Lion Hotel, Idaho Falls, ID

In attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assoc.</u>	<u>Position</u>
Callaway, Charles	District	Director
Kenney, Chris	District	Director
	District	Director
Irey, Bryan	CO	President
	District	Director
Lehto, Wayne	ID	President
Bloomer, Al	District	Coach-in-Chief
Day, Jill	District	Secretary
		High School Section
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
McMann, Bob	District	Referee-in-Chief
Nolen, Bob	District	Webmaster
Brooks, Jon	AZ	President
Cardasis, Susan	CO	Registrar
Lehto, Mike	ID	
Morgus, Wally	ID	Treasurer
Bekkedahl, Bruce	MT	President
Porter, Todd	MT	Registrar
Martinez, Karen	NM	Registrar
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
		President/
Lewis, TC	TX	Coach-in Chief
Lewis, Debra	TX	Registrar
Worden, Darin	UT	President
Lundquist, Jim	WY	President
	USA	
Bevan, Ashley	Hockey	Adult Hockey Director
	USA	
Briggle, Rae	Hockey	Member Services

Absent: Bob Pope, New Mexico President, Scott Morgan, Oklahoma President

Bryan Irey, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Idaho Falls, ID. A quorum was present to conduct business. Karen Martinez is representing Bob Pope from New Mexico

**Minutes**

The minutes of the January 8-9, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with the correction in the Idaho report that they are using Intelicorp for screening instead of Otter Play. T C Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**District Director Reports**

Charles Callaway reported he attended annual meeting, RMD tournaments, the Tier II National Tournament in Springfield, MO, District Camp in SLC and the Select 16 camp in Rochester.

Mike TenEyck sent a written report.

Chris Kenney is glad to be involved at the district level. He expressed appreciation for the good things Jon Brooks is doing in Arizona.

Wayne Lehto newly elected.

Bryan Irey newly elected. He will work on the district level as the tournament liaison.

### **District Registrar**

Bruce Karinen reported on team count, current and history, and handed out the report on paid players and paid coaches. This is a new format from USA hockey. He conducted three elections for District Directors.

### **District Risk Manager**

Kelly Grover reported after Jan 1, 2005 D&O is automatically covered. Any new affiliates after Jan 1 need to have interim riders issued. He went to Oklahoma as the director of the high school tournament which Colorado won. RMD is the only district with a high school tournament, and he still continues to push for support at USA Hockey section meetings.

### **District Referee-in-Chief**

Bob McMann reported that Polar Ice in Arizona had been hiring out of state referees instead of using the local referees' association. The Texas officials association filed suit against Polar Ice for not paying referees. Dallas Officials association was very professionally organized and their paperwork support has made the court case more viable. A New Mexico official wants to start his own group and complained to USA Hockey about not being treated fairly. He has presented himself as an affiliate representative, but is actually the acting Santa Fe head referee. Matt Leaf listened to his concerns, and said New Mexico needed to solve the problem and not USA Hockey.

### **District Coach-in-Chief**

Al Bloomer attended the Tier I tournament in Colorado Springs as chairman and reported that it started rough but smoothed out. He went to the national tournament in Westchester to witness Arizona become the Bantam champions. Two affiliate teams made the crossovers and into the finals. There will be an article in "Let's Play Hockey" about the Arizona bantams. Legal Council has been quiet with the biggest issue being the cost of screening which will be left up to each affiliate. They are in the process of revising the abuse and screening brochures. From visiting USA Hockey districts all across the nation, he is very proud of RMD

### **Affiliate President Reports**

**AZ Jon Brooks** reported that it has been a great year in Arizona. They hosted Girls/Women and Tier II district tournaments. They will host the advanced Level 4 coaching clinic Sept 23-25. Arizona bantams are the Tier II national champs. A new affiliate agreement and new bylaws are in place. There was good attendance at camp tryouts even though there were fewer allotments available. A new Tier I midget team has formed. A girls' team is participating in the high school JV league. Many new rinks are in the works throughout the state. Polar Ice announced that they are registering USA hockey this year.

**CO Bryan Irey** reported that at their annual meeting in June the entire board was reelected, running unopposed. John Cole will be the President of CO next year when Bryan steps down as required to be District Director. State tournaments were unbelievable this year. They hosted the girls' national tournament. Three new rinks are coming online. Colorado players were chosen for the festival teams. Littleton Peewee Tier II National champs.

**ID Wayne Lehto** reported that Jr hockey is growing in Idaho. The Coeur d'Alene rink is ADA friendly. Idaho registration last year was flat instead of down as reported in the last meeting.

**MT Bruce Bekkedahl** reported that adult teams were successful in getting registered with USA Hockey and raised the Montana team count. They initiated a mandate for every association to implement the small area games format for 8 and under. They originally budgeted a statewide screening amount of \$8-10 per screening, and since changing to Intelicorp, there is a windfall in the state budget. This was used to help implement the small area games format by buying equipment, etc. and lowered fees for this season.

**NM Karen Martinez** reported that there hasn't been a lot of change and they feel stable. The Jr team is staying and the pro team is on hiatus while a new rink is being built. They are excited about online registration this year.

**OK Ann Hetrick** expressed thanks for the opportunity to host the high school tournament. She reported that it went very well and there were no referee complaints. The rink where the tournament was held closed suddenly. The programs were done by a company in Denver and she recommends him for future work. They are using online registration.

**TX TC Lewis** reported that things are very quiet and online registration is good. Jr B is growing in the state. El Paso is a new association. They have held 14 coaches' clinics and have 10 more scheduled.

**UT Darin Worden** asked for help from everyone as the new guy. There will be a new rink in Park City and probably a new affiliate to go with it. They have hired a woman from Steamboat Springs to be the hockey director for the rink. A new facility is being built in Bountiful to replace existing rink. The recreation programs are growing and they will have a Tier I midget team this year.

**WY Jim Lundquist** reported that hockey in Cheyenne is now bigger than in Casper. There will be a new rink in Gillette by 2007 as part of an event center at the fairgrounds. Rawlins is working on an outdoor rink with refrigeration.

### **Youth Council Report**

Al Bloomer reported that the council had discussion on whether there should be a 14-year-old festival and a 15-year-old girls' national tournament. Cross ice, skill development, tournament management, and redistricting will be addressed in later reports.

### **Girls/Women's Section**

Bruce Karinen reported that some movement is finally taking place. The biggest issue is whether the section should become a council. They now report through the Youth Council but would report directly to the executive committee if they became a council.

### **High School Section**

Kelly Grover reported that a high school national tournament was not approved this time, but he will keep trying.

### **Junior Council**

Al Bloomer does not serve on the council any more but is trying to get a Rocky Mountain District representative on the council. There are so many Jr teams in the district (in all affiliates except Wyoming and Utah) that we need to have representation. The council is looking at changing the classification system in the Junior program and setting maximum fees.

### **Adult Council**

Ashley Bevan from USA Hockey reported on the status of the Adult Program. LeBatt Blue will renew their sponsorship for another four years after the initial three. Tournament schedules are on the web site. LeBatt Blue has grant money for adult state tournaments. New adult programs are in Colorado at Glenwood Springs, Colorado Springs, Vail, and Eagle. LeBatt Blue is offering pre-registration parties to encourage USA Hockey participation and adult novice hockey. USA Hockey has created parameters to determine player and team ratings and will run a pilot program this year.

### **USA Hockey Online Registration**

Rae Briggie expressed her support and appreciation for the RMD and their achievements. Dave Ogrea and Ron DeGregorio are going to show us some exciting times this year. She reported that the online registration pilot was very successful and it went live July 1st for any local program wanting to participate. Its mission is to make joining USA Hockey easier and make it less cumbersome for affiliates and associates by not having to collect money and legal documents for USA Hockey. It also provides an individual source of communication. 27 of 34 affiliates have switched to individual fees from team fees and they are being collected through the online program. Affiliate workshops have been attended by 18 affiliates.

### **Coaching Education**

Al Bloomer reported that 128 clinics with 3059 attendees were conducted last year. Total registered coaches were 3800. We have touched about half the coaches in the district. Online registration for coaches is being used in each RMD affiliate. Al again reviewed the parameters of issuing temp cards. The district will not issue a temp card without written approval of an authorized affiliate representative. Waivers are only approved by USA Hockey. Al's handouts included a list of current affiliate instructors, statistics of clinics held, ACE coordinator requirements, and USA Hockey coaching education requirements. He appealed for female coaches and instructors. Al has committed to an Advanced Level 4 clinic in September 2006 in one of the smaller affiliates.

### **District Web Site**

Bob Nolen reported on the benefits of the web page. Affiliates need to be aware of the USA Hockey tool to link their pages. He demonstrated the sections on the [www.rockymountainhockey.com](http://www.rockymountainhockey.com) page. He reported that if he

could get more input from the affiliates, the site would be much better. Please send email contact of local affiliate web page contacts to him.

### 2006 District Tournaments

Charles Callaway reviewed affiliate declarations for all levels for the 2006 tournaments

#### Tier I 2-5 March 2006.

Midget Major 2 AZ teams, 4 CO teams, 2 TX teams, and 1 UT team.

Midget Minor 1 AZ team, 3 CO teams, and 4 TX teams

Bantam 1 AZ team, 1 CO team, and 4 TX teams

Peewee 2 TX team

Arizona, Utah and Texas expressed a desire to host the Tier I tournaments. AZ's proposed host associations are the Chandler Jr Polar Bears and DYHA. UT would host at the Peaks in Provo. Texas would host at the Dr. Pepper Star Center (not a USA Hockey supporter). District tournaments are not typically awarded to affiliates with a first year Tier I team. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Arizona to host the 2006 Tier I Boys District Tournaments. Jim Lundquist seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Girls/Women 2-5 March 2006

A – None

B – AZ, TX, and possibly CO

C – AZ, MT, TX, UT, and possibly CO

U19 – 1 AZ team, 2 CO teams, 1 MT team, 1 NM team, 1 TX team, 1 WY team, and possibly 1 ID team

U16 - 1 AZ team, 1 CO team, 1 NM team, and 2 TX teams

U14 - 1 AZ team, 1 CO team, 1 MT team, and 2 TX teams

U12 - 1 AZ team, 1 CO team, and 1 TX team

The following affiliates in rotation order declined to host the 2006 tournament: NM, MT, ID, WY, OK, and Utah. Texas (Frisco Dallas) would like to host. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Texas to host the 2006 Girls/Women District Tournament. Jon Brooks second the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Tier II 9-12 March 2006

Midget Major – All affiliates 1 team each

Midget Minor - 1 AZ team, 1 CO team, 1 ID team, 1 MT team, 1 TX team, and 1 UT team

Bantam – All affiliates 1 team each

Peewee - All affiliates 1 team each

New Mexico declined their rotation for 2006. Colorado would like host. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** for Colorado to host the 2006 Tier II Boys District Tournament. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### High School 15-19 March 2006

All affiliates except MT will have a team. Wyoming declines to host in 2006, but would like to host in 2007. Idaho (Boise) would like to host in 2006. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Idaho to host the 2006 High School District Tournament. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to increase the tournament fee from \$600 to \$700 for the 2006 tournament. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to have the high school tournament follow the Tier II bracket format. Jon Brooks seconded the motion. Wayne Lehto noted that procedure is already approved in the policy and procedures manual. Charles Callaway removed his motion and Jon Brooks removed his second. Kelly Grover noted that from experience there is no equality in the big/little parameter of the Tier II format for high school. The Tier II format can eliminate an undefeated team the cross-over bracket. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to change to a random draw format instead of small/large affiliate format for the high school district tournament as has been done historically. Karen Martinez seconded the motion and it passed with one opposing vote from Arizona. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to use a 6/4 format-two out of each bracket for a ten team high school tournament. Karen Martinez seconded the motion and it passed with negative votes from Arizona and Montana and Texas abstained.

Bob McMann noted that these tournaments require quite a few referees on the ice at one time. This requires that more referees be available to work the tournaments. It is a financial burden to bring referees from out of state. Jon Brooks suggested the possible use of the district's excess funds to supplement the referee costs. He and Bruce Karinen will prepare a proposal for a referee subsidy budget line item.

## **6 Team Tournament Format Proposal**

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed 6 team tournament format below. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1. Have an "A" pool and a "B" pool with 3 teams each.
2. The teams will be distributed by random draw to the pools, by pairs. The pairs will be Colorado and Texas, Arizona & Utah, Idaho & Montana, New Mexico & Wyoming, and Oklahoma & the host. One team of each pair will be in the "A" pool and the other team of the pair will be in the "B" pool. Unpaired teams will be paired with another unpaired team that has the closest population base.
3. The "A" pool teams will play the "B" pool teams with the top 4 high point teams advancing to the semi-finals.
4. At the semi-finals, the team with the most points will play the team with the least points and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams will play each other. If after all of the tiebreakers two or more of the 4 top point teams are tied, then a drawing of lots will be the final determination as to breaking of the tie.
5. The winners of the semi-final games will play for the championship.
6. The tournament and all games will be played in accordance with the USAH District/National Championship rules as published in the USAH Annual Guide.

## **High School Tournament Eligibility & Waivers**

The topic was discussed again. No changes were made.

## **Lunch Meeting at Annual Congress**

Bruce Karinen asked for input on whether to continue holding the lunch meeting at the USA Hockey Annual Congress. The consensus is yes. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to change the meeting from an informal get-together to a formal meeting. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The District Secretary will be there to take minutes.

## **Policy & Procedure Manual**

Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** with a friendly amendment by Bruce Bekkedahl to add the following as Item 1. E. to Section 6 District Tournaments of the Policies and Procedure Manual; "Departures from the prescribed tournament formats can be made by the Tournament Director in the event of an unforeseen circumstance that would impair the integrity of the tournament. The Tournament Director shall notify the Council of any such changes and the extenuating circumstances which necessitated such departure." Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed with Arizona abstaining.

## **District Handbook**

Wayne Lehto will have the Policies and Procedure Manual printed.

## **Oklahoma Affiliate Status**

Oklahoma will stay under the Texas affiliate.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 3:30 p.m. so the Player Development Committee could meet.

Bryan Irely reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 21, 2005.

## **Tournament Manual**

Ann Hetrick distributed the manual that was used for the 2005 High School District Tournament. She suggested that it be reviewed and then used as a template format by each tournament.

## **Redistricting**

Wayne Lehto attended the USA Hockey meeting about redistricting. The committee is prepared to recommend to the executive committee that Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota should be a district or sub-district. He was asked to get input from our district and report back to the committee. ARIZONA feels that no change is necessary. The large/small state formats are working well. TX agrees. MT perspective is that a cost efficiency and larger participation would be the result of redistricting. They feel they can do a better job in a smaller geographic area. It costs about \$150,000 per year to send their teams and management out of state to district affairs. If you only rotate every 8 years, it is an extensive financial outlay. With a smaller 4 state district, they could realistically host an event every year. The Dakota teams are community teams as are the MT teams. A lot of the RMD teams are state teams and MT is not comparable. The perception of the cost of the sport is a major detriment to the growth of the program. The Dakotas are at the mercy of the Minnesota rules and

regulations, which is a detriment to them. It isn't just Montana in this issue. There are four states being affected. They believe they can increase interest and participation if they are a smaller geographic area. Benefits to RMD is not having to deal with 10 team tournaments, gives more allocation to district camps. Al Bloomer feels that we need to provide alternatives to the situation because he doesn't believe that the executive committee will create a 12<sup>th</sup> district. The Dakotas are not interested in being a sub-district of RMD. Minnesota is not interested in acquiring more territory. WY says this isn't as complex for them as MT. It is the best deal for WY. He can't think of any detriment to the rest of the district. ID says they will still play in WY and MT if they are a different district and has no objection to them leaving. NM does feel that it would be detrimental to their program because they will lose the small state contingency. Counter with better competition creates better players. UT not really familiar with the situation but doesn't want anyone to leave. CO is neutral. Charles Callaway will summarize this information, submit to the affiliate presidents, and then submit it to the committee.

TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to create a committee to discuss sub-districts in the RMD and find solutions to this issue if the new district is not approved. Wayne Lehto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Montana suggested that the committee attend the MT affiliate meeting in December. Al suggests the four directors be on the committee as well as affiliate Presidents and no appointed representatives. Jon Brooks is willing to serve. Bruce Bekkedahl feels it not beneficial to MT to participate on the committee while they are seeking the new district. Charles Callaway will serve as chairman, with Chris Kenney, Bryan Irey, Wayne Lehto, and Jon Brooks. Al Bloomer will be a resource.

### **Next Meeting**

Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to hold the next meeting January 6-8, 2006 in Houston. Wayne Lehto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to hold the 2006 Annual meeting in Wyoming on August 18-20, 2006. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Wyoming said it will probably be in Cheyenne.

### **2005 District Player Development Camp Report**

Charles reported on this year's camp. Al distributed statistics.

### **2006 District Player Development Camp**

The facility in Salt Lake City was approached for a deal if we commit to another three years. Fees will be the same as the last two years at \$200 per ice hour. The committee recommends Salt Lake as the camp location for the next three years. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to hold the 2006 Player Development Camp May 3-7, 2006 in Salt Lake City and in 2007 and 2008. Wayne Lehto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kathy Bryant's official report on the Girls High Performance camp had not been received, but it was not as successful as previous years. Because there are several higher level camps being held at the same time, this year's format was changed to gear to a lower level of players, and was not used as the Chicago Showcase team selection. It is recommended that a committee be appointed to formulate the future of the girls' camps. Al Bloomer will chair the committee with Bruce Karinen, Jon Brooks, Shelley Portoff, Donnalee Jerome and someone from CO. The Chicago Showcase is an excellent opportunity for the girls and the District encourages participation. But it is not a player development program. It is now the responsibility of the affiliate presidents to work out how it will be handled. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to appoint a Girls' Chicago Showcase Committee. Darin Worden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jon Brooks will be the Chairman with Bryan Irey, Darin Worden, Jill Day and someone from Texas.

Bruce Karinen asked if there was interest in creating a Tier II girls tournament to give more opportunity to recreational level players. The consensus was yes. Jon Brooks suggested to piggy back on the tier tournament for the girls. Bruce Karinen will make a presentation in January.

### **2004-05 District Grant Reports**

Bruce handed out the report on last year's grants. Kelly Grover reported on the logo, tournament kit and banner grants. The sled hockey grant was not used last year.

### **2005-06 District Grant Requests**

Bob McMann requested \$2500 for a lap top and desk top computer for the Referee in Chief. The USA Hockey budget will not cover hardware. Charles made a **MOTION** to approve \$1500 with the understanding that Bob

McMann will exhaust all resources with USA Hockey funding first. Darin Worden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kelly Grover requested a \$500 Tournament Kit Grant and a \$1000 grant to provide banners for all District tournaments this year. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to allocate \$5000 for uniform banners and trophies for winning teams. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kelly will research the cost and present in the January meeting.

### **005-06 Proposed Budget**

Bruce Karinen reported on the actual income and expense for 2004-05 and presented the 2005-06 proposed budget. He noted that the fee income has been changed from team to individual fees. The following items were added to the printed proposal from actions taken in this meeting: 1) Add \$500 to secretary travel, 2) Add \$300 for printing the Policies & Procedure manual, 3) Add \$1000 for OK to the meeting travel expense subsidy, and 4) Add \$6500 for approved grants. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed budget as amended. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to approve an additional \$150 to ID for last year's travel. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Policy & Procedure Manual**

Bruce Bekkedahl made a **MOTION** for the Policy & Procedure Manual to be updated, printed, and distributed annually. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** that changes made in the August meeting are made effective the next January meeting and have the Policy & Procedure Manual printed for distribution each January meeting. Bruce Bekkedahl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Wayne Lehto be the responsible party for the manual updates and distribution. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Charles Callaway has received a request from Guy Leatherwood to be the RMD representative for disabled hockey. Kelly Grover is the current representative. Mr. Leatherwood will be invited to the Houston meeting to address the request.

### **Elections**

Charles Callaway nominated **Bryan Irely** for **Chairman** of the Council of Presidents. Jon Brooks seconded nomination. There were no other nominations and Bryan Irely was elected unanimously. Charles Callaway nominated **Bruce Bekkedahl** as **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman** of the Chairman of Council of Presidents. Wayne Lehto seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Bruce Bekkedahl was elected unanimously. Charles Callaway nominated **Jon Brooks** as **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman** of the Council of Presidents. Chris Kenney seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and Jon Brooks was elected unanimously.

### **ODE**

Kelly Grover read his Ode to the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Wayne Lehto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day  
RMD Secretary

### **Action Items**

Proposal for Referee Subsidy for District Tournaments  
Tier II girls tournament  
District Tournament Banners and Trophies