



## **PNAHA SPRING/SUMMER MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009**

COAST WENATCHEE CENTER HOTEL & WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER  
201 North Wenatchee Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 662-4411

The meeting was called to order by President, Dru Hammond at 9:11a.m.

### **1. SIGN-IN**

- Sign-in sheets distributed and on official record with these minutes. Voting delegate sign-in sheet completed with the following delegates present: PNAHA President – Dru Hammond; PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dave Bittenbender; PNAHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Glen Triner; PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer – Katie Kusske.
- Member Organizations; EYH – Jeff Theiler, IEAHA – David Nieuwenhuis; KVHA – Les Grauer; KCAH – Floyd Johnson; MLYHA – Lyle Stoltman; PSAHA – Stephani Ebenstiner; SJR – Jack Chaney; SKAHA – Doug Kirton; SAYHA – Rob Azevedo; TCAHA – Randy Smith; WAHA – Rob Cline; WCAHA – Mark Smith; WWFHA – Shirley Williamson; YAHA – Paul Kelley.
- Member Teams Not Represented – WCHC.
- Member Organizations Not Represented – WWHA.

### **2. INTRODUCTIONS**

- Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Board of Directors and guests.

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF CURRENT MEMBERS – DAVE BITTENBENDER**

- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) announced that there is only one Member Organization that hasn't turned in their required legal documents along with their updated membership information to PNAHA.

### **4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- Reading of the January 3, 2009 minutes. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> VP) motion *[to approve minutes]*, seconded by Rob Azevedo (SAYHA). No discussion. Motion passed.

### **5. NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS (PNAHA PRESIDENT/2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT)**

#### **A. President**

- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) announced that nominations for the position of PNAHA President is open. Dru Hammond nominated for PNAHA President by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA). Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) announced that according to Roberts Rule he will ask three times for anymore nominations for the position of PNAHA President. Motion *[to close nominations]*, by Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA), seconded by Dave Nieuwenhuis (IEAHA). Motion passed. Motion *[to accept by acclamation]* by Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer), seconded by Rob Azevedo (SPO). Motion passed.

#### **B. 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President**

- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President) announced that nominations for the position of PNAHA 2nd Vice President is now open. Glen Triner nominated for PNAHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President by Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA). Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1st Vice President) asked three times for anymore nominations for the position of PNAHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Motion *[to close nominations]*, by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA), seconded by Jack Chaney (SJR). Motion passed. Motion *[to accept by acclamation]* by Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer), seconded by Rob Azevedo (SPO). Motion passed.

### **6. TREASURER REPORT – KATIE KUSSKE**

- Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) presented copies of the original September through December 2008 Treasurer Report and a corrected version of that report to be reviewed by the PNAHA Board of Directors. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) had noted the expense category of "Meetings – Motels" also had "Food" listed as well when they both should be totaled as one expense listed as "Meetings – Motels". It was asked to be corrected and presented at the PNAHA Spring/Summer meeting in June. Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) then presented copies and reviewed the January 1, 2009 through May 31, 2009 Treasurer's report to the PNAHA Board of Directors. The balance as of May 31, 2009 is \$54,196.49. Motion *[to approve the January 1, 2009*

*through May 31, 2009 Treasurer's Report]* by Mark Smith (WCAHA), seconded by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA). No discussion. Motion passed.

- PNAHA President, Dru Hammond thanked everyone for getting in their required membership documents that are due annually (copies of By-Laws, Constitution, Rules & Regulations) to Katie and was sure that Inland Empire would get theirs done as well.

#### **7. SPECIAL GUESTS – DRU HAMMOND**

- PNAHA President, Dru Hammond introduced Teka parks, Mike Lesky, Steve Stevens and Donna Kaufman.

#### **8. AWARDS (PACIFIC DISTRICT AND USA HOCKEY NEW LEADER) – DRU HAMMOND**

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) presented Jason Michelbook (PNAHA Supervisor-of-Officials, East Side) the “USA Hockey Pacific District Pete Anderson Referee of the Year” award. Each year the District presents this award as voted on by the Presidents of the Affiliates and then is presented to an outstanding Referee in the District.
- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) presented Rob Azevedo (SAYHA) the “USA Hockey New Leader Award.” The purpose of this award is to recognize and motivate young energetic talent to work within an affiliate to grow and improve hockey. This award is for contributions in growing or improving hockey within the affiliate or for being a very positive person in performing their affiliate activities. Rob Azevedo is a long standing member of the Spokane Hockey Association; he has served in a variety of positions over the past 16 years supporting youth hockey as well as other youth and adult sports. He has recently stepped up for the Spokane Americans Youth Hockey Association to serve as their PNAHA Representative and as their Treasurer as well.
- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) presented Teka Parks (Evaluator at PNAHA Girls Development Camp) with an Honorable Mention award as a New Leader. Teka Parks is a new and upcoming New Leader for the PNAHA Affiliate. When contacted for assistance by the PNAHA Girls/Women Director she sprang into action. She is well versed in hockey and she shows a true commitment to the growth of female hockey.
- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) presented Mike Lesky (WAHA) with an Honorable Mention Award. Mike Lesky has been the Wenatchee point-of-contact with PNAHA for the Screening Program along with being responsible for bringing the PNAHA Development Camp to the Wenatchee area in 2009 and for 2010. Mike made sure this event ran smooth for all the skating participants, their families, the evaluators and the PNAHA Officers. Mike is always willing to step forward to volunteer for PNAHA in one way or another.

#### **9. NEW MEMBERSHIP-DAVE BITTENBENDER**

- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) reminded everyone that back at the June 21, 2008 PNAHA meeting Kyle Wintermute who is with the Pierce County Minor Hockey Association requested an application for Member Organization status as did West Coast. Since then West Coast has requested to put their application on hold until the January 2010 meeting. Pierce County Minor Hockey Association has completed their application. Kyle Wintermute explained they are planning for 4 mite age teams, 2 squirt age teams and may be having one peewee age team. They are hoping to add about 30 more skaters to their Hockey 101 Program that has gear available to rent. Currently there are 50 skaters registered in that program. Motion [*to accept the membership Pierce County Minor Hockey Association membership application*] by Shirley Williamson (WWFHA), seconded by Jeff Theiler (EYH). Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) asked if there was any discussion and Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) asked if there are concerns on ice availability with the renovations going on. Kyle Wintermute (PCMHA) said that the project has been put on hold for the time being. The arena schedule is being kept the same for now. Their intent is to operate as a recreational hockey program. They are a Non-profit Organization. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) asked who their board members are. Kyle Wintermute (PCMHA) replied that he is on the Board and all the other positions are filled in by county employees. No further discussion. Motion passed. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) welcomed the Pierce County Minor Hockey Association to PNAHA.

#### **10. DISCUSSION REGARDING “HOST ASSOCIATIONS” AND “ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY” – DRU HAMMOND AND DAVE BITTENBENDER**

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) stated that there is no such classification as “host association” in PNAHA. Documents that had been given to her were passed out for everyone as an example to review

showing what is being presented to families that are being recruited to participate on non-approved independent teams. These documents demonstrate that organizers of these non-approved independent teams have been proposing illegal arrangements with approved PNAHA associations to list them as their "Host Association." Some of the responsibilities described included the requirement to issue of Travel Permits and Travel Permit waivers for Squirt teams. As an approved PNAHA Member Organization you cannot provide waivers to teams that circumvent PNAHA Rules & Regulations and/or Policies that have been voted on and approved by the PNAHA Board of Directors. If a case of this nature was to be investigated and it was found that a Member Organization issued such a waiver then that Member Organization could be found "not in good standing" with PNAHA. Serious sanctions could result including the potential dissolution of membership with PNAHA and USA Hockey. Ed Imes (Pacific District Associate Registrar) issues blanket travel permits to approved PNAHA Member Organizations/Member Teams each season. It is not allowed to submit one of these permits for a non-approved member team under your association banner. These independent teams must apply for membership within PNAHA. Once they are approved they will be provided with Travel Permits by Ed. It was further clarified that based on lengthy recent dialog with USA Hockey and USA Hockey Legal Counsel that if a PNAHA Member Organization registers a team, they belong to the Member Organization and must follow the same procedures as all members, teams and coaching personnel do. They are also obligated to adhere to PNAHA and USA Hockey governing documents as a condition of membership that grants them access to USA Hockey and its benefits and privileges. Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) said that he is working already on Discipline issues regarding some coaches that appear to have violated a number of Rules & Regulations and Policies of PNAHA and USA Hockey. It recently came to our attention that a team called The Seattle Starz was operating out of Washington. PNAHA has issued a letter to the organizers of the Seattle Starz and offered to assist them in the proper method of registering so that they can legally operate within PNAHA. They have received this notification as indicated by the signed return receipt, however, it appears that despite our best efforts to work with this group they choose not to cooperate. To date, they have not contacted PNAHA. Dru Hammond, PNAHA notified USA Hockey of this non-compliance and USA Hockey sent notification to Canada regarding the status of this team. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) has notified all of the associations and member teams within PNAHA of their status as well as our Supervisor of Officials so that they are aware of the current status of the Seattle Starz Organization.

## **11. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **A. Coaching Director - Rob Kaufman**

- **PNAHA Development Camp Update (Wenatchee):** This year we had a good group of Evaluators along with a couple of Goalie Evaluators. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) said that he will touch base with last years Evaluators to see if they can be available again for the 2010 camp. E-mails will be going out to all the association Hockey Directors for their player's names to be looked at. Registration will be closed the week prior to the camp this year as there are too many last minute registrations. Be sure to make sure that your families know that there will not be any exceptions taken. Next years camp is scheduled for the last week of January (January 30-31, 2010) and will be held in Wenatchee again.
- **Pacific District Select Camp Results (Kent):** Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) announced that they are finding most of the top players are from California and Alaska even after showing that their numbers are low. It used to be that seventeen players move on at every age group and now it is only eleven players that move on at every age group. Pacific District sent out a letter regarding the numbers going to camps with concerns that so few players are selected to move on. Expense is becoming a huge impact on who can attend camp and with so few slots available to move on we are starting to see a pattern where top players are choosing not to attend the camp. Discussion followed on the possibility of discontinuing the Pacific District Camp due to expense. The Pacific District Camp is scheduled to be held April 22 - 25, 2010 for birth years 95 and 96; April 30-May 2, 2010 for birth years 93 and 94. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) passed on to Lexi Doner (KVHA) and Les Grauer (KVHA) who were present at the PNAHA meeting how much the District Directors enjoy the Kent Facility and this venue seems to be a perfect fit for their camp.
- **Coaching Clinic Dates:** The Level Four Clinic is being held this year in Las Vegas on August 6 – August 9, 2009. Coaches need to register online for this. At the Midget Tier I and Tier II level

anyone on the bench must have their Level Four coaching credentials. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) said that there is a proposal from USA Hockey that will be discussed in Las Vegas to make it mandatory that coaches can only attend one clinic a year and that waivers will be rare for late comers. Advice is to get their Level One, Two and Three this year as they will be grandfathered in. If coaches are only allowed to obtain one level per season the impact on the smaller associations not having a large volunteer base to draw their coaches from could be significant. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) announced that Doug Kirton (SKAHA) and Glen Triner (PNAHA 2nd Vice President and PNAHA League Commissioner) will be serving as PNAHA Education Coaching Instructors in the future. Their addition will be helpful this year to help with the additional clinics that could be scheduled to compensate for the upcoming changes proposed by USA Hockey.

**B. Supervisor-of-Officials – Jason Michelbook**

- The following individuals are going to Development camps; Steve Walsh-Spokane, Dan Savage-Tacoma, David Tise-Seattle, Thomas Williams-Wenatchee and Galien Brock from Vancouver. Dennis LaRue from Spokane worked the Stanley Cup this year. He was born and raised in Spokane and still makes his home there. This is his 19<sup>th</sup> season in the NHL.

**C. League Commissioner – Glen Triner**

- **2008-2009 League Results:** Glen Triner (PNAHA League Commissioner) thanked everyone for working together this last season in trying the different League format in hopes of easing the financial strains on the traveling skaters and their families. Jack Chaney (SJR) asked that the League take another look at a different tiering process. Glen Triner (PNAHA League Commissioner) will get the committee together to review the process and bring their findings to the PNAHA September 12, 2009 round table meeting for final discussion. Final League results were provided and League champions in each division recognized as follows:
  - Tier II: Midget=Seattle Jr. Admirals; Bantam=Yakima Hawks; Pee Wee=Kent Valley Selects
  - B Division: Midget=Wenatchee Jr. Blades; Bantam=Tri-Cities Jr. Americans
  - Squirt Division: Spokane Jr. Chiefs (Major)
- **League Banner Distribution:** The banners are available for pick up after the meeting adjourns.
- **Preliminary Count of Teams for 2009-2010:** A preliminary count was taken of teams committing to participation in the PNAHA League. Tier I commitments were, Pee Wee=3, Bantam=2, Midget U16=3, Midget U18=1. At the Tier II level the commitments were, Pee Wee=8, Bantam=8, Midget U16=3, Midget U18=4. At the B level, Pee Wee=4, Bantam=4, Midget U16=1, Midget U18=6. In the Squirt Division there are 11 teams committed. The final declaration of teams will be at the September 12, 2009 Annual Fall meeting.
- **Point Streak and Possible League Team Fee:** Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) reviewed the advantages to running Point Streak to track the games, suspensions, penalties, stats and the League. It could also be used for State Tournaments. The vendor is also able to customize the software to deal with tiebreakers. This is advantageous over the USA Hockey Tournament Tool which currently is not programmed to deal with the tiebreakers. PNAHA would have to look at a potential League fee to run this program. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) said that the NORPAC League is already using the Point Streak program, one person, one computer is responsible for all the data input and their customer service has a 24/7 turn around to problems. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) asked if this body is interested in PNAHA looking into this program. Discussion followed with concerns by some being voiced about the volunteer screening process and how that would have to be done outside of the Point Streak programs. It was stated that this would have nothing to do with the volunteer screening process or programs. It was agreed that the program might be useful and many favorable comments were made by those familiar with Point Streak. This issue will be researched some more and be brought back to this body for more discussions on adopting this program in the future.

**D. Girls/Women's Hockey – Shirley Williamson**

- **PNAHA Female Development Camp Update (Wenatchee):** The first PNAHA all Female Development Camp was held the first weekend of February in Wenatchee. The numbers were low with only 23 registrations total, but that was to be expected. The camp was held in Wenatchee,

Washington at the new Home Toyota Center. In order to host an all female event it was necessary to augment the players being evaluated with additional female volunteers to fill out the lines. A big thank you to the women of Wenatchee for their willingness to assist with the camp despite the early morning hours. The following girls listed below advanced to the District Select Camp that was held in May at the Olympic View Arena at Mount Lake Terrace: 92=Carly Butcher; 93=Lexi Bender, Megan Larson, Katelyn Parker and Paula Stephens; 94=Molly Doner, Catherine Etier, Prufence McDougald, Katie Perrine and Naomi Woolfenden; and 95=Alexis Baun, Melanie Doner and Laura Gay.

- The PNAHA Girls Development Camp will be held again in Wenatchee, Washington at the Home Toyota Center February 13-14, 2010.

**E. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Dave Bittenbender**

- **Discipline:** There have been Adult Hockey incidents such as Abuse of Official penalties and what we are finding is that the record keeping for the Adult League is next to nothing. This particular player involved in a recent incident had not been registered with USA Hockey, which as we all know results in zero coverage for all the participants including the on ice officials. The Adult league has suspended this player for two years, but without a paper trail of some kind tracking this suspension is impossible to ensure that it is enforced properly. Each team needs to work better at confirming their players are registered with USA Hockey prior to allowing them to play.
- **Recruiting (Coaching Ethics Guide/Recruiting Complaint Form):** We have had a number of Coaching Ethics violations reported to the Executive Board recently. This is not where you start when addressing Coaching Ethics issues. USA Hockey has a process for handling Coaching Ethic violations and they begin with an informal approach. Coaches have an obligation to be familiar with the Coaching Ethics Code (or as it may be amended from time to time). USA Hockey makes it very clear that a lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct. When USA Hockey participants believe that there may have been an ethical violation by a coach, they are to attempt to resolve the issue by bringing it to the attention of that individual in an informal manner. If an apparent ethical violation is not appropriate for informal resolution or is not resolved properly in that fashion, participants and the association may take further action by (a) contacting the coach's association President or appropriate designee (b) confirm with the coach's association President if there was an attempt for an informal resolution (c) complete an ethical violation form available through the association president or designee.
- How to resolve Coaching Ethics issues is contained in the form on page 2. Also information is in the Coaching Ethics book starting on page 12 on how to resolve issues. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) passed out copies of the "Ethics Code Violation Reporting Form" for everyone to take back to their associations and to let them know that she will be sending these out via e-mail to all the associations for their use as well.

**F. 2nd Vice-President – Glen Triner**

- No Report.

**G. President – Dru Hammond**

- **Pacific District Meeting Report:** The Pacific District Meeting was held May 15-17, 2009 in Seattle. Dru (PNAHA President) reported that she was thrilled to state that six PNAHA associations chose to put in for the Robert Freeland Grant that was implemented by Pacific District to grow hockey. Of the six applications for the grant submitted, five grants were awarded. The grants went to: Moses Lake Youth Hockey Association, Pierce County Minor Hockey League, Puget Sound Amateur Hockey Association, Spokane Americans Youth Hockey Association and Western Washington Female Hockey Association.
- **Annual Congress:** The current tag up rules will remain in place. The three different options regarding Tag Up were placed in a block to be voted down. None of the Pacific District Directors took action to bring discussion up on the floor. In the Pacific District meeting held prior to the USA Hockey Board of Directors meeting it was expressed by all affiliates with the exception of Alaska that they wanted the old tag up rule reinstated. Steve Stevens (Pacific District Referee-in-Chief) stated that the PNAHA President did her best to represent PNAHA in this matter and fought hard to bring tag up for consideration.

- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) indicated that there is a proposal for consideration presented by the Coaches Section that all coaches must progress through USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program starting at Level 1 and must continue their education each year until they achieve Level 3. A coach may attend only one clinic per year. They do intend to develop a grandfather clause that for coaches who enrolled in the Coaching Education Program prior to July 1, 2010 that their entry into the program will be at their current certification level. She stressed the importance of encouraging all coaches to sign up for all three CEP Levels this year. She indicated that due to our size that this could place a real strain on small associations in future years. She has communicated to Rob, Doug and Glen that we need to make available additional classes this year if needed to process through as many coaches as possible through Level 3 to ensure adequate numbers of coaches are trained to handle our Tier I and Tier II teams.
- The Hockey Education Program that was developed collaboratively by Minnesota Hockey and the Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine Center was shared with the PNAHA Board. This Program was developed to address the issues in youth hockey of diminishing skill development, unhealthy coaching priorities, and ever-increasing incidents of sports rage and improper behavior by over-aggressive parents, coaches, and players. It was noted that this group was able to obtain corporate sponsorship in order to print this useful guide. What Dru found interesting when reviewing this book was that it was written by Frank L. Small, PH.D., and Ronald E. Smith, PH.D from the University of Washington. Rick Ellison (SJR) mentioned that he had reviewed this book and highly recommended it to others and encouraged them to at least request a copy of it for their Board of Directors to review.
- Town hall meetings touched on the American Development Model or ADM. Ken Martel, Director of the ADM, led the discussion that was based on developing athletes' rather than just hockey players, and discussed integrating training with the biological development of the child to ensure that kids are learning the skills they need to succeed within an optimal window of trainability. Now that the groundwork has been created, they will be creating sample on and off-ice practices that are age-group specific. Promotion and education materials and a timeline will be available soon for high performance clubs. Dru spoke with Kevin McLaughlin and Jim Johannson about considering a special trip out to PNANA to help educate all association administrators about these programs. She is looking for a time frame that will work well for everyone as administrators. Perhaps in October once the season has begun.
- Different ways to grow hockey were discussed and they proved that it doesn't have to be that difficult. It is recommended that you set a goal to retain more of your players and focus on setting a reasonable goal of attracting two players per age division. If you retain two-three players each year and gain a similar number it doesn't take long to see our numbers grow and to feel successful.
- Hockey Weekend Across America is scheduled for January 29-31, 2010. Everyone was encouraged to see if you can negotiate a "try hockey for free" session on Saturday, January 30. The focus is on growing the game. Those rinks participating in this event will be required to hold the free open skate at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The final goal of this event is to get as many first-time players on the ice and later transition these players into local associations on a full-time basis. Examples of what other associations have found to be successful were shared at the workshop. Things like "one goal equipment" and partnering with major junior and professional teams to grow the sport were shared. The membership development department will offer a clearinghouse for some of the great programs that associations are using to attract more players. Be sure to go to [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) to explore the activities you could utilize to bring attention to your programs.
- A format for Tier I and Tier II Girls Hockey was presented at the Youth Council. A copy was provided to the Girls/Women's Director Shirley Williamson to review.
- Guidance for suspension hearings was distributed to help associations through the process. PNAHA will forward that information to everyone.
- There will not be a District Tournament at the Tier II level next year. State Tier II winners will go directly to National. Youth and Girls' division tournaments will be held April 7-11, 2010. PNAHA has committed one team at each level for Nationals at the Tier II level. Initially there were concerns about the U16 Division, but after polling the PNAHA Directors it was obvious that

PNAHA would have at least one U16 Tier II team that would be able to attend. PNAHA will participate in the 3A conference. Those participating in our conference are North Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, Virginia, Florida, New Hampshire, Maine, and Texas. The National Tournament venues are as follows: 12U will be held in Reston, Virginia and hosted by the Reston Raiders Hockey Club; 14U will be held in Wayne, New Jersey and hosted by the New Jersey Youth Hockey League; 16U will be held in West Chester, Pennsylvania and hosted by the Delaware Valley Hockey League; 18U will be held in Rochester, New York and hosted by the Rochester Youth Hockey Alliance.

- The Wenatchee Wild of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) will host the 2010 Robertson Cup.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

- No Reports

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

- **Spring/Summer Teams:** Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) explained that Spring/Summer teams are considered informal teams. However, it is the expectation of USA Hockey that these players that come together for Spring/Summer play are claimed and rostered by an approved Member Organization within PNAHA. If these teams do not do this they are not afforded the benefits they are entitled to by USA Hockey. Furthermore, they negate the benefits other USA Hockey members are entitled to should they engage in any type of competition. This also impacts the referees that officiate these games. The rules that apply during the regular season apply to these teams as well. It is Dru's hope to bring Rae Briggie out here in January to touch on this issue and to help clarify the expectations of USA Hockey when forming Spring/Summer teams. Rob Kaufman (PNAHA Coaching Director) said that he has seen in the past how Spring/Summer teams are at times nothing but a recruiting tool which hurts all local associations. It was noted that it is not fair to suggest that all Spring/Summer teams are formed with these intentions. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) asked aren't releases required for players going to different associations to play Spring/Summer teams. Technically, if PNAHA rules were followed exactly then the answer to this question would be yes. Once again, since these teams have been viewed as informal in the past, this has not always been the case. This was followed by additional discussions on releases not being required in the past and should they be now? However, it was noted that perhaps it is time to look at Spring/Summer teams a bit closer. How does the new way that USA Hockey registers players impact Spring/Summer teams? How many of these teams are formed in the spring? What additional restrictions and/or rules do local associations have in place currently to manage these teams? It appears that some associations have guidelines in place to deal with these teams, yet others don't. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) explained that USA Hockey requires the process for all associations to roster their players for Spring/Summer teams. Rick Ellison (SJR) explained that Spring/Summer hockey is a huge liability for arena owners. The associations still need to have background checks done and coaches need to be current with their credential levels and additional insurance needs to be filed aside from USA Hockey.
- **Screening:** This is major screening year; the third year since implementation of the screening process. USA Hockey is negotiating with Lexis Nexus and is looking to launch a new screening program based on the success of Pacific District during the 2010-2011 season. As President, Dru has discussed concerns with the timing of this implementation since most of our volunteers will have just completed their three year screening with Acxiom who at one time was the vendor of choice by USA Hockey. She requested that the committee member pose a question to USA Hockey to see if they are going to grandfather in these screens since they were the original vendor of choice. Dru is of the opinion that it would be inappropriate to impose the additional monetary charge to PNAHA members two years in a row for the screening since Acxiom was the original vendor of choice endorsed by USA Hockey.
- **New Tier I Declaration Date:** At the May Pacific District meeting in Seattle it was voted and approved to move the Tiering declaration date to October 1<sup>st</sup> for Pacific District tiered teams.
- **State Tournament Applications:** Tri-Cities and Spokane have submitted their applications to host tournaments for the upcoming 2009-2010 season. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) asked if there is anyone else that has submitted an application that she might have overlooked or misplaced. She reminded everyone that these applications are due to her by September 1, 2009. She also mentioned that Dustin Beck, Tri-Cities President, had called her and asked if the date could be changed from September 1 to June 1. Dustin was not in attendance for Tri-Cities so she asked the Tri-Cities

- Alternate PNAHA Rep, Randy Smith if he intended to make a motion on Dustin's behalf. Randy Smith (TCAHA) motion [*to move Tournament Application deadline to June 1 to allow rinks more time in scheduling*], seconded by Floyd Johnson (KCAH). Discussion. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) voiced concerns regarding association's volunteer base that run the tournaments. Associations don't know their membership numbers that early and could face the potential not to field that age division any given year. If this would occur the association would not have the volunteers necessary to run the tournament. History has demonstrated that volunteers come from the base involved with that tournament. She stated the earliest that most associations would know their potential numbers would be mid-August. More discussion. Motion defeated.
- **Chicago Showcase Results:** Pam Preisser or Jim McTaggart did not submit a report this year on the team's performance. The PNAHA President will contact them and request a report so she can update everyone at the September meeting.
  - **New Washington State Concussion Law - HB1824:** Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) reviewed HB1824 as it is written. This new law is potentially the country's most rigorous law protecting young athletes from severe brain injury. He spoke with Casey Jorgensen (PNAHA Legal Counsel) regarding this bill, and it is his belief that it will become the standard of care. It is imperative that in cases involving head injury to a hockey player, no one allow someone to continue to play when a concussion is suspected. Now that Washington State has a law on the books regarding the approach to suspected concussions, failure to remove a player from play could place coaches and administrators in potential legal jeopardy. The costs could be huge in regards to a defense court case. Note that in the future it is in your best interest not to allow hockey players to participate until a licensed doctor has cleared him/her to play. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) reminded everyone that she had sent out an e-mail on this subject on May 22, 2009 titled, Zackery Lystedt Law. The law applies to private youth associations who use public facilities. While most of our rinks are privately owned, the enactment of the law could likely be argued to be the standard that should apply in all youth sports, not just school sports or those played in public venues. In our opinion, public skating facilities are at a risk. A reminder was issued that especially in the summer or if you are not familiar with a team that you need to check your visiting team's credentials showing that their players have insurance.
  - **Rule 14 and Rule 9 Amendments:** Les Grauer (KVHA) made the motion [*to approve the proposal changes that had been sent out to everyone for Rule 14*]. Some brief discussion. The conversation went back and forth on all the changes that have been made recently and how this new proposal would affect the associations. Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) asked if there was a second for the motion that is on the floor, no one responded. Motion defeated for lack of a second.
  - Les Grauer (KVHA) made the motion [*to approve the proposal changes that had been sent out to everyone for PNAHA Rule 9, Player Releases*], seconded by Scott Farrell (SJR). Discussion. Donna Kaufman (Pacific District Director) reminded everyone as to why the PNAHA Rule 9 Player Releases was created. Rick Ellison (SJR) explained that Seattle Junior had a player move to a NORPAC team still owing Seattle Junior money, but it didn't seem to be an issue with the NORPAC League. It seems to only affect NORPAC when a player has moved to a PNAHA team owing NORPAC funds, we need to find a solution that will work for everyone and not just one side of the problem. By keeping the PNAHA Rule 9 Player Releases as written we are protecting associations from finding themselves in the middle of a tug of war over finances that might possibly back fire as well as leaving one of our associations with a bad debt owed. Motion defeated.
  - **Player Development Requirement Proposal (submitted by SJR/SNO):** Scott Farrell (SJR) distributed a revised copy of the PDR. He then described the changes in the revised copy that were minor and reviewed the amended handout. Scott Farrell motion [*to approve the amended Player Development Requirements written by Seattle Jr. Hockey Association and Sno-King Amateur Hockey Association*], seconded by Jeff Theiler (EYH). Discussion. After discussing many issues for and against this proposal and noting there were many questions raised that could not be resolved without further research Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) stated that it appeared to her that there were too many unresolved issues at this time. It appeared to her that until these issues were resolved and the proposal rewritten that a vote on the proposal at this time was premature. Those in attendance agreed with that assessment. Although there is considerable interest at this time, there is a greater need for a committee to be formed and come back with a revised version with issues resolved before a vote is taken. Stephanie Ebenstiner (PSAHA) moved to [*table any further discussion today with a further*



*review at the PNAHA September meeting],* seconded by Floyd Johnson (KCAH). No further discussion. Motion passed.

**14. PNAHA ANNUAL FALL MEETING**

- September 12, 2009 – Wenatchee Coast Hotel & Conference Center

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

- Katie Kusske (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer), [*motion to adjourn*], seconded by Rob Azevedo (SAYHA). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.