



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2015 Spring Meeting
Marriot Hotel - St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Saturday April 18th, 2015

- Meeting called to order at 8:31 AM by Eric Olson, MHOA President. The meeting was opened with a moment of silence honoring Dave Nyquist.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- 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- Eric Olson (Interim)
District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm Present
District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim Present
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski 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-Mike Mannin Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Present
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-John Rice 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, MN District, Prospects Development Coordinator-Skip Trumble Present
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Tod Plackner Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Ryan Swafford Present
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse Present
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present
Data Base Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Present
Guests: John Sparling, Beltline Hockey Referee Association President, Emil Makinen District 12 Official, Kurt Hyster District 6.

Eric asked the group to introduce themselves because of the new faces in the room.

John Sparling recognized Jim Gates for all his service as the District 3 Supervisor of Officials. He will continue to serve as evaluator and skate as an official. Jim's leadership has allowed District 3 Officials to grow and flourish. He is leaving the organization is a great place and we look forward to his continued service.

John Sparling introduced Matt Olsonoski and stated that he is excited to have Matt lead the organization into the future.

Matt Olsonoski provided a brief introduction of himself, stating that he is a product of USA Hockey Development. He stated that he looks forward to serving as the leader of a terrific organization and knows he has big shoes to fill following Jim.

Eric recognized Buzz for his service to the board and stated that Buzz and Paul Moen are the last of the original Founders still serving on the board. Buzz's commitment and dedication to the organization has been remarkable and we all thank him for his service.

1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda with the additions of locker room behavior, fall meeting date, and allowing Joel Wiens from WSI to speak was made by Kavanaugh and seconded by Kemp . 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. Clarification was given regarding Alm serving on the nomination committee for Mooney because Mike was running for office. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kemp and seconded by Moen. The minutes were approved by voice vote.
- WSI- MHOA will partner with WSI to provide performance under gear. WSI is a MN based company and will provide MHOA members a discount on orders. Members will receive free MHOA logos on their orders if ordered within the specified timeline. Details will be emailed to supervisors and distributed to members.

Evaluation- Bruce Carlson

Sharp reduction in evaluations over the year, Bruce believes that the use of the on-line evaluation tool is reducing the numbers. Bruce is requesting to remove any evaluators that have not completed an evaluation in 3 years. Bruce will notify the supervisors of the evaluators being removed. Details regarding numbers will be found in Steve's Tatro's report.

Seminars- Mark Verplaetse, Seminar Coordinator

USA Hockey Officiating Program

Seminars: In Minnesota, we conducted 73 seminars with 2235 attendees. The number of seminars is in line with the number of seminars conducted last year. I expect that we will continue this many seminars in the following year due to the numbers of officials and how geographically dispersed the Minnesota District is.

On-Line Seminars: This past season, USA Hockey has introduced the On-Line Seminar, where all officials are required to participate in On-Line training. This has several advantages and several challenges. First, all officials, across the country, are getting consistent training. The material being viewed is the same as every other official in USA Hockey. This brings some creditability to USA Hockey Officiating Program in that the same message is being delivered to all officials regardless of local. However, this did bring some challenges in conducting our classroom seminars in that some material had to be duplicated in the classroom seminars.

I have been participating in a committee to standardize the classroom seminars across USA Hockey, and we have presented our results to USA Hockey. (see attachment) This will standardize our classroom instruction and complement the online training each official receives.

Another challenge is making sure that every official completes the on-line portion of the seminar. This is very difficult to regulate since it is done on an individual basis. Some numbers:

2276 registered officials in Minnesota in 2014-2015

Level 1 – 810 registered officials, 490 completed online seminar, 320 did not complete the seminar
60% completion rate.

Level 2 – 459 registered officials, 363 completed online seminar, 96 did not complete the seminar
79% completion rate

Level 3 – 920 registered officials, 859 completed online seminar, 61 did not complete the seminar
93% completion rate

Level 4 – 84 registered officials, 83 completed the online seminar, 1 did not complete the seminar requirements. There was a 99% completion rate.

It is alarming that 40% of the registered level 1 officials did not complete the online portion. I know that we stressed this in our seminars, but perhaps we did not stress this enough. I feel

that because 320 level 1 officials did not complete the registration requirements, will result in few returnees for next year. I believe that recruitment is on our agenda.

Out of 2276 registered officials, we effectively had 1790 complete the registration requirements or 79%.

Closed book testing: our goal is to have everyone pass their respective closed book exams. This is about rule knowledge. I don't think that it is too much to ask that our officials know the rules. I am a little alarmed at our pass rate for the closed book exams, particularly Level 3 where we had a 70% or better pass rate the past 3 years. Some numbers:

Level 2: 459 registered officials, 385 passed, 74 failed 84% passed

Level 3: 920 registered officials, 464 passed, 456 failed 51.5% passed

Level 4: 84 registered officials, 41 passed, 43 failed 49% passed (does not include Junior camps)

I cannot say that I have a reason the pass rate for the closed book exams. I wish it were better.

2015 seminars: Please lock down your seminar requirements, dates and times, as soon as possible and provide them to me. All seminars must be entered into the USA Hockey system prior to August 1. I'll enter them as soon as I am allowed. I'll prepare seminar materials over the next few months and hope to have ready by our fall meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Verplaetse, Seminar Coordinator

Board had extensive conversations regarding the on-line seminars and that only 60% of level 1 officials completed the entire process. The board is committed to addressing the issue and improving the completion rate. Mark provided a draft schedule for the fall seminars and after the Annual Congress in Colorado he will be distributing materials.

Mark thanked the board for all their support during a difficult time in his life. He is very appreciative of the support from so many officials.

Treasurer-Eric Olson (Interim Treasurer)

Eric distributed the Profit Loss and balance sheet to the board. State Tournament checks have been paid along with Great 8 Festival. Discussion regarding the MHOA Men's and Women's Camp and the budgets assigned to the camps. Instructors should receive pay for one round trip mileage unless approval is received from the camp director.

501 status was discussed, board members urged the new treasurer to make this a priority.

Motion to accept Treasurers Report by Kavanaugh and seconded by Thorsheim.

State Tournament Reports:

- **Jr. Gold A/B/16U: John Sparling**

JGA: The championship game was suspended due to power outage at the arena. The game was played the next day and there was 7 overtimes. The game ended on a power play goal by Edina.

Well managed tournament, Wayzata district did a nice job facilitating the 3 level tournament. Scheduling the officials is difficult because of the condensed the schedule. JGA crews stayed with the JGA tournament, scheduling needed to take into account the rest of the officials. District 6 and 10 crews did a nice job and that it was great to see high quality officials from across the state. There was a match penalty during the tournament. Dennis Alm assisted in the supervision of the tournament. Fan video captured the interaction with the coach and referee. The language used by the parents was picked up by the audio and it was extremely profane.

Discussion involved the use of more crews from around the metro area. 7 crews from District 3 were used along with crews from District 6 and 10. Attendance for the event was outstanding.

- **Bantam AA & A:**

Held at the Heritage Center which has two sheets of ice, the complex was ideal. The tournaments went smoothly and the officials did an outstanding job.

Bantam AA in Duluth: D12-Tod Plackner, Mike Misner, Jace Louma (Cons.) D11-Jeremy Klobuchar, Lucas Lindstrom, Jestina Vichorek(3rd) D16-Aaron Storey, Reid Huttunen, Jerry Pieper(Champ.)

Bantam A in Duluth: D11-Brittney Berning, Cory Oestreich, Alan Van Loon (Cons) D6-Joe Oberg, Ben Richter, Bryan Orlenko (3rd) D5-Mickey Moran, Michael Kephart, Robert Beckl (Champ.)

- **Bantam B and PeeWee B:**

Rochester: Rochester Sports Commission paid for the rooms and that is greatly appreciated. Dave supported the tournament. Two sites were used. One parent complaint regarding during the tournament that needed to be managed. Several crews were used from around the district. Ryan assigned multiple crews to the tournament.

- **PeeWee AA/A: Woodbury AA Lakeville A**

Skip helped at Lakeville. D8 used an extra crew on Friday and Saturday and this went very well. Crews did a great job at all levels. Lakeville: no issues, hospitality room was great and the officials appreciated the outstanding treatment.

- **Girls 19U B: District 2**

5 games and District 2 worked all five games.

- **Girls 14U A: District 2**

Anoka played Edina Green in the championship game. Edina Green won the game 6-1. One crew had 3 O.T. Games. The games were played at Stillwater and the association did a great job treating the official.

- **Girls 14U B and 12UB:**

New Ulm's facility was first class. 11 officials worked the tournament and officials crossed over between tournaments.

Riverlakes 12U and New Ulm won 14U

- **Girls 12U A&B:**

Ron did a great job scheduling the tournament. Buzz was able to supervise. Host city did a great a job running the tournament.

Discussion: How did it work using local crews at the B level tournaments? Feedback from supervisors that hosted tournaments was positive and felt it was a great way for officials to gain state tournament experience.

- **Minnesota District U18 and U16 Tournament:**

Blaine hosted 4 teams on each side, played to determine who would go to Nationals. 18 officials worked one game each. Jon Sass was used as a Supervisor. Shattuck won the tournament. There was one Match Penalty during the tournament. Level 4 officials were used with the exception of 4 level 3 officials.

Supervisors Reports

- **District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm**

Season went well other than a concern regarding non-sanctioned recreation leagues and supplementary discipline being imposed.

- **District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim**

District 2 officiated 2972 games in 2014-15. That is approximately the same number of games as last year. The coop of Johnson, Como, and North St. Paul cut down the number of games. District 2 and District 8 each worked half of the JCNSP coop games.

District 2 hosted the Girls 14A and 19B State Tournaments. Edina Green soundly defeated Anoka for the 14A Championship. Blaine defeated Edina for the 19B Championship. Mike Mannin was my co-supervisor for the tournaments and he did a great job working with the officials. Everything went very smooth.

The District 2 Board has continued to be progressive. A new document of understanding was approved late last summer. The agreement was a big step towards where we were 3 years ago. Scheduler pay was returned to the previous level. All officials have benefited overall by not paying for the Arbiter and Ref pay. A couple of league game fees were adjusted.

The District 2 Hockey Officials Association has been renamed as the Metro East Hockey Officials Association. The impetus for the change was the branching out from just working District 2 games to the addition of non-District 2 in season and off season games.

District 2 once again utilized the 4 official system for 130 Junior Gold A and B games at the request of the district associations. A compromise was reached on the referee fees after paying the 3 official rate for the 4 official system last year. The system was again lauded by the parents attending those games. Hockey was actually played and the kids had fun. Major penalties are down significantly in games using the 4 official system.

The Evaluation program saw a decrease in evaluations completed this season. Last year all but 5 officials were evaluated. This season approximately a third of the officials were evaluated. Officials at the lower levels and new officials were emphasized. Mentors were utilized for all new officials that actually followed through with certifications.

At the MEHOA Spring Meeting I questioned the ability of our upper level officials to follow USA Hockey on-ice procedures and positioning guidelines versus utilizing high school or college procedures.

The MEHOA needs to add more officials at all levels. In season rosters shrunk due to non-certification of brand new officials, injuries and illness. We were down to less than 100 officials at seasons end after starting with 125.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Thorsheim, District 2 Supervisor of Officials

- **District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski**

80 to 85 officials

4 Regionals

3 new board members out of 5 spots

Fan Conduct will be addressed with District 3 director utilizing a collaborative effort between Beltline Officials Association and District 3.

On Ice officials will be required to report fan conduct to the board and board will take the information to the District 3 Board. A small number of fans are negatively impacting the game.

Officials are always officials and this should be a statewide issue. Avoid making comments about fellow officials publicly. These comments can create an atmosphere where parents feel entitled to use the comments against the officiating crew.

- **District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl**

Season went well on the ice in District 4. There is continued concern over the retention and recruitment of officials. Scott expressed concern over the amount time officials must spend to complete their registration. He continues to encourage officials to apply for state tournaments.

- **District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney**

District 5 Annual Report 2015

Assigning

We assigned officials to 2078 games. We filled a total of 4520 slots.

Post Season

District 5 Officials had a very successful post season. We worked five regional tournaments. We sent a crew to the Bantam A State Tournament in Duluth and to the 12U B & 14U B State Tournament in New Ulm. Mickey Moran (Referee) Michael Kephart & Robert Beckl (Linesmen) officiated the Bantam A state championship game in Duluth and John Manthei and Dawson LaBorde officiated the 12U B state championship game in New Ulm.

Mike Mueller, Kris Moran, Mickey Moran, Robert Beckl, Shelby Kirshbaum and Brittney Berning all skated at a USA Hockey National Tournament.

Mentoring/Evaluation

Our mentor/evaluation program remains very strong and continues to improve each season. Rick Nelson has in charge of this program for three seasons. Rick still cannot access the on line evaluation system.

We utilize a few tournaments to do most of our evaluations.

We to continue to promote our officials to the highest level as their abilities will allow .

Officials of The Year

The District 5 Officials of The Year attend the St. Cloud State Huskies vs. Denver Pioneers game on March 7. The Director of Officiating for the NCHC, Don Adam, once again allowed our officials complete access to the on ice officials working the game. They met before and after the game. The NCHC crew spent as much time as possible answering the D5 official's questions and they could not have been more accommodating. Scott Oeffling and the Bernick's Company donated their suite for the game that evening, thank you to Scott and the Bernick's Company. The NCHC Officials were Brandon Polich, Jarrod Ragusin, Dan Dreger, and Sterling Egan. The District 5 Officials were Nick Klinkhammer (level 1), Brad Reuter & Allison McGraw (level 2), and Kendall Glaser (level3).

Game Incident Reports

We had 36 game reports this is down from last season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Mooney
Supervisor of Officials D5 MN Hockey

- **District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp**

April 18, 2015

State Tournament Report

Was guest supervisor in Rochester for the Pee Wee B State Tournament. Games for all three days were pre-assigned to a number of different officials. Utilizing USA Hockey mechanics (line change procedures @ 2 man system)

Game Totals

- 4447 district games
 - Scrimmages – 692
 - Tournaments – 1885
 - League – 1870

(181 additional games from 2013-14)

- We are not suffering from lack of officials, we were close to 200 officials on the roster again this year
- Jonathan Morrison did some mentoring with our up and coming officials
- I tracked the incident reports for the district
- PAA Regions @ New Prague
- 12UA & 12UB Regions @ Victoria

Bill Leslie Fund Update

- Fund has been reconciled to September, 2014. I now have a detailed description of deposits and withdrawals.
- Form available for officials to request reimbursement funds. Please direct any inquiries regarding a possible reimbursement to website. To date have not received any requests.
- Golf Tournament (pass out flier-please encourage your associations to participate)
- District 6 golf tournament – June 12th @ Stonebrooke (see flyer for details)

Game Reports

109 game reports received thru District 6

MHOA CLOTHING INVENTORY

Listed below is our current inventory as of 8/29/2013:

INSTRUCTORS POLO SHIRTS

<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LARGE</u>	<u>X LARGE</u>	<u>XX LARGE</u>	<u>XXX LARGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
22	7	15	9	3	4/28/11
22	5	12	7	3	4/18/12
21	2	10	6	3	8/18/13
21	2	8	6	2	8/27/13

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21	0	7	4	2	8/29/13
20	0	6	4	2	4/30/14

FLEECE WARMUP PULLOVERS/FRONT ZIP

<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LARGE</u>	<u>X LARGE</u>	<u>XX LARGE</u>	<u>XXX LARGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
13	5	2	4	0	4/28/11
13	1	0	2	0	4/18/12
12	1	0	2	0	4/20/12
12	0	0	1	0	9/14/12
10	0/8	0/10	1/8	0/8	6/26/13
8	0/8	0/10	1/8	0/8	8/12/13
7	0/5	0/9	0/8	0/8	8/18/13
7	0/3	0/6	0/8	0/8	8/27/13
7	0/0	0/6	0/6	0/8	8/29/13
5	0/0	0/0	0/5	0/8	4/30/14
5	0/4	0/4	0/5	0/8	12/10/14

TAN MHOA SHIRTS

<u>SMALL</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LARGE</u>	<u>X LARGE</u>	<u>XX LARGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
4	0	11	13	0	4/28/11
4	0	10	12	0	4/18/12
4	0	9	11	0	4/20/12
4	0	9	8	0	8/27/13
4	0	9	7	0	4/30/30

BLUE MHOA VESTS

<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LARGE</u>	<u>X LARGE</u>	<u>XX LARGE</u>	<u>XXX LARGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
0	13	0	0	1	4/28/11
0	6	0	0	0	4/18/12
0	6	0	0	0	4/30/14

GRAY MHOA CAMP T-SHIRTS

<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LARGE</u>	<u>X LARGE</u>	<u>XX LARGE</u>	<u>XXX LARGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
12	12	12	6	0	4/28/11
6	6	12	6	9	5/1/11
6	6	12	6	9	4/18/12
5	1	6	6	9	5/19/12
5	1	6	6	0	4/30/14

- **District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen:**

This season we had great concerns on the passing of the Level 3 closed book exam. We had 82 officials fail this exam. I fully understand officials should know the rules, but this seems to be a bigger issue than rule knowledge. I also know this was not just a District 8 problem. Sort of makes people wonder how so many officials within the same seminar received perfect scores. Next season we plan on holding a practice session prior to the seminar for level 3 officials.

District 8 held two State Tournaments. The Pee Wee AA Tournament was held in Woodbury. It was a great tournament and the officials did an outstanding job. I used two crews from D8 with one crew knowing they would only be working Friday and Saturday and this worked out well. Thank you to D15 and D2 for sending great officials to work with during the tournament.

Big concern for our assigners, we lost a large number of officials over the last two seasons. This makes weekends with tournaments a major headache. I am sure we will be losing more this coming season to retirement. The on-line seminars, plus attending a seminar, taking the test, and Safesport is not helping the retention of officials. Within a short period of time we could be struggling to fill games. The rule on using Level 3 officials for playoffs, will cause major problems with another season of officials failing the Level 3 test. Many of these officials would rather go to high school or juniors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Moen, District 8 Supervisor

- **District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford**

We have 273 officials
We scheduled over 2892 games
We had over 7024 slots filled

Three officials Sent to National Tournament.
Travis Volkman (Winona)
Tyler Rew (Waseca)
Brian Pikal (Montgomery)

No Match Penaltys

Remain good partners with D4 and D8 for filling games.

Nothing further significant to report (NSTR).

- **District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin**

Over 3900 games

MLK weekend, 415 games

11 officials from outside of District 10 supported the tournament.

92% of the officials received evaluations.

D-10 purchased two ipads and over 80 videos officials

Brandon Taylor Rookie of Year

John Sass Official of the Year

They will attend an NCHC game and meet the officials.

- **District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich-2015 MHOA Spring Meeting District 11 Report**

1) Registered Officials: 2,409 games assigned utilizing 86 officials. (Down from 128 last season). We had to utilize 13 non local officials at various times throughout the season to assign all of our games.

2) Evaluations: 30 officials formally evaluated. (35% of our officials). (Down from 40 last year and 36 in 2013). Due to low numbers, veteran officials who would normally evaluate were skating games and therefore evals were decreased.

3) State Tournaments:

Bantam AA in Duluth: D12-Tod Plackner, Mike Misner, Jace Louma (Cons.) D11-Jeremy Klobuchar, Lucas Lindstrom, Jestina Vichorek(3rd) D16-Aaron Storey, Reid Huttunen, Jerry Pieper(Champ.)

Bantam A in Duluth: D11-Brittney Berning, Cory Oestreich, Alan Van Loon (Cons) D6-Joe Oberg, Ben Richter, Bryan Orlenko (3rd) D5-Mickey Moran, Michael Kephart, Robert Beckl (Champ.)

4) Seminars: 3 seminars (UMD, Cloquet, Two Harbors). All Level 1-2 together and 3 separate. We trained 59 level 1-2 officials and 51 level 3 officials during the 3 seminars. Next season I plan to move the UMD seminar later in the registration season to try to capture more local college students. I also plan to offer a level 3 seminar on a weeknight.

5) Game Reports: Due to email errors from USA Hockey, I was unable to track a total number of GM penalties.

6) Recruitment and Retention: Our number of officials was at a critical level this season. This offseason has seen us already begin recruiting. The following is a list of various strategies for next season:

-Job Fairs at local colleges, newspaper ads, local news and newspaper stories on the lack of sports officials, letters to HS senior hockey players and coaches, letters to parents of registered youth players, personal phone calls to last year's officials to ask for feedback, personal calls/emails to last year's officials who did not complete registration, Email reminders of registration season on August 1st, moving seminar dates later in the season and offering a week night option.

Nick Biondich

D11 Supervisor of Officials

- **District 12 Report: Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh**

District wide about 1,250 games this year. Some communities have good numbers of officials while others are very short staffed. Everyone is struggling with experienced officials who are not eligible for AARP cards! We had an increase in the number of new officials attending a seminar this year; however relatively few actually followed through and became completely registered. Over the summer I plan to do some outreach and work with folks in the communities to achieve better results. This outreach will also include returning officials, some of whom have let their registration lapse.

Overall the season went pretty well. No Match penalties this year.

No state tournaments in D12 this year. Crews sent to 12UA and Bantam AA. Thanks to Emil Makinen for covering for me to help with supervision at the Bantam AA Tournament.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Kavanaugh

- **District 15 Supervisor-John Rice**

There were 3 match penalties for kicking and 1 for inappropriate behavior by a coach. John is working on where and when to place seminars. Logistics of the district make this an important concern.

Hosted two Regional Tournaments and the officials performed well throughout the tournaments. The feedback for both Regionals was positive.

- **District 16 Supervisor-Ron Storey**

Season went well. District director does good job keeping teams focused on playing hockey. Biggest issue is losing officials and not getting new ones to complete registration process. They feel it is too much and I tend to agree with them. I feel USA hockey has gone overboard. In northern districts most aren't doing it for the money, just to help out. Don't want to spend 16-20 hours in classroom and online. Hard to find those who want to do state tournaments. Most want to stay at level 2.

- **South Vice-President: Dennis Alm**

Meeting in January to discussed state tournaments, district play downs, and officials not completing registration requirements.

- **North Vice-President: Buzz Olson**

Thanked Nick, John, Chris, and Ron for their constant professionalism over the years. It has been a great run and it is time for new blood.

- **MN RIC: Steve Tatro *Annual Report 2014-2015 Minnesota District, Officiating Program***

April 14, 2015

Annual Report 2014-2015

Minnesota District, Officiating Program

Registration: 2280 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 1772 completed the registration process. The completion rate decreased to almost 78% from 92% last season. The decrease in completion rate can be attributed to on-line requirements (Safe sport, On-line seminar modules, and Open Book Exam). Minnesota was about 2% better than the national average and this issue is being addressed at a national level. Overall registrants are down 1.1% percent from last season. Nationally the registration rate was down by 1%. While the decrease is low for the state as a whole, certain districts, such as district 11 recognized double digit decreases.

Seminars: Local seminars numbered 73 with 2235 attendees. The increase in attendance is less than 1% from last year. On-line seminar modules have reduced the time each official must spend at an on-site seminar. However, the total training time remains the same as in past years. Because of the on-line seminar modules, we were able to reduce the number of instructors needed to facilitate on line seminars.

Evaluations: With the new web based reporting, we are at about 12% (205) of our completed officials having been formally evaluated this season. This is a decrease in the number of individual officials evaluated from last season of about 50%. I attribute this decrease to evaluators who are now being put back on the ice to cover for the decrease of officials we have been experiencing the past 3 years.

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 end of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

Physical Assaults: There was one "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. This issue was resolved on April 10, 2015. The hearing committee felt this incident should be applied under Rule 601(f)3 because the committee "could not substantiate the infraction was intent to injure." The Junior Gold coach received a 10 game suspension for his actions.

Injured Officials: We had 4 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 5 last season.

Game Reporting: The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems for its inaugural year. Most issues with the system were user generated and resolved very fast. The game reporting system sends alerts to administrators when a player has reached

the threshold for 411 rule of aggressive infractions. Ryan Swafford of district 9 is the Minnesota administrator. The transition process from the old system could not have been achieved without his hard work.

International-College Tournaments: Minnesota officials are well represented in International competition. To date we have 10 officials licensed to work International competition. Nick Bradshaw and Sam Shikowsky worked the NCAA D1 championship game this year. Congratulations to all these officials.

National Tournaments: This year we had 20 officials from Minnesota working National Tournaments. This is 7 more than last year. I was assigned to supervise the Girls Tier 1 Tournament in Green Bay, WI.

Development Camps: One official will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The Men's Regional camp will have 5 officials attending. There is 1 official for the Men's National Camp and 2 officials for the Women's Regional Camp. During the NIT HS tournament, MHOA will again offer a development experience to 6 officials. Game supervision and personalized development programs will be given to these officials. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. To date are 17 applicants for the 12 slots available. This camp is the most popular development program and continues to be the "Gold Standard" for officials to reach the next level of their officiating career. I want to thank MN Hockey for the resources it provides. The MHOA Women's camp is anticipated to be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be held in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl's festival in St Cloud. Also, all of our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girls 16-17 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 10-16). They will have the opportunity to work high level hockey and be supervised during each game. There continues to be an abundance of opportunities for officials to develop and deepen the Minnesota officiating talent pool.

Officiating Development Program: The seventeenth season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every season. This program continues to oversee officiating assignments in the USHL and works closely with Mark Faucette (SPHL) and Chris Allman (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and Minor pro levels of play. Minnesota currently has 50 officials working in this program, an all time high. Our relationship has never been stronger and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials. 26 Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events around the country. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit for the grass root official who serves as the foundation of our officiating ranks.

Education and Project RODEO: Project RODEO (Rebuilding Officiating Development Education Opportunities) will implement phase III. This includes the development of additional officiating

mobile apps that will utilize all of our current educational materials in an electronic format that is easier to access and maximizes the educational benefits of advanced technology.

Summary: Minnesota officiating has some recruitment challenges this coming season. Our leadership remains strong and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to meet that challenge. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2015-2016 season.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief

Discussion:

MN will host a USA National Tournament in Blaine for the 2016 season. Referees will be level 4 and Linesman level 3 or above. Officials will be brought in from around the country. USA hockey will be appointing a new Central District Referee-In –Chief. USA Hockey Annual Congress: One MHOA member will attend with Steve, Eric has expressed interest. MHOA Camp applications were discussed and assigned by the supervisors.

Officials attending summer camps and National Tournaments:

National Tournaments

Alec Almquist Junior T3	Brittney Berning Girls T2	Robert Beckl U16T2
Nick Biondich U18T2	Nolan Bloyer Junior T3	Real Fournier Womens
Michael Gulenchyn Womens	Candy Kirchner Girls T2	Shelby Kirshbaum Girls T1
Josh Lupinek Boys T1	Neil Missling Boys T1	Kristin Moran Girls T2
Michelle Moran Girls T2	Kristine Morrison Girls T2	Michael Mueller U18 T2
Sarma Ozmen Girls T1	Bryan Pikal U14 T2	Matt Radke U14 T2
Tyler Rew U14 T2	Clayton Smith U16 T2	Jestina Vichorek Girls T1
Travis Volkman U16 T2		

Instructor Camp

Ben Kaasa

Mens National Camp

Brian McAvoy

MHOA Mens Camp

Ian Almquist D3 Jonathan Stadler D2

Andrew Bell D4 Taylor Vichorek D11

Tyler Grove D9 Brett Zallek D9

Mens Regional

Justin Esterly

MHOA Model Camp

Mark Cahill

Brandon Koontz D10

Kenton Rauwerdink

Ricco Guzman

John Manthei D5

Aaron Storey

Brandon Linqvist

Aaron Neville D6

Logan Wetekamp

Darren Moser

Steven Olson D6

Anthony Podominick

Joel Omundson

Jessup Pelkey D11

Ben Richter

Ricardo Perez D8

President's Report: Eric Olson

To: MHOA Board

Re: Annual Report

The 2014-2015 Season presented our group with a number of challenges. We lost a long time member and our treasurer, Dave Nyquist unexpectedly. His presence will surely be missed.

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.

There are many challenges that MN Hockey will be facing in the near future. We experienced a decline in officials in the state this year. New and added requirements by USA Hockey may have had an impact in our completion rate as well.

With the new progressive penalties being implemented this year, MHOA switched to the USA Hockey Game Reporting website. After a few hiccups to begin the year, we managed to have game misconduct penalties get routed to the right individuals in each district. I want to thank Ryan Swafford for all his efforts in setting up and maintaining the reporting system.

Thank you to the supervisors for helping out with all of the post season games. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We will continue to rotate crews in the Great 8 tournament and work with the metro supervisors on covering the Advanced games being played in the metro area.

The MODEL Officials Camp in conjunction with the CCM HS NIT Tournament, being held April 23–26 at Plymouth Ice Arena.

I want to thank everyone for their patience with me as the interim treasurer. As of today, all monies owed have been invoiced and all game fees and state tournament expenses have been paid. I will be working with the newly elected treasurer to transition all of the books and information in the coming weeks.

In case I am not re-elected as President of this organization, I wanted to thank all of you for your support throughout the years and it has been an honor to represent this group on the MN Hockey board. I do hope that you will allow me to continue in this role for another term.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully,

Eric Olson

Old Business:

Game Reporting: Ryan explained how the game reporting system is set up within MN. If you are having trouble finding participants expand your search filters. There is trouble with Yahoo email accounts and there was a need to create another email account for a couple of supervisors.

The biggest problem with the incident reporting data base was duplicate reports. There were at least 50 duplicate reports. There was a reduction in reporting, one reason would be not capturing 2+10 penalties.

Ryan will give supervisors a tutorial on how to delete reports at the fall meeting.

Service Award:

Dave Nyquist's Family will be presented the 1st annual MHOA Service Award. Dave's service to hockey officiating and MHOA epitomizes this award. He was a selfless member who gave to so many to better the officiating. He is remembered and missed.

Nominees should remain on the list from year to year. The committee will keep a list and update supervisors as the season begins.

Applicants can be made throughout the year. The committee will continue to update the supervisors on the process for the service award.

Founders Club,

Should the award be renamed to the builders club?

New Business:

State of officiating in MN:

Looking historically at registration, recruitment, and retention it is import to keep the ebs and flow in mind. Although we must be cognizant of the current issues with numbers and continue to improve how we register and retain officials we should remember that we have had these valleys before.

MN Hockey is looking at partnering with local districts to fund grants that will address recruitment and registration. Continue to partner with MN Hockey to address how we can improve the experience of officials in MN.

Role of Supervisors:

Documents were sent out to the supervisors describing the duties of Supervisors.

Appointment of Supervisors:

Discussed how MN Hockey's Bylaws require the District Director to appoint the Supervisor of Officials.

Locker Room Policies:

Working with opposite gender and minor referees, see USA Hockey's Document. Add the document to the webpage. Put under the tab of Locker Room Policy.

A motion to have officers vote in the Spring of 2015 meeting; to include President, V.P. N&S, Treasurer, and Secretary.

There was lengthy discussion on the Bylaws and how there is not a clear determination of whether officers should vote.

The motion passed 7-5. Officers will vote in this Springs Election. (President, North and South V.P., Secretary, and Treasurer)

A motion was made to complete an audit not to exceed \$2,000.00 by Thorsheim and seconded by Kuhl.

Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Dave Kemp made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Rice seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Thul
MHOA Secretary

Elections of officers:

Nomination Committee brought two nominees forward for treasurer. Kurt Hyster and Jeff Swenson. Skip Trumble asked for other nominations three times. No other nominations from the floor.

Kurt Hyster was elected as the new MHOA Treasurer.

Nomination Committee brought two nominees forward for North Vice President. Todd Plackner and Ron Storey

Skip Trumble asked for other nominations three times.

No other nominations were made.

Todd Plackner was elected as the new North Vice President.

Nomination Committee brought two nominees forward for President. Eric Olson and Mike Mooney.

Skip asked for other nominations three times.

No other nominations were made.

Candidates spoke and left the room. Each Supervisor was allowed to make a statement, no comments or questions were allowed following the statement.

Eric was elected as President of MHOA.

Motions to destroy the ballots for the above elections were made and seconded. The ballots were destroyed.

A motion was made by Tatro to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Kemp. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14.