

Dover Youth Hockey Meeting

Minutes Date/Time of Meeting:

1/8/18 at 6:31 PM

Members Present: Jeremy Forest, Marc Behan, Scott Hamel, Craig Croteau, Samantha Grace, Ron Siering, Mike Young (Director of Hockey Operations)

Members Absent: Jolynn Seaver

1. Call to Order:

Member's comments: Any member of the association may raise issue to the BOD at this time.

Speakers are asked to limit comments to five minutes. If more time may needed, please make prior arrangements with the President via any Board member. After this item, the meeting may be closed at any time by motion, second and a majority vote of the board.

Open Parent Meeting:

An opportunity to open the floor up for parent

discussion. Parent questions and comments:

What leagues are DYHA travel teams going to play next year?

As we do every year, the Board is reviewing the pro's and con's of our current league affiliations and assessing whether these are the best options for our teams. Based on parent feedback and our assessment, we continue to feel that the Granite State and Seacoast Leagues are the best options for the Stars travel teams.

There have been some challenges with the New England Premier League where our Granite State Wild teams player. These are particularly significant at the younger age levels (Squirts and Mites). DYHA is in in contact with two alternative leagues in the area that would offer a comparable or superior level of competition for our Wild teams to determine whether these might be options for our Wild teams. Both leagues have stated that their member organizations have the final decision on whether teams are added, and that our geography relative to the teams currently in their league and overall quality of our program would be the primary criteria for making the decision. They are looking to ensure that our teams will be competitive and also that we are neither competing with current league members for players or significantly increasing the amount of drive time teams have for league play.

We anticipate responses soon and will communicate the decision view the program guide when it is published in February as part of announcing 2018-19 tryouts.

So the current Dover Stars will now be the Granite State Wild?

Yes, we all travel teams will play under the same name - Granite State Wild. This is the only change to our current travel team structure. Everything else about these teams will remain the same. We will continue to have age-specific Wild teams (minor and major at each level) and the current Stars teams will continue to be mixed birth year (ie, Peewee 05 & 06).

These structures are based on the leagues in which these teams play. Our current Wild teams play in a birth year specific league (NEPHL) and our Stars teams play in a mixed age leagues

(GSL and Seacoast)

What kind of pressure are we putting on the NHAHA to tighten their ship (ie, holding parity tournament at the start of the year to avoid so much tier movement)

DYHA has not done anything on this front and the concern has not been raised by other organizations at the monthly NHAHA meetings. We do support the idea.

Is DYHA looking at another goalie skills organization for next season? The goalie skills are on synthetic ice, which my player does not like.

A goalie-specific survey was sent out by the Board and will be reviewed by the Program Committee. This will guide a decision to maintain our current arrangement with Puckstoppers, modify the program in some ways to benefit the goalies, or seek an alternative goalie skills provider.

Will tryouts run any differently than the past?

On the whole, tryouts will continue to run as they have in the past. Like with our program offerings, the Board is reviewing any changes that would improve the process for players, parents and coaches, but we are just now beginning that process with the tryouts still 2 months away.

With the change to the Wild logo, will there be patches offered that can be used on existing apparel to cover the 'old' logo, rather than us having to buy new apparel?

The decision to change the logo was prompted by feedback we received from past surveys and the need to replace our current game jerseys (as detailed in the letter that went home a few weeks ago). The ultimate decision to go with a new logo was made by the players, who voted overwhelmingly (75%) for the new logo.

The opportunity to unite our travel teams under one 'brand' and the long-term financial and operational benefits were seen as important to DYHA's future. In considering this change the Board was very aware that families have invested in team apparel. We are looking into the ability to offer a patch that members could use to 'update' their current embroidered apparel (ie, team jackets).

Will there be an email to the house league about try-outs, in case they want to try-out for travel?

Yes. We advertise tryouts in multiple ways (email, Facebook, news story on the DYHA website, flyers, posters, etc.)

One of the house league coaches in attendance also raised the idea of holding an 'information night' for House League players to learn about travel hockey. This had been tried in the past with extremely low attendance (3 parents showing up over the course of 2 scheduled meetings). However, we may attempt to plan a short info session immediately following a House League practice or game.

Who chooses the teams?

Teams are chosen by a committee that includes head coaches (when known) and at least 2 independent evaluators who have no connection to the team/age group. This might include our own coaches from other levels or outside evaluators (high school coaches, for example).

All evaluators are provided with a sheet with player tryout numbers (no names) and rank the players over the course of 2 nights. They then meet to share and compare their rankings and determine the final roster. The Director of Hockey Operations oversees this process to ensure fairness.

2. Reports:

President (Jeremy Forest):

Tuition Late-fee forgiveness:

Ron made a motion to waive a portion (50%) of tuition late fees for two families due to very specific circumstances, under the condition that all fees are paid by 2/28. This is a one-time exception. Marc seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Applications to alternative leagues for Wild teams: Still waiting on final notification

Uniforms: We have narrowed down options to the 3 choices and will be sending out a survey to players to make the final decision.

We are looking to send the uniform order out to bid. Bidders will bid on: Game and Practice Jerseys, Jackets (adult and youth), Socks and Pant Shells. Bids will be reviewed at our next meeting (1/22)

First Shift - We are extending the program 3 more weeks at cost of \$50 per player. The program has been very successful. We have been approached by other parents asking when our next program starts. We will be speaking with Bauer about scheduling this in September 2018, so that participants can then move to House League at the conclusion of the First Shift program, if desired.

Heyliger:

27 teams registered currently, not including DYHA teams. Jeremy is emailing teams from last year that have not yet registered.

Samantha will set up a Sign - up Genius for Heyliger for volunteers (pin table, score box, 50/50, greeter) and board coverage (2 people at all times) and we will send out requests for volunteers.

Vice President (Marc Behan):

Program Committee has been identified: Ray Terrell, Scott Hamel, Marc Behan, Mike Young, Adam Kozlowski, Chris Plummer. They will meet for the firsts time on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7:30pm. The program committee will have recommendations to the board etc. by February 5, 2018

Treasurer (Scott Hamel):

Scott gave his treasurer's report which included the current bank account balance information, remaining AR, and Bingo.

Director of Hockey Operations (Mike Young):

There will be no spring league this season. We have informed Dover Ice Arena so that they are aware that we will not be purchasing ice in April and May.

Other Board Members (Ron/Craig):
no additional business

Next Board meeting Monday, 1/ 22 at 6:30

10:05PM- Meeting Adjourned

