

CHE Annual Meeting Agenda – 2017



Date: Saturday, May 13, 2017
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: AJ Silberman & Co – Indianola, PA
Presiding Officer: David L Fryer Jr, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dave Fryer at 1:04 PM.

Roll call

In Attendance: Cal U Of PA, Fredonia State, Indiana U of PA, Penn State Behrend, Pit-Johnstown, Robert Morris, West Virginia, Carnegie Mellon, Penn State Altoona, Pitt-Greensburg, Saint Vincent, Case Western Reserve, Pitt-Bradford, Saint Francis, Wooster, Navy, Pittsburgh

Missing: CCAC, Allegheny, Edinboro, Buffalo, Delaware, Liberty, Maryland, RIT, West Chester

The Commissioner noted that there is a Women's League conference call scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2017. Those teams were not required to be at this meeting, but three are here: Cal, Pitt, and Navy.

Commissioner requested that all teams review the CHE Contact Sheet and update accordingly.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to wave reading by Cal U, Second Saint Vincent, Vote: Passed Unanimous

Motion to approve minutes by Cal U, Second PSU Altoona, Vote: Passed Unanimous

GENERAL ORDERS

Financial Report

Many teams still owed money, new invoices to come. It was stressed that payments need made in a timely manner. Discussion on when invoice should be sent, potentially semester breaks.

All expenses and invoices have been paid. Current bank balance is \$3,943.

2017-2018 proposed/tentative budget was discussed. Budget is dependent on number of league teams. Playoff expenses and league operating costs are now predictable/static.

Season Review

The Commissioner covered the new teams to the league and the teams that did not return. He reviewed the registration and scheduling processes and stressed that forfeits are still a problem. He recapped the league standings and the tournaments in which our teams participated. The 2017 CHE playoffs were discussed, including the need to review our playoff overtime procedure. The Commissioner then covered the ACHA National/Regional Tournaments, and Tom Lantz (PSA) spoke about the NCHA National Tournament.

Awards

League Champions: Buffalo (W), Cal U of PA (Kaleina Cup and D3 playoffs), Penn State Altoona (O1), Edinboro (O2)

Individual Awards:

- D3 Points Leader – Nate Ropelewski Points Leader (PS-Behrend)
- D3 Playoff MVP – Bob Robison (Cal U Of PA)
- Coach of the Year – Michelle Donlon (Buffalo)
- GM of the Year – Adrienne Baer (Maryland)
- Sportsmanship Award – University of Delaware
- Student Athlete Award and Conference Teams are TBA

National Awards:

- 31 ACHA Academic All-Americans (21 for W2, 8 for M3)
- ACHA W2 Community Service Award – University of Delaware
- ACHA W2 Coach of the Year – Joe Vonakis (Navy)
- ACHA D3 Select Team – Dan Yost (UPJ), Daren Braudis (RMU), and Head Coach Craig Bioni (RMU)

CHE Achievers – the Commissioner announced the creation of this group:

- Charles Kuzniewski, Samuel Kelly, Michael Kaleina, Jamison Roth, Robert McCurdy, Kevin Dumond, Jack McKinnon, Thomas Holowaty, Thomas Harper, William “BJ” DePaoli, Edward Bittner, Justin Berger

Commissioner’s Report

The commissioner spoke on the state of the CHE, focusing on financial stability, growth and expansion, leadership, and governing documents. The commissioner touched on the challenges facing our league today to include: numbers, generation/culture, junior hockey, school support, and personnel. The commissioner talked about the positives, including USA Hockey involvement, overall operations, a new game manual, growth in teams, and the website. Areas for improvement are communication, deadlines/fines, registration, score reporting and forfeits. Sportsmanship overall was a success and only a limited number of issues presented themselves over the course of the season.

Associate Commissioner’s Report

Paul Hebert is now the ACHA President; Michael Walley remains as the Executive Director. ACHA D3 will be doing Computer Rankings. The algorithm will include strength of schedule and max goal differential of 7, with more details to come. Teams will now be able to input home and away games on ACHA website. ACHA Nationals will be heading to either Dallas, Tampa, or Nashville following another year in Columbus

The Rostraver Ice Garden – home of Cal U – won the 2017 Kraft Hockeyville USA contest. Several events will be planned in conjunction.

Old Business

USA Hockey Coaching Clinics are now more important as each ACHA coach should strive to be a Level 3 coach by 2018.

ANNUAL ORDERS

Commissioner’s Election

Motion to open nominations Cal U of PA, second PSU Behrend, Vote Passed: Unanimous

Dave Fryer nominated by Cal U of PA; Fryer accepts the nomination.

Motion to close nominations Cal U of PA, second Robert Morris, Vote Passed Unanimous

Motion to accept Dave Fryer by Robert Morris, second PSU Behrend, Vote Passed Unanimous

Board of Directors Elections

Commissioner nominated Craig Bioni, second by Cal U Of PA

Commissioner nominated Jason Greenway, second by Robert Morris
Associate Commissioner nominated Dave Layman, second Cal U Of PA
Associate Commissioner nominated Ed Maras, second Robert Morris
Motion to accept all four nominations Cal U of PA, second Robert Morris, Vote Passed 3-0-1

Appointment of League Officers

Commissioner nominated Jamison Roth as the Associate Commissioner and Chuck Kuzniewski as the Executive Director. No Discussion, Vote Passed 3-0-1

Membership

Commissioner stated that Gannon, Alfred State, Carnegie Mellon have withdrawn from the league.

The Commissioner stated that Mercyhurst University is the only prospective member for the upcoming season, which would be a women's team. There is a hope that Denison, Pitt D2, and Malone (women) will join in the future.

Discussion on future obligations – must have a school representative sign membership pledge that is not from the team. Discussion on dates for a deposit to ensure teams will be in the league for the upcoming season, as well as some ideas on long-term commitments.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws

The Commissioner presented a draft of new league by-laws. Discussion followed on the layout, contents, and ratification procedure. The Commissioner would like to form a By-Laws Committee. Tom Lantz (PSA) expressed interest; others should email the Commissioner. The Commissioner stated that we will need to create transitional resolutions to properly implement this, and the process may require special meetings.

Areas that the Commissioner highlighted as needing attention: Executive Committee staffing, elected positions vs. appointed positions, Commissioner and Associate Commissioner job duties, new members, and divisional membership.

League Structure

The Commissioner wants to change the nomenclature of the division names. A discussion followed on the need to simplify. The Commissioner proposing to change to Men's Division 3, Men's Division 4, Men's Division 5, Women's Division 2, and Women's Division 3 (future). No one objects to this. Discussion on what the goals of each division are and how they align. Discussion on the breakdown of the teams in each division

League Logo

A modified and updated league logo was unveiled by the Commissioner and discussion on why the logo was simplified.

Discussion on having league logo stickers for helmets. League will mail helmet stickers to all member teams for the 2017-2018 season and a location on the helmet will be designated by each team, though all players for that team must wear logo in same location.

Website

The Commissioner outlined why league will stay with PointStreak as the website provider for another year. The ACHA Webmaster informed us that he will assist Commissioner with "bug fixes." Website focus is to be used for scoring, standings, and registration.

The Commissioner noted that we should have the ability to create free, individual team sites through our league website. This is beneficial to member teams without a site and/or webmaster, if they wish to take advantage. Further discussion on the importance of having a website

Timelines

League Meetings – discussion on hosting an annual meeting in person, different avenues discussed such as Facebook Live, hosting a meeting electronically, and conference calls. Discussion on which meetings to hold in person and which meetings to hold on conference calls and through emails. The general consensus was to hold in-season meetings via conference call and keep the annual meeting in-person. The preseason league operations meetings could be done either way.

Declarations – Long discussion on how to handle this, when to charge down payments, etc. No firm plans announced to be considered in operation manual. Discussion on how to handle new teams and teams that are withdrawing.

Deposits and Dues – Discussion on charging a deposit at playoff time at the 2018 playoffs for the 2018-2019 season, to be explored as an option. Bills to be sent October 1st to allow teams enough to be paid was recommendation from the floor. Discussion on having an annual Deposit Deadline and Annual Dues Deadline to be continued.

Scheduling - Scheduling Matrices to be made available to all divisions for scheduling purposes. Discussion on setting a scheduling deadline and a registration deadline, dates to be announced. Final league game deadline to be February 11th. Discussion on how early to allow scheduling.

Scheduling

Discussion on forfeits and non-league opponents. It was emphasized that it is important to honor commitments. The Commissioner recommended to have contracts for all non-league games.

The Commissioner reminded everyone that: Super Bowl Sunday is February 4, 2018; minimum ice slot is 2.5 hours; and the Official Schedule is the league website.

Cancelations and postponements were discussed. The Commissioner must be contacted prior cancelations and postponements; teams cannot cancel/postpone on their own.

Events

The Associate Commissioner announced upcoming important dates and locations for Empire Classic, East Coast Showdown, and UPJ Showcase.

ACHA D3 All Star Challenge Team was addressed. Discussion on fielding a team, coaching staff, etc. Waiting for determination on location from the ACHA. Information to be sent once information is finalized

Postseason

Discussion on the length of second semester and that the upcoming last day for league play would be Sunday, February 11, 2018. Discussion on makeup weekend and how the process works. Discussion on spring breaks and National Tournaments affecting this. ACHA National Tournament Dates to be announced along with Regional Dates.

Discussion on number of teams per division in playoffs and how to seed. Discussion on developing an overtime procedure to prevent multiple overtime periods (i.e. women's league Delaware vs. Navy).

Challenges of hosting/current sites include: rink availability, central location, number of ice surfaces, and staffing. Discussion on having future supersites and teams bidding to host.

Discussion on Postseason conduct. It has improved from years past, especially with parents, but still has to get better.

Discussion on a league protocol for dress code at playoffs. The Commissioner noted Navy and their uniforms at playoffs was a stark contrast to other teams, who did not represent themselves well in that regard.

Game Procedures

The Commissioner reviewed the protocols and importance of professionalism in our games. Discussion on warm up period length, number of ice resurfacings, length of intermissions, curfews, and running clocks.

The Commissioner addressed staffing for games. An EMT is required for all games. There was no objection to keeping this policy. Tom Holowaty (SVC) stated his support for it.

The Commissioner stated that he would like to adjust the Forfeit Policy. Currently the game is scored 1-0, which still could benefit the forfeiting team and harm the winning team. There was no opposition to adjusting this to 10-0.

The Commissioner reminded everyone that scoresheets must be sent to league office, and the league will continue to seek ways to make this process easier. It is vital that all scores are reported immediately after each game by texting the Commissioner.

Officiating

Commissioner explained what officials are doing to improve and reviewed a few incidents from the past season. There was an open floor for discussion and evaluation. The Commissioner reminded everyone that we are not an “elite level” of hockey, so nor should be our officials. He also said that “we get what we pay for,” so we must consider that our own budgets limit us from getting the very best referees.

The Commissioner reviewed the approved officiating systems. He feels the 2-1 system for the men is working well – we sacrifice a few minor areas (such as offsides) in exchange for having two officials calling penalties. The cost of that system is good for us, and having the fee split among 3 officials (instead of 4) means more money for each official.

The Commissioner expressed the need for our policies to require that each team have an approved scheduler that is truly independent from the team. There was no objection to this. The Commissioner also urged the teams to have a contract with their scheduler, and the Commissioner can assist with this, where needed.

Recruiting

Discussion on the importance of recruiting. Ideas were given on how to succeed at this, including the information provided on the team’s website and the ability for a recruit to submit an interest form through the site. The Commissioner suggested that a league brochure could help, and he listed several recruiting events that members should be aware of.

Wrap-Up

The Commissioner cited important dates, including a scheduling deadline of August 1st and a registration deadline of September 15th.

Summer Goals will be to submit award nominations, complete game scheduling, and submit membership pledges.

Teams interested in individual websites or submitting rules changes should email the Commissioner.