



2023 WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: January 26th, 2023 – 7:00pm

Location: National Conference Center of East Windsor

Meeting Call to order by Glenn Hefferan, President

Meeting Adjourned (Motion by Jay Finnigan & Maureen Thompson-Segal)

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Brian Peca, AAHA Secretary

In Attendance

64 members attended the meeting.

Voting Eligibility

Voting Members – 55

Simple Majority – 28

2/3 Majority – 37

Opening Comments by Glenn Hefferan

- Moment of Silence for June Dorsey & Family, Snider Hockey

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the 2022 in person Annual Meeting were presented. They were distributed electronically via email to directors prior to this meeting.
- A motion by Glenn Hefferan to approve the minutes was made, with a second by Jay Finnigan.
- Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Updates from USA Hockey Winter Meeting:
 - Governance change with the USA Hockey, shifting to a smaller board in a Congress type format. 1/3 of the members are required to be athletes.
- Pilot Projects Update by Gene Palecco (*These are for Tier I Only*)
 - 13U Year Old National Championships will begin next season at Tier 1.
 - 12-Year-olds will no longer be allowed to play up at 14 minor national bound teams.
 - Increase of 2 players at 18U Rosters: 20 Skater & 2 Goalie Rosters

- Vertical Rostering Integration: Anyone in your association can play up to 8 games at a higher level.
- Gene Palecco was appointed Vice Chair of the National Championships for Youth & Girls
- Update of Officer Changes made by the Executive Committee
 - Role of Executive Vice President to be filled by Maureen Thompson-Segal
 - Role of Secretary to be filled by Brian Peca
 - Executive VP & Secretary roles will be on an unexpired term, which will end in 2024. Formal Elections will be for these roles will be made in June.
- Upcoming Events
 - Special Needs program at Prudential Center on February 22nd
 - Flyers Cup Tournament March 6th – March 21st, with State Championships being held in Pittsburgh on March 25th.
 - AAHA hosting 15U Championships at the Ice Vault in Wayne, NJ
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Seminar: The District is urging all clubs & members in the district to participate in the initiative.
- Two New Initiatives from Glenn Hefferan:
 - Rules & Regulations Committee to be created to review all of the district's current rules & regulations for revision. This committee should include members across all leagues.
 - Summit on Girls Hockey: Smaller sized districts have more girls playing hockey than the AAHA. Girls Hockey needs to be addressed in growing the sport throughout the district.

Treasurer's Report

- The Financial Report was distributed prior to the meeting. AAHA Treasurer, Jake Geverd, presented the financial report.
 - Balance sheet was reviewed.
 - PnL documents & Budget was reviewed.
 - Budget is tracking as normal from past seasons.
 - Quebec Tournament & District Events have not taken place yet, thus there will be expected expenses to be added in.
 - Please reach out to Jake Geverd with any questions on the presented documents.
 - Copy of the final audit, done by McCarthy & Company, will be sent out to the membership.
 - District Championship costs have increased and will continue to increase next season. With that, there will be a proposed \$10 fee increase to 10U thru 18U members. There will also likely be 10U event(s) that will need to be budgeted for.
 - Motion to support the \$10 increase fee by Gene Palecco, 2nd by Gary Williams. All favored the proposal without opposition or abstentions.

Vice President's Reports

- Vice President's Winter Meeting reports were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to the meeting.

Officiating Report

- The Officiating Report was distributed prior to the meeting electronically via email. Jim Doyle presented the officiating report.

- NJ Devils & NHL will be holding an officiating seminar for 60-80 new officials on March 18th. Goal is to get the NHL to help with growing the game throughout North America. The hope is these officials will be ready to start officiating in April of this year.
- Current numbers of officials registered this year: 1,975, which is up only a handful from last year.
- USA Hockey Officiating Task Force Update:
 - Issues currently with officiating numbers:
 - **Retention**
 - 50% of officials do not return from their 2nd year of officiating.
 - Each year there is 30% turnover in officials.
 - 60% of our officials have less than 3 years of experience
 - 40% of our officials under the age of 18 are still in training.
 - Of the 28,000 officials in USA Hockey, 14,000 are level 1.
 - **Recruitment**
 - USA Hockey is looking to develop mentor programs in each district
 - Find better ways to work with assignors.
 - Work with officials on cross-ice games
 - **Abuse:** This is still a constant problem with players, coaches & parents/spectators. The culture needs to be changed to help with keeping officials.

Old Business – Legislative Proposals

- **Proposals WM2022-04 thru WM2022-09**
 - **Bylaw proposals will be deferred to Annual Meeting in June**
- **Proposals AM2022-02 and AM2022-08:**
 - Tabled from June 2022 Annual Meeting
 - **Will be moved to committee and ultimately to be defeated**
- **Proposal WM2023-02:**
 - 10% Threshold for Tier II clubs applying for Tier I
 - **To be referred to Rules & Regulations Committee**
- **Proposals WM2023-04 thru WM2023-09:**
 - Calls for eliminating sanctioned leagues
 - Conflict with multiple bylaws and rules
 - **Moved to be Defeated**

Consent Agenda – Proposals for Discussion:

- Motion made by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Maureen Thompson-Segal to proceed with the consent agenda. All approved with no opposition.
- **New Proposal WM2023-01: Proposed by John Geverd**
 - Proposal discusses clubs imposing penalties within their player contracts as it relates to in-season recruiting and player movements.
 - Proposal should be defeated in present form, but the idea of the proposal is good in helping prevent in-season recruiting. The wording can be modified to fit within the current bylaws.
 - **Proposal Unanimously Defeated**

- **New Proposal WM2023-3: Proposed by Pete Rothman**
 - Proposal discusses rejected Tier I Applications and the process & requirements for re-applying in future years.
 - **Motion to be Tabled by the floor and 2nd by Gene Palecco. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **New Proposal WM2023-10: Proposed by Dan May**
 - 16U AAA Exceptional Player Status and increasing the limit to these players on a roster from 1 player to 3 players.
 - **Proposal Unanimously Defeated**
- **New Proposal WM2023-11: Proposed by Glenn Hefferan**
 - Proposal discusses Additional Tier 1 Requirements for 15U, 16U & 18U
 - Proposal needs further time and discussion to iron out, but the subject needs to be addressed in the future.
 - **Motion to be Tabled made by Bill Fox and 2nd by Frank McGady. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **New Proposal WM2023-12: Proposed by Glenn Hefferan**
 - Proposal discusses having each association designate one facility as its home facility. Any additional facilities utilized by that association beyond a 15 mile radius of it's primary facility would need to obtain approval by the AAHA Executive Committee.
 - **Motion to be Tabled made by Jim Doyle, 2nd by Bill Fox. Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business

- Glenn addressed the memo he sent out regarding the future of Tier II Hockey and a potential regional pod setup throughout the district. This would help with the following:
 - Creating an equal path to District and National Championships
 - Putting together a balanced schedule for all clubs.
 - Protect the Clubs in their individual goals while also not interfering with the league they are participating in.
- Glenn emphasized that everyone needs to work together to do what is best for the kids and the clubs.

Next Meeting

The AAHA 2023 Annual Meeting date will take place in the middle of June, with the date and time to be determined.