

New England District

District Meeting

April 13, 2018

Attendees: Chris Washburn (NED), Richard Oliver (NED), Cheri Bonawitz (NED), Bob Larence (RI), Tom Regan (NED), John Cioffi (VT), Keith Barrett (NED), Kevin Cavanaugh (MA), John Tobin (MA) , Maurice Rosales (NED), Gerald Rasmussen (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Paul Comeau (NH), Ray St Pierre (NED)

Meeting start time: 1:00pm

March minutes - Richard Oliver motioned to approved minutes from March conference call. 2nd by John Cioffi. Minutes approved

Player Development Festival discussion (Select 12, 13 Boys & Girls) – proposed schedule handed out by Maurice. Each team will get 3 skill sessions and 2 games are proposed, but could be otherwise. The goal is to make the off ice is as important as the on ice time.

Players will be divided by grid, so the teams would be equally divided by talent – agreed by all.

Each state would need to provide coaches for a team for each age group. The ADM coordinator and his staff should be able to provide staff the skill sessions.

Motion by Jarry, second by Paul to have a development festival for Select 12 & 13 players (boys and girls) in Vermont in March 29-31, 2019. Fee is \$150.00 per player. Potential to net approx. \$18,000.00

Paul advised requested that a budget be put together so we can make a more educated decision.

Pitch to players and parents that this is for development, not like the old festival. John mentioned having some classroom and off-ice training as well. Budget to be put together for the mini festival, and a finalize on the May conference call.

Maurice called the vote: Presidents voted unanimously to approve the concept, if a reasonable budget can be approved.

Discussion of National Tournament At-Large Selection

Questions about how the national committee selected al-large teams for national tournament?

Why NED was not notified?

Kevin Cavanaugh advised the concept of the national tournament was that each of the 12 districts had their teams in the tournament, and then 4 at large bids for the next best 4 teams.

District is looking for better communication to the District Tournament director so that he can notify the affiliates they may need to send strong at-large teams, before the selection is made. What is the selection process, is it transparent?

Keith will bring this up at Youth Council at Annual Congress.

NED Development Camp 2018 Budget discussion

Maurice handed out draft budget that Bill Leidt, Girls Camp Director, for Girls Summer camps. Plan is to have 120 players. Camp fee is \$695.00 per player. Chris noted that on the budget, the payroll expenses will be much higher for the employees. Discussion about raising the fee to \$750.00

Keith handed out budget for Select 14 & 15 camps – based on 102 players at Keene State. Fee is up to \$625.00 which is a \$25.00 increase. Keith reviewed budget. Expenses will be dependent of if we use the rink staff or employment service. If rink staff is used, the budget would be in the black. If the employment service is used, it is budgeted to be in the red.

Motion by Paul to increase the fee to \$650.00, second by Bob. All presidents agreed to rate increase.

Maurice reported that last year the District received about \$4800.00 from USA hockey grant money, which is above what was budgeted.

Keith requested that Select 14 & 15 camp invitations be sent out as soon as possible.

Select Tryout Deadlines to Notify Rosters

Maurice asked that all Select 16/17 players be announced by November 30th each year.

Chris recommended that Select 12/13 players be announced by January 31st of each year

Chris recommended that Select 14/15 players be announced by February 28th of each year

All presidents are in agreement.

Top 40 Camp for 16/17s

Kevin Cavanaugh discussed opportunity of sending top 2 teams (top 40 players) in Select 16/17 NED camp play in the Final 40 camp for MA. This was a weekend event in May.

Keith recommended that we look for 2019 to try doing to 16/17 players only. Tom reported that he felt that we should get the 15s in the process as well, as USA Hockey is looking to evaluate them for NDTP.

Motion to have the Select 16/17 players go to normal evaluation weekend, then the Top 40 would be selected to play in an additional weekend against the Top 40 players from MA in May. Motion made by Jarry and 2nd by Mike Keaney.

All presidents are in agreement.

Midget Tournament

Tom recommended that the Midget Tier I tournaments (15/16/18 age groups) in November be held the same weekend in Marlborough. No objections from anyone. Potentially it would be 4 – 15s, 6-16s, and 6-18's.

Collection of Fees

Chris is looking for consistency in collecting fees for camps will be collected thru the New England website. Link will go live by January 1st.

Paul made a motion, 2nd by Mike Keaney – all presidents approved

League Athletics was purchased by SportEngine. Their 3rd party merchant fee (for TD Bank) will increase our fee by \$250.00, which means our annual fee will become \$700.00. If we stay with League Athletics for merchant services and get rid of TD Bank, there will be no \$250.00 fee.

Motion by Jarry, 2nd by John – to move with League Athletics for merchant services. All presidents approved.

Per John, Middlebury rink is in a Final 4 for Kraft Hockeyville

This session of meeting adjourned at 4:17pm

New England District

District Meeting

April 13, 2018

7:00pm

General Session

Attendees: Mary Turner (CT registrar), Robert Greemore (VT registrar), Sharon Serro-Valente (RI-registrar), Roger Gillies (NH registrar), Sue Hamlin (ME registrar), Bob Larence (RI president), Mike Keaney (ME president), Jarry Rasmussen (CT president), Paul Comeau (NH president), Jeff Thompson (ME Tournament director), Chris Washburn (NED treasurer), Mike McCullough (NED registrar), Richard Oliver (NED director), Keith Barrett (NED director), Cheri Bonawitz (NED director), Michael Hickey (Guest), Ray St Pierre (NED secretary), Maurice Rosales (NED managing director), Charlie (NED risk manager)

Elections:

Director – Richard Oliver – 3 yr term

Managing Director – Maurice Rosales – 1 yr term

Secretary – Raymond St Pierre – 2 yr term

No nominations from the floor. Motion to accept slate as presented by Paul Comeau, 2nd by Mike Keaney. All presidents approved (John Cioffi absent)

Insurance

Charlie, NED risk manager, reported that for COI, he needs to have an association code. None USA hockey teams must provide copies of their COI, that shows they have insurance that meets or is greater than our coverage. Small clubs that go under a larger affiliate, must have the larger affiliates code on the COI as well.

Charlie reported there were no major claims in the NED district.

Registrars

Mike McCullough, NED registrar, wants to discuss past proposal about teams names.

District Roster Proposal

- All USA Hockey associations and teams must be approved by their Affiliate's Executive Board before they can be approved by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar.
- Any existing USA Hockey organization changing their program name will need to submit the new name to the Affiliate and Associate Registrar for approval prior to the start of the season.
- All teams rostered in the Affiliate of USA Hockey are required to be registered using the name of their USA Hockey Program name.
- Use of alias' will not be approved on a USA Hockey roster. An alias is any name different than their USA Hockey roster association name. Any exceptions must be approved by the Affiliate and Associate Registrar. Any granted exceptions will only be allowed for one season.
- Any rosters generated by a co-op between 2 or more programs must designate a lead association. The roster for the co-op team must be created by the lead association and the name of the team will include the lead association.
- Games played in a league or tournament under a name other than their USA Hockey roster association name (alias), will not count toward the team's 20/10 – 14/10 game requirement rule.
- All rules are effective for the 2018-19 season

Motion to accept district roster proposal as written by Jarry Rasmussen, and 2nd by Bob Larence.

Approved by presidents in attendance – 4 votes (John Cioffi was absent)

Mike reported that affiliate registrars are only going to allow a team to have a single USA hockey roster, and not allow them to create separate rosters for different leagues. It creates confusion as to which games count towards any national bound teams.

Mike reported that registrars are going to enforce that is you play in a game, you must be on the **team roster**. For emergency situations, where there are sick players, then they simply need to notify the local registrar and have them added – even if it is after the game. Keith recommended that the registrars from each affiliate speak to the Coach-in-Chief for each affiliate, and have them remind their coaches what they need to do for any roster changes.

For profit tournaments, that do not have an association code, must have their own insurance that is equal to or greater than the USA Hockey insurance policy. A for profit tournament, with Canadian teams, is a \$160.00 registration team.

Invitational tournaments require USA Hockey sanctioning if it includes 4 or more teams. If you play to a championship it is an Invitational tournament and requires being sanctioned by USA Hockey.

Credential books are only required for national tournament bound teams, Tier 1 and Tier 2. Must have consent to treat forms back in the credential books. No longer collecting books, but the teams must have them with them at the national tournament.

Mike provided registration numbers which will be posted – essentially the District and affiliates are flat on numbers of participants.

Youth Council

Keith Barrett advised nothing to report at this time, he has a Zoom meeting this Wednesday.

Development Camps

Keith reported that the 16/17 Boys camps went very well in Marlborough. There was a power outage but worked through it well. Jason Guerrero and Chris Davidson had a great staff, and went smoothly. Players have been evaluated and selected players have been forwarded to USA Hockey. The All Star game was a great add for the evaluators. Digger made an appearance.

Keith reported that on the Girls camp was very well run and went well. USA Hockey personnel were on-site.

Keith advised still in the planning of the 14/15 camps will be at Keene State. Will partner again with the Prospect Camp (for officials), they will participate with the 14's camp, and will have their own evaluations during 14 games.

Financial Update

Chris Washburn reported that in 2017 we had a cash balance of \$323,206.31. Our current cash balance is \$244,761.36. The majority of the loss was from our Summer camps, due to unexpected payroll expenses. Presidents and Directors have taken steps to make changes to help us move in the right direction financially.

Safesport

Cheri reported that the Center for Safesport may be reaching out to affiliates and asking about past incidents that have been reported, even if they occurred before the Center for Safesport was active.

Juniors

Cheri has nothing to report.

Motion to Recess for the night at 8:45pm by Paul, 2nd by Jarry. Approved

Saturday, April 14 - General session began at 9:10am

Website Update

SportEngine bought League Athletics software – which is the platform for our website. No plan to eliminate League Athletics or merge it. Mike's understanding is that Sport Engine will incorporate the back end of League Athletics into the SportEngine platform.

Mike confirmed that we will be switching merchant services process to the website software, rather than a separate TD Bank service.

Mike reported that we will continue with the new process of posting national bound team rosters on the district website

Coach-In-Chief

The New England District's Coaching Education Program (CEP) continues to strive for improved credibility and performance at clinics. To this end, the clinic instructors attended District CEP Training in Portsmouth, NH in July. Off-Ice Training was a point of emphasis for this clinic season. A new Off-Ice Training portion was added to the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 PowerPoint presentations. The CEP training focused on how to present the Off-Ice Training portion of the PowerPoints and how we can help coaches feel comfortable helping their players develop athleticism off the ice. The person we had to do a presentation on being an Effective Communicator had to pull out at the last minute. Therefore, we used an hour-long presentation by a professor at the Stanford Business School we found on YouTube that was very helpful.

There were some changes to the New England District's CEP instructors. In Connecticut, Leon Hayward moved on to coach at the college level and Dan Murphy moved to New Hampshire and joined the staff in New Hampshire. Leon and Dan were replaced in Connecticut by JR Zavisza and Ryan Shannon. JR and Ryan bring a great deal of hockey knowledge and experience to an already stellar staff of instructors in the New England District. The clinic instructors bring real passion, knowledge and enthusiasm to the clinics. Larry Rocha attended eight clinics (4 Level 1, 2 Level 2 and 2 Level 3) to observe and provide feedback to his staff. He was very impressed with the instructors' ability to articulate the direction of USA Hockey and their ability to make the clinics helpful and informative to the coaches attending the clinics.

This clinic season there was a total of 36 Level 1 – Level 3 clinics with 1,429 coaches attending. The number of coaches increased by 37 over the 2016 clinics. The chart on the next page is a summary of the number of clinics conducted in the New England District and the number of coaches who achieved certification at each level for the past five years.

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 TOTAL

2017 16 clinics – 667 10 clinics – 400 10 clinics – 362 1,429
2016 15 clinics – 628 11 clinics – 419 10 clinics – 345 1,392
2015 14 clinics – 589 10 clinics – 434 10 clinics – 377 1,400
2014 15 clinics – 643 11 clinics – 400 12 clinics – 351 1,394
2013 19 clinics – 829 13 clinics – 441 14 clinics – 464 1,734

Additionally, there were two Level 4 Clinics held in the New England District. One was on June 24 – 25 in Concord, NH (129 coaches attended with 4 No-Shows). The other on August 5 – 6 in Hartford, CT (170 coaches attended with 5 No-Shows). The dates for the 2018 Level 4 Clinics are June 23 – 24 in Concord, NH and August 4 – 5 in Hartford, CT. Both are posted on the USA Hockey website. The New England District also hosted a High Performance Workshop for goaltending on October 22, 2017 in Northford, CT. A total of 26 coaches attended. Level 1 and Level 2 coaches moved up one level. On November 4, 2017 the New England District and the Massachusetts District joined together to do a Coaches Symposium with the Boston Bruins. Over 500 hundred coaches attended and 120 coaches earned a Level 2 certification and 180 earned a Level 3 certification.

It remains the goal and purpose of the CEP to continue to educate coaches, parents and associations about the resources available from USA Hockey. The CEP instructors demonstrated how to navigate the USA Hockey website and how to use the USA Hockey Mobile App at their clinics. Larry Rocha went to each of the five Affiliates' State Meetings at the beginning of the season to provide PDF handouts to various Associations on the CEP Coaching Guidelines and answer questions about the CEP. Larry Rocha and the New England District do their very best to inform the Associations on ways they can assure their coaches remain current before the December 31 (October 31 for split season) deadline.

Larry reported there are several updates to the mobile apps.

Tournament Update

Regional tournaments went well. Only issue is that a few MA 10U teams were very strong and beat everyone

Boys Tier I split season (16/18) tournament will be held in November, in conjunction with MA, likely in Marlborough.

Regional tournaments next season will be held the weekend of March 17-19, 2019.

Richard reported that he will be scheduling a tournament selection conference call with state tournament directors in the near future.

The selection location will be in the following order: VT, RI, CT, MA, ME, NH

Packets will be changed – OT rules will be updated as a district rule. The packets will be available on the website based on the age group.

Richard asked if we should consider increasing tournament fees. Requested that presidents return to their affiliates and discuss. Richard will follow-up with state tournament coordinators and get profit/loss amounts.

Disabled Hockey

Richard requested that we find a person interested in disabled hockey, bring them to annual congress or winter meeting, get them interested and find a new advocate for disabled hockey in the district.

Legal Council

Tom reported that USA Hockey will be adopting a new conflict of interest policy. The old policy specified companies that did work with USA Hockey. The new policy will address the conflict with USA Hockey volunteers have roles in for-profit hockey organizations. The policy will now be more comprehensive.

Center for SafeSport is not able to keep up with the complaints they are receiving, leading to long delays.

Transgender policy is being studied by a sub-set of the Legal Council. Tom believes they will have a report and potentially a policy in place by Annual Congress. This will provide a uniform policy for all of USA Hockey.

Concern about the Hockey Academy's that are popping up, and how to handle them. This is an on-going project.

Goaltender Camp

Keith reported that they had 2 pilot programs in the Pacific and Mid-Am district for goalie camps last year. USA Hockey is very supportive of these camps, and have reached out to the Districts to start a local process. Keith advised the District goaltender camp at Keene State College on July 27-29, 2018. There will be 5-6 college level goalie coaches at camp. There will be 14 (03) boys and 7 (04) girls – invited goaltenders. \$450.00 registration fee. Digger will get \$1000.00 from USA Hockey. They are asking that the NED buy in for \$500.00 (\$100.00 per affiliate). With the fees and donations the camp appears to be a break-even proposition.

Presidents wanted to table the discussion until they have some questions answered. Presidents will provide their concerns to Keith, and he will get the answers in writing.

Referee report

Current referee in chief, Matt Daigle, has tendered his resignation as our district RIC. Interviews are ongoing to find his replacement. Keith indicated it is being told to all candidates that they willing to travel to the affiliates over the course of the season – to training sessions and meetings.

Administrative

Maurice announced that Chris Washburn has also tendered his resignation as the district treasurer. He is requesting being done by July 31, 2018.

Maurice reported that we will have a district meeting at Annual Congress.

Motion to adjourn general session by Jarry, 2nd by Paul at 10:55am