

**Rocky Mountain District**  
**2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday August 24, 2024**  
**Sheraton-Albuquerque, NM**  
**1PM-6PM**

- Call To Order **1:00pm**
- Establish Quorum
- Quick Introductions
- Approval of Minutes of Winter District Meeting in Orlando – **Motion: Ted Skinner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathleen Smith. Motion Passes**
- Registrar’s Report-Darla **420 rosters approved district wide – 43 are Tier I NTB, and 74 are Tier II NTB. High School 1 Div 1, and 12 Div 2. Registration #s is 14, 342 includes players, coaches, managers/volunteers. 33 Tournament Sanctions have been approved. 4 Special Event Sanctions. 2 Playdown requests, Idaho 16U Female request due to Autism, and 14U Female for delayed growth. Ted Skinner was re-elected in 2024. Kathleen Smith’s term is up for renewal. Ted and Darla participated in a zoom meeting for Tier I Vertical Integration. Mike McCullough has started working on the new VM tracking form. Multiple LRM need to be added to team’s 1-T rosters to ensure SafeSport and Screening compliance. All registrars have moved to using the usahockey.org emails. Ukraine citizens are currently not being flagged or limited. SafeSport screening reminders – it expires in 12 month increments. The portal will automatically redlined in the system. Screening is good for 2 seasons. Associate Registrar call will be in September.**
- **Girls NTB rosters as of 8/23/24**
  - 19U – 4 (AZ, CO, TX, UT)
  - 16U – 3 (AZ, CO, TX)
  - 14U – 3 (AZ, CO, TX)
- **Girls Tier II NTB rosters as of 8/23/24**
  - 19U – 3 (AZ, TX)
  - 16U – 5 (AZ, TX, UT, ID, CO)
  - 14U – 3 (AZ, TX, CO)
- **Youth Tier I NTB rosters as 8/23/24**
  - 13O – 6 (AZ, CO, TX)
  - 14U – 7 (AZ, CO, TX, UT)
  - 16U – 3 (AZ, CO, TX)
  - 15O – 6 (AZ, CO, TX)
  - 18U – 7 (AZ, CO, TX, UT)
- **EBUGS - Teams will need to submit an appeal to the National Championship Appeals Committee.**

Registrars cannot add EBUG’s to the roster that were not on the roster prior to December 31 and/or did not meet the game count requirements.

Teams that played all season with one (1) goalie are expected to go to Nationals with one goalie.

**To Request and EBUG, a team must:**

Provide proof/explanation of extenuating circumstances to show why a team with two (2) goalies now only has one (1) or a team with one (1) goalie and now have no goalie (medical note)

Provide the name, team, program and level of the goalie the team would like as an EBUG. EBUGS must be in the same age classification as the team.

EBUGS should be from the same affiliate at the same or lower level of play and from a team that is no longer competing at an affiliate, district or national championship

- Reports (send electronically)
  - >District Coach in Chief-Cosmo – CEP is ongoing and is always trying always make it better. Over the last year the curriculum has been updated and improved. Expanding on goaltending section, is player centered, and covers everything we need. Started clinics a little earlier and have completed 3 clinics in the last 30 days. Clinics are virtual and can attend any clinic across the US in any District. September 1<sup>st</sup> and then the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month is when clinics will be added and published. Will be sending more notices and reminders to coaches. RMD goal is to host approximately 45 clinics between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Coach Developers Academy is now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Bringing in new Coach Developers. Have had 3 in July and August in Minnesota. Level 5 Symposium will be hosted in Columbus OH August 2025. Details should be announced on the USAH Coach Site soon. Cosmo is looking for Affiliate Coach-in-Chiefs for each RMD Affiliate.
  - >District Referee in Chief-Ken – Registration to date are 1510 officials are registered, 509 complete. 852 Adult (18 and older), 658 Youth (18 and younger). A significant change for registration is your registration has to be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup> and all required elements must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. 38 RMD seminars have been scheduled (13 level 1, 9 level 2, 8 level 3, and 8 level 4. Seminars have taken on a different look – they are all online now. Seminars are targeted at a maximum at 50 but can still be expanded. With the elimination of formal classrooms and ice (for Level 1 officials) cost savings are being redirected and local officials’ associations are being encouraged to do Level 1 introductions, ice evaluations, mentoring, and coaching. The funds that were typically spent to support in person Level 1 seminars are now available to support local initiatives. 2025-26 season will see a return education format including revised seminar materials, new open book rule exercises, video modules, etc. Camps conducted the AOE in conjunction with the RMD Player Evaluation Camp. 48 officials participated in game assignments, classroom, and physical training. These individuals all received seminar credit for attending. Eric Lawless was appointed Local Supervisor, Oklahoma, Kelly Colyer staying on in New Mexico.
  - > District Disabled Section-Sean – Sean is from Idaho Affiliate and was unable to attend this meeting. He is anxious to hear from each affiliate with any needs anyone would have for support.
  - > District Player Safety-Doug – Most significant update is the Neck Laceration Protection went into effect August 1<sup>st</sup> as a mandatory equipment. We will evolve into checking certification of NLP items but are not there currently. Looking to create and communicate standards. Concussion and Return to Play – our district turned in zero Return to Play documents. Referees 18 years and under will be wearing NLP. Players will be warned first if there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction, it will carry a 10-minute misconduct.
  - >District Risk Manager-Ralph – Not present, USA hockey has not signed off on the liability coverage, still working on the process and what that will look like.
  - > High School Section Report-Kenny – Kenny has just taken this over. Getting into the details – if anyone needs to contact Kenny with questions, please do. There is a new form that coaches will need to state that each player on the roster is under 20 years of age.
  - >District Webmaster-Website Costs- We were notified via our platform host Sportsengine, that our free site would no longer be offered without a cost. Kristy sent the cost over to Bruce so he can put in the budget to cover the cost beginning in January 2025. Kristy is always looking for new content for the website and social media – please send any and all details to her as soon as possible so original content from the District can be created.
  - > Affiliate Presidents, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah
    - Utah – just got the NHL Team Utah Hockey Club. Have been working with Nate who has been involved in the youth sports in Utah for a long time with the Jr. Jazz. There is a great opportunity for explosive growth in youth hockey. Are focused on retention process. Have a new Sled Hockey program and have brought 2 Adult Leagues back totaling 1300-1400 adult players. There has been a lot of division in the state, and we are spending some time to heal old wounds and get people back involved. Utah Hockey Club have broken ground on a new 2 sheet facility. Several new facilities are coming live and creating new programs. Will build a QR code that will have the listing of all the LTS, LTP initiatives Utah Hockey Club will manage this process.
    - Texas/OK – Stars Rookies and NHL LTP had 65-70% retention. Hosted 16U Tier II Nationals, will host April 23 – May 3<sup>rd</sup> 150 IHF , will tie some of the details with the combine. Hosted National High School showcase this last spring. Will be doing that again this year. Lonestar Brahmas won the Cup. Challenges we continue to see a high number of unclaimed players. Running into obstacles with covering events with volunteers and support. Seen an increased number of Tier II players leaving the affiliate to over saturated Tier I markets. Trying

to get away from excessive hearings, will be reviewing the process of match penalty review. Facing new challenges regarding community boundaries specific to Tier II.

**New Mexico** – Has some of the same challenges. Ice is a challenge for New Mexico. They have 5 sheets, 2 are not fully indoors. With the lack of ice there are player shuffles and where they land. Trying to create some inter-state games to save some travel costs. Trying to make it a better experience, higher level play, and wanting to keep players here and playing and happy. We do have a good set of options for those who can afford it. Girls program has some good direction. With facilities opening later more player registration and momentum start showing more in November.

**Idaho** – We have similar problems with lack of ice and more players than we can form teams for. There is a new rink going in. North Idaho ¾ sheet of ice outdoors will be going up. Have a bit of an issue with Washington who is now restricting their kids from playing in Idaho. November 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Rivalry Series.

**Colorado** – We passed our bylaws in December. Trying to get 50 members to agree on anything is slow going. Trying to get information from prior president. We did a grow the goalie game. We had 60 people come out to try it. Try to reduce the number of Tier I teams, trying to focus on Colorado kids. Have had a lot of kids that left come back to Colorado. Infrastructure is a huge problem. AHL Eagles are building a new facility. Avalanche are building a new facility. Trying to get Avalanche to be a larger partner with the Affiliate.

**Arizona** – Our NHL team left the state. We are focused on keeping the growth and LTP options moving forward. Our ice is restricted enough that it is limiting player growth. We have the same issue with Tier II players leaving. Disciplinary Committee in Arizona charges a \$250 fee for an appeal hearing. All hearings are done via zoom and held twice a month during the season. With the departure of the Arizona Coyotes, a new group, Matt Shott Arizona Hockey Foundation was created to fill the gap that was left. Their focus will continue to be on the LTP initiatives with all the facilities and programs.

\* **Financial Update-Bruce Urban** – Camps were basically money in, money out. We are getting more history the last several years to help create the budget closer to actuals. District Meetings, District Tournaments are budgeted less than actuals this year. Girls High Performance camp returned as an event. The budget will be based on actuals from this year with a slight fee increase. 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> year doing the 14U (200 players) Multi District camp includes room and board in Colorado. Adding in the cost of the website hosting of \$799. Accounting fees, legal fees as a contingency. Girls 130 camp was under budget. Registrar and Secretary travel costs for meetings. CD increases were a great return thus far. Both were invested as a 9-month CD.

\*RMD Budget-Bruce Urban. Motion to approve presented 2024-25 budget: **Doug Ritter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Skinner, Motion Passes with one abstention.**

\* Break-15 minutes

\* Tier 1 Tryout Rules and Vertical Integration Discussion-Mark & Darla – **created to allow vertical movement at Tier I between 150, 16U, 18U within the same association September 1<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>. 18U can be a 22-player roster with no more than 20 skaters. Player agreement binds the player to the team, and the team to the player. Player agreements are the responsibility of the program. Players not in your association may not practice with your team. Roster lock is still 12/31. If a player is out for a longer period of time but will return to the roster at some point during the season, don't drop/release them. Drops are permanent. 14U players are not eligible to move as a vertical integration.**

\* 2024/2025 RMD Tournament-Ted Skinner – **2024 recap – Phoenix March 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. 41 teams total. Split half and half between youth and girls. 69 games, fees varied \$1750 to \$2900, 11 divisions, 6 – 4 team brackets, 4-3 team brackets, and 1-5 team bracket which we would really like to avoid. Jr. Coyotes and Kachinas hosted, they did a great job the volunteers were great. We try to always get a zero balance for the host. Budget was underestimated by about \$10,000 but the shortfall was covered by apparel sales and hotel rebates. Tournament ended with around \$22k net. Major issues – high hotel rates, spring training in Phoenix. Team bookings were late.**

> Dallas, Texas, Youth Tier 1, Girls Tier 1 & Tier 2 – **March 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Youth Tier I, Girls Tier I and Tier II**

> Host Criteria Proposal, Stay to Play Requirements, Affiliate/Host Profit Share – **more run of the rink, stay to play requirements, Affiliate / Host Profit Share. Final declarations are due November 15<sup>th</sup> each year.**

> Format Discussion, Declarations of teams by affiliate, Affiliate Tournament dates States – **will capture these dates via email.**

\* 2025 USAH National Tournament-TC Lewis/ Mark –

**New Tournament Guidebook – it should be out later this week.**

**Game Counts – Done prior to State/District events**

**Trainers cannot be on the bench,**

**High School classification – 1A, 2A, 3A**

**Coaches can be added to the 1-T roster 7 days prior to the tournament.**

**Ebug – there is some added language. Please take note.**

**Adding cuts between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 3A High School Division only**

**Coach must show government issued ID to the tournament director prior to going on the bench.**

\* Junior Update- TC Lewis – **Adding 6 teams in the West at the USHL level.**

\* District Player Evaluation and Development Camps Update & 2025 Proposed Dates -

> Youth 15, 16, and 17-Doug – **We changed venues this year in an effort to create more of a festival atmosphere. Had a few bugs but are working through it. The number one feedback from evaluators is that they would like to see an Allstar Game. In order to do that, we need to make adjustments. Adding the additional Allstar Game, or adding longer game length and less games (3 games, 90 minutes vs 4 games 75 minutes). Separating the Girls and Youth events? Increasing cost? Would like to move to sublimated jerseys and socks, add badge credentialing. We have been doing this event the week after Mother's Day, but this does not allow NAHL coaches and scouts to attend because of their schedule. Should we put this event back on Mother's Day weekend? The Player Development Committee will decide the dates and communicate out.**

>Girls 15, 16, and 17-Ted/Kathleen – **109 girls registered 108 was the target. We had 20 girls advance. 12 evaluators. 15 goalies at the camp. Feedback from evaluators – cut the practice and don't have sessions overlap. Keep parent meetings. Need evaluators to show up earlier be ready to go Friday morning. We want Blue and Gold jerseys. Process improvement on receiving USA Hockey evaluators. There is a form that can be provided for the Affiliates to complete for players returning to the Affiliate for their opportunity. Considering moving the Youth and Girls to a separate event. February 10<sup>th</sup> Ted will send allocations out.**

> Youth 14 High Performance Camp ( Multi District )-Bruce – **June 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs . Players arrive on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> year of this camp in this location. Had a staff participant this year that was a camper here 7 years ago. Staff is primarily Rocky Mountain and Pacific. Strive for 200 kids, this year we had 198 kids. Northern Plains needs to have their camp earlier. We charged \$825 and each Affiliate was to contribute \$50 per player that went to offset the expenses. We increased this camp to \$875 and we broke even. Would like to still request the Affiliates contribute the \$50, or maybe even \$25 like prior. Are considering moving the fee to \$895 but don't want to go over \$900. Looking to get a standard stipend that is more in line with other camps and USA Hockey camp, increasing a stipend to \$100 per staff, roughly 42 staffers. RMD needs to do a better job with intern coaches to send to this camp.**

> Girls 14 High Performance Multi-District Camp in Henderson NV.-Kathleen/Ted – **The fee for the camp was \$495, had 127 registered, target was 136, so we were short. This is a simple development camp, no advancement. 8 teams, 16 coaches. We need help from the Affiliates to promote the camp which will ease the gap of lost player participation. Proposed changes – possibly reduce the number of teams from 8 to 6 teams. Target date for next year is June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.**

> Girls 13 RMD High Performance Camp In Ogden, UT. – Kathleen/Ted – **Held July 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Fee was \$200 per player. Development only, 58 players registered, planned for 68 players. 5 skills sessions, 3 games, 1 off-ice session, 5 seminars, 1 parent meeting, 2 goalie sessions. We had 11 coaches, most of them came from Utah. Feedback was the seminars were fantastic. The parents heard about the camp at the very last minute. Will focus on getting the word out for next year. June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> back in Ogden, Utah.**

\* Goalie Development-Ted – **Gibber and Colin are not here at this meeting, but Ted would like to make mention that we have a shortage of goalies. The GDC needs to work to get more involvement and events for goalies only. This is a good opportunity for the RMD to support and get involved for Goalie Development. Kathleen proposes a matching grant of up**

**to \$5000 from the RMD matching the Affiliate for Goalie Development. Motion: Lucas Reid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Servaes. Motion Passes.**

\* USAH Hockey Development Update-Bob Mancini – **Roger Grillo is moving on to take a coaching consultant job with the Montreal team. We did post his job on Friday 8/23/24 Regional Manager Northeast. They also posted an IHF Growth Coordinator. Would like someone who is bilingual (Spanish). National camps are in a great spot. Boys side made changes, girls side changes both have been made and positive feedback for both. A lot is going on with Tier I, it is very important, but it is 5% of our business. Bob’s desire is to find more similarities in Tier I to make a better national landscape. Want it to be simple, too many good volunteers are being lost because our time is spent on the 5%.**

\* District Representative Election in 2025-Darla Thompson – **see prior**

\* Old Business – **Affiliate Presidents getting together regarding a District level ODL – Kristy will create a page on the website and provide access to each affiliate president to enter their listing of players.**

\* New Business-Next RMD Meeting Time and Date - **January 16<sup>th</sup> in the evening at Nashville. August 2025 in Texas.**

\* Adjourn **5:42pm**

7PM Dinner at The Landing <https://thelandingabq.com/our-menu/>