



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2021 Fall Meeting
Sugar Lake Lodge
September 25th, 2021

- Meeting called to order at 10:46 AM by Scott Kuhl, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul.

MHOA Board Members

President-Scott Kuhl Present
North Vice President-Tod Plackner Present
South Vice President-Dave Kemp Present
Secretary-Brian Thul Present
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Absent
District 1 Supervisor-Paul Marshall Present
District 2 Supervisor-Mark Arriola Present
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present
District 4 Supervisor-Matt Holm Present
District 5 Supervisor-Michael Kephart Present
District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Absent
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Absent
District 10 Supervisor-Robert Erickson Present
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Present
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-Mac Nelson Absent
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Present
WHAM Supervisor-Krissy Langley Present
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Unfilled
MHOA Past President-Mike Mannin Present
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present

MHOA Appointed Positions

MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Unfilled
USA Hockey, MN District, Prospects District Development Coordinator-Unfilled
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Ryan Swafford Absent
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse Present
MHOA Camp Director-Dave Weisjahn Absent
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present
Data Base Coordinator-Glen Toewe Absent
Game Report Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Absent
Webmaster-Scott Johnson Absent

Guests:

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1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Matt Olsonoski and seconded by Ron Laiture. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the spring meeting were distributed via electronic distribution. Mark Verplatse's official report was added to the minutes and no other corrections were provided. Motion to approve the 2021 Spring Minutes was made by Olsonoski and seconded by Laituri. Motion passed by voice vote.

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Evaluations Report: Bruce Carlson

2020-2021 evaluations were a huge struggle due to the pandemic. I have been attending Zoom meetings with USA Hockey's National Office over the past year. We are "revamping" the evaluation process. This revamping will focus on a coaching model to support the official's development. There will be a new manual published with the changes to the program. There will be changes to the evaluation form and evaluations will be uploaded to the official's profile page. Evaluators will be able to email PDF forms to supervisors. Room for comments have been added to the evaluation form under each drop down. There will still be a room for comments at the bottom of the form. The form will allow the uploading of video and pictures. The anticipated completion is the summer of 2022.

Seminar Report-Mark Verplatse, USA Hockey Officiating Program Seminar Coordinator, Minnesota District

MHOA will be using a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. District Supervisors will oversee in-person meetings. Mark and Steve Tatro will support the Zoom meetings. Mark went through the level presentations with the supervisors and highlighted key components to focus on during seminars. Supervisors should remember to close out the registration page 24 hours in advance for Zoom seminars and then send the link to the meeting.

Treasurer-Kurt Hyster

Scott Kuhl distributed proposed budget of \$23,000. There was discussion around registrants. We are currently at 1209 which is like last season. This is a reduction of officials from pre-Covid numbers. The board will monitor registration numbers and adjust the budget if necessary. Additional conversation around state tournament expenses if there is a switch to the four official system.

Matt Olsonoski made a motion to accept the budget and Mike Mannin seconded. The budget passed by a voice vote.

Mentorship Report - Eric Olson (Reported by Tatro)

We will continue to have mentoring coordinators. A Zoom Meeting will be scheduled with Eric and Steve to kick off the season. Supervisors are encouraged to continue developing opportunities to support officials through mentoring.

Incident Report – Ryan Swafford (Reported by Tatro)

USA Hockey's IT department is making changes to the incident reporting. There is a change to the area where you select the player to make an easier selection. This is nearing completion for the beginning of the season. Officials need to fully understand how to report incidents correctly.

Supervisor Reports-

District One-Paul Marshall

We have not received information about officials returning from last season and this is concerning as we lost several due to the pandemic. Looking forward to the season starting up!

District Two-Mark Ariola

We lost some officials, but we are recruiting for the upcoming season. I have offered to meet with associations to discuss rules. This offer has been received with mixed opinions. Working with mentors to promote off-ice development between games. This will help create a coaching mentality for both mentors and mentees.

District Three-Matt Olsonoski

We are lengthening suspensions for coaches. 3 games for first time and five games for second offense plus a conduct meeting. If the official is under the age of 18 it is a five-game suspension for the first time. We are limiting the number of personnel in the locker room area to prevent fan comments.

District Four-Matt Holm

There is all new leadership in District 4. We are continuing to recruit officials and we have some preliminary information that we have an increase of girls registering to officiate. This is an important goal for district 4.

District Five-Michael Kephart

We have reached out to retired officials and we have five officials coming back to support younger officials. I am creating an app to help record mentor/mentee information and evaluations. The expectation of these officials is to work with our new officials.

District Six-Dave Kemp

We lost 8-10 veteran officials We will be using the 4-official system at Bantam AA and Jr. Gold A. We are wondering about game formats, meaning length of games so we can make some decisions. We will refocus on evaluations this season.

District 8-Paul Moen

Paul was coaching high school football.

District 9-Ryan Swafford

Ryan is deployed with the MN National Guard.

District 10-Robert Erickson

We are working with the District Director to reduce the amount of communication between coaches and officials. The major reason is disrespectful interactions and time of game. Recruitment is a concern, but we will see at our beginning of season meeting.

District 11-Nick Biondich

We continued to struggle with mentoring due to the mentors being forced into working games. We have reached out to 6 retired officials to mentor 20 games each. Their primary job is to provide support for new officials. All six officials said, "That will be awesome! We will be paying their registration fees. We continue to use a social media brochure to recruit new officials.

District 12-Chris Kavanaugh

District 12 is excited to start the season. Looking forward to seeing all the officials at our seminars.

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District 15-Mac Nelson

Mac had a prior commitment set up before he accepted the supervisor position.

District 16-Ron Laituri

We are ready to get the season started and look forward to working with District 12 to provide consistency and accountability for coaches and players.

WHAM-Krissy Langley

There is a female coaching development for MN Hockey and they are looking for ways to recruit new female officials. Hopeful that we can find ways to support the recruitment and support of female officials.

AHA-

Unfilled

North VP- Tod Plackner

Please reach out with concerns or support. We continue to look for local leaders to support officiating development.

South VP-Dave Kemp

Dave updated the board on clothing inventory. Please let Dave know if you have a need for clothing. Please remind officials about the MHOA Store.

USA RIC- Steve Tatro

Seminars: I am monitoring level 2 seminars to make sure 1st year level 2 officials attend an in-person seminar. Level Four Survey: Level Four has lost it's purpose and USA Hockey is looking for feedback on how to revamp the system. If level four goes away there would be new parameters for National Tournaments. There will need to be a legislative proposal into USA Hockey by November.

Steve's budget has been cut significantly. There is a roll over from last season so MHOA Supervisors should continue to submit seminar expenses to Steve Tatro. Milage for seminars should be sent to Steve Tatro.

President Report-Scott Kuhl

Looking forward to my first year as MHOA President. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We have a great group of supervisors and I want to make sure I support all of you. I will continue to work with MN Hockey to share the perspective of our group. I will have state tournament assignments by January 1st and will ask for your officials by February 1st.

New Business:

- **New Rules and Implementation**
Supervisors must continue to educate their membership on the new rules and provide perspective to increase understanding for the new rules. Remember we do not make the rules.
- **Electronic Scoring**
Referees will need to enter their name, make sure to check the score sheet before submitting. Be aware that there are Game Misconducts attached to penalties so make sure the scorer didn't choose a game misconduct on the drop-down menu. Review all penalties called to make sure they match the penalties that were assessed. Officials will most likely be able to enter their email to have score sheets sent to them when needed. Players and coaches can be added at the game.
- **Penalty Times and Period Length**
Scott will send out what other districts are doing to the group after MH Hockey meets on Sunday.

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- **Recruitment of Officials (MN Hockey Journal)**

Derek Ricke from MH Hockey has placed an advertisement for the recruitment of officials in MN Hockey Journal and Let's Play Hockey.

- **Coaches Conduct**

MHOA continues to be very concerned about the conduct of coaches. Districts are implementing new rules to respond to coaches that cross the line. Officials must consistently penalize coaches that are not respectful. MHOA will continue to work with MN Hockey to create proactive strategies/programs that will increase positive coaching/official interactions.

- **4-Official System (State and Region Tournaments)**

The group discussed the pros and cons of adding the 4-official system at the Bantam AA level. Most supervisors were in favor of this proposal. Scott will discuss with MN Hockey.

- **MHOA Development Camps**

Session 1:

After a year off due to Covid we were very glad our camp was back in 2021.

We had a total of 11 campers, six females and five males. All of our campers performed well and worked hard throughout the week. We had no issues and all the participants improved over the week. All the officials that attend will be working at least one level higher this season. Three were recommended to work Division III, the balance to at least a high school levels. I would like to thank our instructors for their hard work and dedication to making this camp great for the participants. Thank you to Tai Thorsheim, Ryan Szymanski, Kendall Markovic, Kendall Glaser, Rick Nelson, Tommy Albindia and Kelli Rolstad. These volunteers happily offer their experience and knowledge to this camp, without them we would not be able to conduct this camp. I would also like to thank the CCM HP Girls 15 Camp Director, Cheryl Mechelke and her staff are great to work from planning through the last day of camp Cheryl Mechelke does whatever it takes to make the whole experience great for all participants. Lastbut not least I need to thank the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center Staff. The Associate Director of the facility Cory Portner and his staff make the week run smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted Mike Mooney, MHOA Camp Director Session 1

Session 2:

Nine attendees, it was a very successful camp! Technology has changed the outcomes and teaching at the camp. Campers were highly engaged, and instructors did a fantastic job!

Discussion regarding camps:

Should MHOA be appointing MN Female Referee Development? Would MHOA Session 1 would fall under this position.

Motion was made by Krissy and seconded by Kemp to create the position of MN Female Referee Development Coordinator. Motion passed by a voice vote. This position will be sent to supervisors and distributed to membership seeking applications.

- **MHOA Service Award Recipient**

This award will continue this season. Supervisors should continue to nominate worthy candidates. Brian will include past winners and nominees when requesting this seasons candidates.

- **Scholarships** We awarded 4 thousand dollar scholarships one was return due to a change in education pursuits.

- **\$3150 was raised at the summer golf tournament.** Supervisors are encouraged to spread the word about these scholarships. Leslie Fund is doing well and this fall event raised 1260 for official education

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opportunities. There were 5 awardees this year. Supervisors make sure to promote the Leslie fund for donations and supporting your officials.

- **State Tournament Rates**

We will be discussing with MN Hockey the rates for state tournament rates.

- **Recruitment of Female Officials (Female only Seminars) Could we run a women's only seminar.**

This topic was discussed and will need further discussion and planning. Supervisors are encouraged to reach out female officials for

- **Board of Directors Section 5: Voting Rights, clean this section up. Spell out who is voting and non-voting. Rules Committee will be appointed.**

- NAPHL: 236 games were held last week and MHOA brought in over \$3,000 for MHOA expenses and priorities. There will be two more tournaments upcoming.

Old Business

Motion to adjure the meeting by Krissy Langley and seconded by Tod Plackner at 1:50 PM

Once approved these minutes become part of the official record for the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Thul
MHOA Secretary