



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association  
2019 Spring Meeting  
Courtyard Marriot Hotel – St. Louis Park, Minnesota  
Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- Meeting called to order at 8:15 AM by Mike Mannin, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

**MHOA Board Members**

President-Mike Mannin Present  
North Vice President-Tod Plackner Present  
South Vice President-Dave Kemp Present  
Secretary-Brian Thul Present  
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Present  
District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm Present  
District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim Present  
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present  
District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl Present  
District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney Present  
District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp Present  
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Present  
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Absent  
District 10 Supervisor-Robert Erickson Present  
District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich Absent  
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present  
District 15 Supervisor-John Rice Present  
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Absent  
WHAM Supervisor-Krissy Langley Absent  
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Brent Hansen Absent  
MHOA Past President-Eric Olson Absent  
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present

**MHOA Appointed Positions**

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

**Guests:**

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

### 1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Dave Kemp and seconded by Chris Kavanaugh. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

### 2. Reports

#### Secretary-Brian Thul

- The minutes from the fall meeting were distributed and corrections were provided. Motion to approve the 2019 Fall Minutes was made by Scott Kuhl and seconded by Dave Tod Plackner. Minutes for the 2018 Fall Meeting were approved by voice vote.

#### Evaluation- Bruce Carlson

Steve distributed Bruce's Report.

2018-19 evaluations were up 99 evaluations from 2017-18. The report was broken down by district and individual evaluators.

Steve believes that the evaluation of new officials is a great way to support them which should lead to retention of these officials. Discussion regarding the importance of relationships in the officiating and being able to connect with our officials will support their development and retention.

#### Seminars- Mark Verplaetse, Seminar Coordinator

In Minnesota this year we had 2386 registered officials. We conducted 110 seminars (-4 for juniors) and trained 2286 officials. We had 100 registered officials not attending a seminar (L1=78, L2=9, L3=11, L4=2) We had several officials from out of state attend our seminars, so we trained over 2300 officials this year.

**Seminars:** In Minnesota, we conducted 110 seminars with 2286 attendees. The number of seminars is for registration purposes we had separate registrations for L1, L2, and L3. There were 43 Level 1 Seminars, 40 Level 2 Seminars, 31 Level 3 Seminars and 4 Level 4 seminars. I expect that we will continue this many seminars in the following year due to the numbers of officials and how geographically dispersed the Minnesota District is. We conducted a late seminar in on 12/2/2018 in Coon Rapids with 63 attendees. (70 registered, 7 no shows) Thanks to Robert Erickson and District 10 for sponsoring this late Seminar. Robert scheduled this primarily to accommodate local in-house officials. As we all know, posting a late seminar will have people coming out of the woodwork to complete their requirements. The Seminar was a success. I think we have stumbled upon something here, and I would like to 'rotate' this late L1/2 seminar around the Twin City districts each year. District 10 was the trail blazer, and a huge success. Who can schedule the late one in 2019?

MN Wild Seminar: On 9/8/2018, in conjunction with the Minnesota Wild, we conducted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Level 1 Seminar. We had 50 attendees. Ice time was at the Tria Rink. Huge thanks to the instructors for giving up their day for this seminar. We will be conducting another seminar this fall. Plans will be made as soon as the Wild exhibition schedule is available.

Another challenge is making sure that every official completes the on-line portion of the seminar. This is very difficult to regulate since it is done on an individual basis. Some numbers:

2386 registered officials in Minnesota in 2018-2019. Of these, 288 did not complete all the registration requirements. (224 Lev 1, 30 Lev 2, 32 Lev 3, 2 Lev 4). So, we had 2107 completely registered officials. While these

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numbers are alarming, it is far better than previous years. The biggest reason for the incompleteness was not finishing the online seminar. 260 did not complete the online portion. (209 Lev 1, 25 Lev 2, 24 Lev 3, 2 Lev 4). 100 registered as an official but did not attend a seminar. Breaking it down:

### Level 1 –

936 Registered officials

712 completed all registration requirements 76%

224 are incomplete

78 – no Seminar

14 – fail open book test, 6 did not submit retest

131 – did not submit open book test (but 53 of these attended a seminar)

209 – did not complete online seminar

44 – did not complete safe sport

### Level 2 –

461 registered officials

431 completed all registration requirements 93%

30 are incomplete

9 – no seminar

24 – did not submit open book test (but 21 attended a seminar)

25 – did not complete online seminar

7 – did not complete safe sport

452 taking L2 test, 384 passed 85%- 67 failed 15%

### Level 3-

896 registered officials

864 completed all registration requirements 96%

32 are incomplete

11- no seminar

24 – did not submit open book test (but 21 attended a seminar)

24 – did not complete online seminar

11- did not complete safe sport

885 taking L3 closed book test, 657 passed 74% - 228 failed 26%

It is alarming that 22% of the registered level 1 officials did not complete the online portion. I know that we stressed this in our seminars, but perhaps we did not stress this enough. I feel that because 224 level 1 officials did not complete the registration requirements, will result in few returnees for next year. I believe that recruitment and retention is on our agenda again. Our numbers and completion rate are way ahead of last year, but not good enough.

Out of 2386 registered officials, we had 288 or 12% not complete all registration requirements. We had 2007 completely registered officials in Minnesota or 84% of all registered officials completed all registration requirements

**2019 seminars:** Please lock down your seminar requirements, dates and times, as soon as possible and provide them to me. All seminars must be entered into the USA Hockey system prior to June 1. I'll enter them as soon as I receive them. I'll prepare seminar materials over the next few months and hope to have ready by our fall meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Mark Verplaetse

USA Hockey Officiating Program Seminar Coordinator, Minnesota District

Discussion: Should we be adding mid-summer seminars?

We will continue to hold a late-season seminar to support late registrations and mite officials.

### **Treasurer-Kurt Hyster**

Kurt distributed the financial documents and reviewed each individually. Currently MHOA is has available funds due to the scheduling of the NAPHL events. The board is pleased with our current fiscal status.

**2019 budget was approved via email in February because we were waiting for registration numbers.**

**Motion to keep affiliate fees at \$10.00 by Mike Mooney and seconded Chris Kavanaugh. Motion passed by voice vote.**

**Mr. Kemp made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report and Mr. Thorsheim seconded. The budget was approved by a voice vote.**

### **Incident Report-Ryan Swafford**

#### **2018-19 Incident Reports**

MHOA tallied a total of 999 incident reports for the season and increase of 5 from last season, and while this number is up from last season there still may be some underreporting. The Bantam age level remains the highest incident category. There remains an issue of reporting penalties incorrectly or not required. We should look to incorporate a more robust education to be included in our annual seminars to increase compliance.

222 Game Misconducts

603 Major plus GM

47 Match Penalties

### **State Tournaments**

- **Bantam AA & A:**

**The officiating was great! Highlight was Dennis Bushey complementing the officiating the staff.  
Challenge: Who is skating on Sunday? This was a tough decision and conversation with the crew.**

- **Bantam B and PeeWee B: Matt O and Dennis**  
**Guys volunteered to work the tourney. Use officials that were given an opportunity.  
Challenge: Making sure we have enough officials that want to work the tourney.  
Split the linies up on Sunday.**

- **PeeWee AA/A: Terry**

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Highlight: The level of play! The officials did an amazing job throughout the weekend. Brian Mach spoke with the officiating group.

Challenge: Stick was thrown out of play at the end of the game. The use of video for supplementary discipline.

- **12UA Chris Kuhl triplets Scott and his sons, 5 overtime game Challenges: Managing the parents!**

### Supervisors Reports

- **District 1 Supervisor-Dennis Alm**

District 1 covered 511 games this season with 69 officials. The district has added more players in the mite program so it appears the numbers will stay steady over the next few years. The girls program offered a district wide option of allowing the players to play a hybrid schedule along with their normal teams and it proved successful. We have three officials apply to MHOA camp this year so that is a positive for the future. Evaluation numbers increased this season. We have a location in St. Paul that will be our seminar location moving forward and will not be doing the on-ice portion due to location. The rec league has stayed the same with numbers of players and teams, getting schedule of games still is an issue getting it released on time. We are working with the league on developing a limited number of 3-man games inside the league as a training program.

Dennis Alm  
District 1 Supervisor

Promoting the Jr. Gold games as 4 man.

Rec. League will have 3-man games in certain situations to promote development.

Had two camp candidates apply for Camp 1 and this was a success.

- **District 2 Supervisor-Terry Thorsheim**

District 2 officiated approximately 3200 games this last season. The approximate numbers breakdown are 1430 league games, 890 tournament games, 600 scrimmage games, and 250 games for Playoff/Region/JG Playdown /State. Turn backs/declines were again around 1500. The weekends of November 16-18 and January 11<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup> were totally overloaded with officials working too many games a day. Games were turned down due to the shortage of officials.

District 2 needs more officials particularly at the top levels and lower levels where we are short-handed. The 4 official system has really helped with Junior Gold level tournaments by greatly increasing available number of officials available to be assigned at the A and B level.

The mentoring and evaluation programs had a very good year with 53 officials evaluated. Our evaluation director is in the process of entering the District 2 specific forms into the USA Hockey program.

Fan behavior continued the ongoing decline. For the first time in a long time a parent went onto the ice at the handshake to scream at officials.

District 2 hosted the A and AA PeeWee State Tournaments. They were a lot of fun for all participants. The level of play was very good overall.

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Districts 2, 6, 8 and 9 worked the AA Pewee games. All the officials did an excellent job and had fun doing it. The Referees worked their butts off skating end to end. Eden Prairie beat Woodbury in the AA Pewee Championship 2 to 1. Districts 2, 8, 10 and 16 officiated the A Pewee games. Orono beat Edina 7 to 1 in the Championship game.

Banquets were held for each level separately at the Grand Convention Center with about 330 attendees for the A Pewee and around 400 attendees for the AA Pewee. The speaker was from Hockey Hub. He had each coach nominate the player who was the glue that held the team together. Each player stood and was recognized. The importance of the "Glue" was addressed in an interesting speech.

1. Continue to support our mentoring program. Each new official receives one mentor and they are partnered throughout the season. We need to standardize our mentoring curriculum and make sure we have the right people mentoring.
2. Evaluations, must coordinator with USA Hockey forms. Progression of officials must be deliberate and well thought out. Slow down their progression if there is doubt.

Game saturation continues to be a problem on weekends. Making sure officials keep their commitments to their games. We do not currently fine officials, but we had 1500 turn backs for just over 3000 games.

- **District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski**

### **Year-End report**

District 3 and Beltline Hockey Referees Association officiated 3650, an increase of 76 games over last season. A total of 123 officials were used to cover all games. Our association accepted 40 new official applicants, some with refereeing experience and a few new officials. However, only 10 of that group of 40 stayed to work a game within the district.

### **What was a highlight from your state tournament supervision?**

My highlight had to be between 2 state tournaments, BB1 and PWB1, not 1 single complaint was expressed of our officials. A big thank you Dennis Alm and Kristen Muisch for helping all weekend. Between the 3 of us we're able to evaluate all 15 officials during Friday's games.

### **How did your leadership support the success of the officials during the tournaments?**

As stated above, the officials did a great job. I was fortunate enough to have 15 officials volunteer and want to work these games, which I feel is huge. They worked hard and accepted critique from the supervisory staff and improved throughout the weekend. Again, big thanks to Dennis Alm and Kristen Muisch, BHRA's Assistant Director of Officials Development.

### **What was your biggest challenge during the state tournament?**

Our biggest challenge early on was getting enough officials to volunteer to work the tournament. After the schedule was made the tournament really ran smoothly.

**Share how your leadership has made a change or supported an existing initiative within your district. Were there any struggles that we can all learn from or you need support with?**

District 3 and BHRA has worked to create an additional board position within BHRA. Kristen Muisch was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of Official Development. She has been tasked with welcoming all new official applicants. Kristen will personally reach out to all accepted applicants, walk them through all registration and start up questions. Once officials have completed registration, she will coordinate there on-ice mentorships, if needed. We have found using one person/one voice to be a constant contact to officials, especially, young female officials have been very helpful.

Our biggest struggle of the season came from the district and all related associations switching their scheduling system to Auto-ice. A program that was intended to streamline the scheduling process caused major headaches and confusion. All are hoping that year 2 will go a lot smoother.

I don't feel we need support with anything currently.

**Share what you believe will be a major goal for your leadership next season.**

Recruit, Recruit, Recruit...We are currently looking for approximately 20 new officials. We would also like to complete 100 official evaluations during the season. We feel our numbers fell off due to evaluators having to officiate some many games this season. Increase the number of evaluations!

- **District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl**

**1. Identifying trends in registration issues. Met with all association schedulers. Had mentor officials shadow our new officials. I made a committed to watch games in every arena at least twice a year. My goal is to meet all my officials at least once. Relationships matter!! Checking in with assigners to see who is not registered. Making calls to those individuals to connect and support their completion rates.**

**Goals: Continue to support evaluation process by recruiting new evaluators. Continue to work with our district director to support these initiatives. The district support is amazing!**

**Get an official to a camp! Relationships are the key to our success.**

- **District 5 Supervisor-Mike Mooney**

**Season in Review**

District 5 assigned 2271 games equating to 5090 slots. We had 1222 slots either declined or turned back by officials, that is 24% of all assigned slots needed to be assigned twice. That is a lot of extra work for our schedulers. I would like to see this become a discussion among the supervisors or possibly the schedulers to find solutions to this problem.

I would like to recognize our long-time scheduler Jeff Carlen for all his hard work and dedication to making sure the most qualified officials are at each game.

**Official Development**

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Michael Kephart took charge of our mentor/evaluation program. Michael did a great job getting this program back on track. We increased our evaluation from nine last season to close to 100 this season. We had 48 new officials benefit from a shadow mentor, all these officials were mentored a minimum of twice.

Our level one clinic was held on Sunday November 25. We hold two clinics that day for all our first-year level 1 officials. We had 27 new officials attend, 13 at STMA and 14 at Buffalo.

We started a three official system education program and because we began utilizing the four-official system for JR Gold games we had Brian Thul conduct a one-night clinic for officials that were interested in working in the four-official system.

### **Incident Reports**

We had 48 incident reports on D5 players and coaches, this is slightly higher than our ten-year average. We also had several fan ejections.

### **Playoffs**

District playoffs were a very busy two weekends, but we had no credible complaints concerning the officiating.

D5 hosted three regional tournaments. All three were well played and we had many compliments on the officiating.

D5 sent one crew each to the Bantam A and AA State Tournament. Both crews skated the third-place game. The crews are listed below.

#### Bantam A Crew

Andrew Rannow -Referee, Lane Glasaer -Linesman, Braegelmann -Lineman

#### Bantam AA Crew

Gavin Jocelyn -Referee, Travis Hanson -Linesman, Jeff Linna -Linesman

Congratulations to all the officials in D5 for a very good season.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Mooney

Supervisor of Officials D5 of Minnesota Hockey

[moondog@frontiernet.net](mailto:moondog@frontiernet.net)

612-812-3268

1. Providing guidance to the officiating group within District 5. Signed contract with the officiating group to change the education process within District 5. Evaluations, mentoring, shadowing all increased as a result of this change. Had a committed point person to run the evaluations and mentoring. (Michael Kephart) Working with Jeff Carlen to support the schedule. He does an amazing job making sure our games are scheduled.

Four official system for Jr. Gold.

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- **District 6 Supervisor-David Kemp**

### **State Tournament Report**

Junior Gold tournament was at Prior Lake with the banquet being held at the Medina Ballroom on Thursday night. The hotel used for our visiting (218) supervisors was Mystic Lake located next to Dakotah Arena.

We utilized the four-man-system at the Junior Gold A and B levels with the following districts: 1,3,6 & 8 for the Junior Gold A games and district 6 crews for both the Junior Gold B and 16U using the three-man system. We used goal judges for all games and the District 6 Referee's Association supplied these. I received a positive response from all the officials regarding the MHOA provided key chain and would strongly recommend that we continue with this practice. The District 6 Referee's Association also provided skate mats to all the officials and goal judges for their participation.

Overall the games were good, and the crews did a great job. Formal evaluations were completed on every official on Friday. The following is the listing of the assigned games for the Junior Gold A games on Sunday:

Consolation - District 6 (Wayzata vs. Stillwater)  
Third Place - District 3 (Eden Prairie vs. St. Louis Park)  
Championship – District 8 (Minnetonka vs. Edina)

A would like to thank Todd, Emil and Skip for their assistance throughout the tournament.

### **Game Totals**

- Total district games – 4563 (last year – 4504)
  - Scrimmages – 624 (last year – 795)
  - Tournaments – 1678 (last year – 1506)
  - League – 1977 (last year – 1969)
  - Play-Offs - 284
- We are not suffering from lack of officials; we were close to 185 officials on the roster again this year
  - 12B Region Tournament @ Shakopee Arena
  - BAA & BA Region Tournament @ Burnsville

### **Incident Reports**

114 incident reports received thru District 6  
2 reports filed against spectators (d6 parents)

District 6 has a Supplementary Discipline Committee, which met every two weeks starting on November 14<sup>th</sup> with the last meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Players are required to attend the next scheduled meeting if they are assessed a major for fighting or a match penalty (there is a minimum three game suspension when assessed a fighting major which involve another district 6 team, either in league or tournament play). Coaches are required to attend the meeting if they are assessed a game misconduct for abuse of officials or 15 team penalties.

The committee met with 31 players and 15 coaches during the 2018-19 season.

District 6 reviewed two violations regarding Safe Sport and conducted one meeting with Minnesota Hockey (Scott Gray) for resolution.

### **2019 USA Hockey Seminar**

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September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

8:30am

Rosemount Community Center

Level 1 & 2

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

6pm

Burnsville City Hall

Level 3

Goal for next year,

1. Change how the District assigns chair of disciplinary committee. Dave sits as the secretary.

Goal: Find a replacement for the chair of the committee. This will require the right person to do the job!

- **District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen**

### **2018-2019 District 8 Supervisor of Officials Report**

District 8 had a great season. Our total games for the season was 3932 which is a little high then last season. We worked with 70 Level 1 Officials, 58 Level 2, 112 Level 3's and 9 Level 4 officials. Most of the L1 officials are interested in making money more than working the game. We had around 34 evaluations. Most of our people had to work games with new officials or Junior Gold. We run into trouble on week-ends due to the high number of high school officials and college officials and the fact we host a ton of tournaments. We had a total of about 100 Game misconducts, 6 of which will be served next season. Our District 8 board of Directors initiated a new rule for coaches' game misconducts. 1<sup>st</sup> time, 3 games or 7 days, whichever is greater. 2<sup>nd</sup> one 30 days suspension and the Association is fined \$300. 3<sup>rd</sup> one the coach is done for the season.

D8 hosted four Regional tournaments. All went well but is hard to cover due to Lakeville hosting one and that is a haul from the other hosts.

#### **What was the highlight of your State Tournament supervision?**

**I helped with the PWA and PWAA hosted by D2, Terry Thorsheim. I couldn't work on Saturday due to softball and a meeting with the HP staff regarding the Great 8.** Couple of things I did notice, the officiating at the tournament was outstanding. These officials could have worked any level of State Tournament competition. Outstanding. Another thing I saw, doesn't matter how many eyes you have on a game, something is going to be missed. After the Championship game, the three officials and Terry and myself were all watching the players, none of us saw a player from the losing team throw his stick up into the crowd out of frustration. Got it on film.

#### **Share how my leadership has made a change within my district.**

**This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of operating under a board of directors for our group. Prior, all decisions were mine. Now our board makes these decisions.** Gets me out of the fire a little bit. I am like most of our associations now, we all have a board.

We like D3, we have gone to Auto-Ice for our league scheduling. I'm not as nice as Matt, it sucks big time. Better than the year prior, but still a lot of problems.

We do not need any support with anything currently.

#### **Our goal for next season**

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**Get more young officials and try getting them to buy into the program for more than just the dollar.** That is a problem in hand. I'd like to get more evals, and maybe if some of my older guys retire, I can get them to evaluate.

1. Balancing the advancement of officials and scheduling D8. During playoffs this becomes very difficult as they are scheduled at the last minutes.

2. Auto Ice: This continues to be a challenge when games are scheduled.

Goal: Making sure our young officials get registered! Complete the entire process and then work with them to avoid conflicts with practices and games. Continue to recruit new officials.

- **District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford**

### **2018-19 District 9 Supervisor of Officials Report**

District 9 had another great season. We enjoyed working a little over 2870 games and assigning around 300 officials to 6755 positions/slots for the season. D9 hosted one Regional BAA Tournament and training over 300 officials at two Level 1, 2 & 3 seminars (in Rochester & Waseca), all went well.

*Share how your leadership has made a change or supported an existing initiative within your district. Were there any struggles that we can all learn from or you need support with?*

This was a transition year as D9 elected new Director, Mark Blaisdell. Mark has been very gracious and supportive in the efforts of the officiating equation of D9 hockey. D9 is geographically dispersed over 15 hockey communities. We have a decentralized referee scheduling system utilizing 12 assigners operating under the umbrella of D9HOA. The District however, schedules league games in a centralized method. In the past, I have explained that combining these efforts could dramatically reduce work for schedulers and better utilize the power and breadth of the Arbiter Scheduling System. Hopefully, I can gain some ground on this for next season. Due to geographic dispersion, D9HOA is very loosely organized, this lack of organization remains a goal of mine to improve.

*Share what you believe will be a major goal for your leadership next season.*

The new D9 Director has allotted a scholarship fund up to \$1500 to help new officials get started. I am working through the details, but D9HOA is planning on making this a reimbursement program.

*Do you need any support from other MHOA Members to accomplish this goal?*

No support needed at this time.

- **District 10 Supervisor-Robert Erickson**

1. ¾ ice mite league which is supporting the new officials. Give the officials a whistle and then mentor the officials.

2. Balancing the work load of being an official and supervisor.

Utilize the mite officials for recruiting officials for SHRA!

\*Having a coordinator for mite officials to support the organization.

- **District 11 Supervisor-Nick Biondich-2017 MHOA Spring Meeting District 11 Report**

Games: 2,520 games scheduled.

Officials: 106 officials worked at least one game. 26 Officials worked 20 or less games and 14 Officials worked over 100 games.

### State Tournaments

**1. What was a highlight from your state tournament supervision?**

Having a new arena in Proctor open this season. There was a buzz around the state tournament for what that facility can potentially do for the Proctor youth program.

Moose Lake girls U10 won the tournament and they had probably 500 people in attendance for the final. It was awesome to see a U10 game with one side of the arena full.

Having absolutely zero complaints and a few compliments about the officiating product was also another highlight.

**2. How did your leadership support the success of the officials during the tournament?**

With it being a U10 tourney, I was able to give 4 officials a state tournament that would probably not be ready for a higher-level tournament. This experience can only help develop the newer officials. I was also able to pair 2 of the least experienced officials with veteran officials to help with the mentoring process.

**3. What was your biggest challenge during the state tournament?**

I need to make a checklist for the state tournament. I forgot about the local hockey association being responsible for payment, so I had to scramble on Sunday to submit an invoice. They were great and had checks for everyone by the time their games were over.

**1. Share how your leadership has made a change or supported an existing initiative within your district. Were there any struggles that we can all learn from or you need support with?**

The finances of our local official's association have improved the past 2 seasons. Due to this, we re-implemented paid evaluations around midseason. And got an additional 15 officials evaluated. This is in addition to several unpaid evaluations.

Next season we should have \$1,000 budgeted to allow us to eval up to 40 games at \$25/game.

**2. Share what you believe will be a major goal for your leadership next season.**

RETENTION, RETENTION, RETENTION!!!!!!! We seem to get 30 or so new officials each season, but for a multitude of reasons, we only retain a small percentage of them from year to year.

I have also spoken with the Duluth Amateur Hockey Association and we plan to offer a Level 1 only seminar for PeeWee, Bantam, and HS players to get them properly certified so they can officiate the outdoor Squirt B games. Our goal is 40 new youth players registered at Level 1 for next season. This would alleviate pressure with our local association trying to fill outdoor games and hopefully expose these young players to officiating with the hope of transitioning over to our local association after a year or two.

**3. Do you need any support from other MHOA Members to accomplish this goal?**

I am welcoming to any ideas any of you may have to help with increasing our retention of officials.

Nick Biondich

D11 Supervisor of Officials

- **District 12 Report: Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh**

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About the same number of officials. Some communities really struggle with low numbers and have had to call around to find officials or even cancel games and not hold tournaments. Several match penalties, for kicking.

State tournament was uneventful, reaffirmed that parents are idiots. Crews from D4, D11 and 2 from D12. District Director Oleheiser continued the tradition of a Referee's dinner on Saturday night.

1. Continue to support the evaluation. Recruit more veteran officials who are leaders within district to support evaluations, training, teaching.

- **District 15 Supervisor-John Rice**

District 15 had an overall good season, from an officiating standpoint. I feel that our number of officials has stayed steady or perhaps declined a bit from previous seasons. We do have several older officials who are doing fewer games. The challenge will be to find the young people to replace these officials.

District 15 hosted 4 Regional Tournaments (PW A&AA, PW B and Bantam B). I was able to attend games at all three sites and was happy with the officiating that was being done in each location. As with any tournament, there were some challenging situations, but nothing too serious.

We did have one very serious incident in district 15 involving the physical assault of an official by a coach. My thanks to Mike Mannin, Steve Tatro and the other MHOA members who helped to navigate through this situation. I did not attend the hearing for the coach involved but was kept up to speed by the committee that held the hearing.

### State Tournament

District 15 was proud to host the Bantam AA and A State Tournaments in Moorhead.

A thank you to Mike Mooney for assisting in the supervision of these tournaments.

We had a fantastic group of officials for this tournament. This made supervision of the games very easy. I heard very good comments from the tournament organizers on the officiating. Dennis Bushy echoed those positive comments as I had the chance to speak with him at the end of the weekend.

Our most challenging part of the weekend was Informing 2 crews that they would not be skating on Sunday. These decisions are never easy, and the quality of officials working these tournaments made it even more difficult.

### Leadership in District 15 in 2018-2019

My biggest goal for this past season was to put an evaluation program in place in District 15. This is something that we have been lacking for many years. I was, with the help of Bruce and Emil, able to get evaluation credentials to 7 individuals in the district. These officials are working on a volunteer basis as of now. I am going to be working with the District 15 board to try to get some money to pay evaluators.

### Goals for next season

Evaluations are my biggest goal for next season. I hope to have a few more evaluators come on board.

I also have the challenge of recruiting new officials to take the place of older officials who will be retiring soon.

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John Rice

District 15 Supervisor of Officials

1. To implement an evaluation program in District 15. Working with my district director to set up an evaluation program.
2. Continue to challenge the evaluators to follow through with their commitment to evaluate. Work with District Leadership to support evaluations within the district.

- **District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri**

\* This year in District 16, we had 9 seminars with a total of 153 officials in attendance. Three level 3 seminars and six were level 1 and 2. We had two issues with coaches that are worth mentioning. One coach followed an official to the locker room and told him that he was not very good and should be fired. Another coach sent his entire team to the penalty box in the third period because he felt like the official was going to put them all there anyway. Both incidents were dealt with swiftly with the help of Mark Elliot, our district president, who continues to be in full support of officials and does a fantastic job of reminding coaches that they should be also.

\* We had 29 incident reports this year, which is up 1 from 28 last year. Most of these were checking form behind and head contact penalties. I do not think that there is anything out of the ordinary here.

\* Evaluators have been established throughout the district this year and local associations have agreed to pay \$20 per evaluation. Bruce Baumgartner in the Roseau area, Rick Looker in the TRF area, Ron Laituri, Jim Dahedl, Dave White, and now Dan Dow in the Bemidji area. All did many informal evaluations throughout the season but, as a group we fell short of the 100 formal evaluations I set as a goal for this year. I am also working on establishing an evaluator in the EGF area for next season to help in the northwest part of our district. Formal evaluations are something I am going to keep working on this summer and next season, I hope to have better news on the evaluation front next year.

\* Hockey Day Minnesota was held in Bemidji this year and it was a great success despite the cold temperatures. We had over 30 officials work games on the outdoor ice in 7 days of games at all levels from D1 down to Mites.

\* D16 sent a crew to the BAA and PWA State Tournament. BAA crew consisted of Bay Zuehlke (referee), Bazil Zuehlke and Sam Jerome (lines). PWA crew consisted of Jeff Loewe (referee), Chong Vang and Shawn Storey (lines). Even though neither crew worked a Sunday game, they all enjoyed their experience and look forward to another opportunity in the future.

\* We also had the opportunity to send a crew to the Ted Brill Great 8 this year in St. Paul. This crew consisted of Brennan Hockman, Bay Zuehlke, and Sam Jerome. This was a fantastic experience for these officials and thank you to Paul Moen for allowing them the opportunity to officiate this very high level of hockey.

\* Eva Laituri was selected to participate in NHL's Hockey Week across America. This experience was unbelievable for her to be able to attend a Wild game and to also meet the game officials prior to the game. Thank you to Mike Mannin and MHOA for selecting her for this tremendous experience, it was first rate!

Respectfully Submitted,

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Ron Laituri

District 16 Supervisor of Officials

- **WHAM**
- **Adult Hockey Association (AHA), Brent Hansen**
- **North Vice-President: Tod Plackner**

**Challenges: GR President, wanting to ban an official from league games. I attended the meeting and spoke on the behalf of the official. A process must be in place to review official performance.**

**Highlight, two officials went down to the Wild game and met the officials for the game.**

- **South Vice-President: Dave Kemp**

Thanked Paul for the great meal and Robert for taking minutes.

- **MN District RIC: Steve Tatro**

**Registration:** 2380 people registered with USA Hockey to become an official. 2112 completed the registration process. The completion rate increased from 83% last year to 89% this season. The increased completion rate, mostly level 1 officials, can be attributed to local supervisors touching base with these new officials to follow through with the registration requirements. The Minnesota completion rate was better than the national average by 5%. Overall registrants are down 1% percent from last season (17 officials). Nationally the registration rate was up by .3%. We are still experiencing shortages in out-state areas.

**Seminars:** Local seminars numbered 75 (up 2 from last year), with 2216 attendees. The attendance number is slightly lower than last year. However, many experienced MN officials got seminar credit from a District Officiating Seminar or ODP Junior Camps. 100 officials did not attend a seminar despite registering with USA Hockey. 60% were new and under age officials.

**Evaluations:** From the new web-based reporting, about 19% (401) of our completed officials were formally evaluated this season. This is a 2% increase from last season. A total of 551 (up 98 from last season) evaluations were performed.

**Mentoring:** The Mentoring program remains a great teaching tool. This program puts a seasoned official on the ice to guide new officials, not to call the game for them but to instruct them in positioning and in some cases, advise them of the penalty situations. At the end of the game, the mentor spends time with the officials on how to improve.

**Physical Assaults:** There was one "Attempt to do Physical Harm to Officials" this year. MN Hockey, the jurisdictional governing body has rendered a decision on this event. This issue seems to be cyclical in nature from season to season, never exceeding a high of five.

**Injured Officials:** We had 4 incidents of injury that required medical claims to be filed. These claims were not of a serious nature and a long way from the heart (finger, wrist, ankle, and rotator cuff).

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

**Game Reporting:** The implementation of the national game reporting system had very few problems in its fifth year. Most issues with the system were user generated and quickly resolved. The game reporting system sends alerts to administrators when a player has reached the threshold of rule 411 of aggressive infractions. Ryan Swafford of district 9 is the Minnesota administrator and continues to do a fantastic job.

**International-College Tournaments:** Minnesota officials are well represented in International competition. To date we have 12 officials licensed to work International competition. We are also well represented at the Men's and Women's D1 and D3 Collegiate levels.

**National Tournaments:** This year we had 15 officials from Minnesota (6 men and 9 women) working National Tournaments. This is down from the previous year mainly due to the fact we did not host a National Tournament. I was assigned to supervise the Tier 1 U16 & U18 Boys tournament in Grand Rapids, MI.

**Development Camps:** One official will be attending the Western Instructors Camp in Colorado. The Men's Futures camp, High Performance Camp, and Women's Futures Camp will also have representation. The selection process is still not complete for the 3 women and 8 men that have applied for those camps. As always, we will hold the MHOA Camp. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of this camp. To date there are 7 applicants for the 12 slots available. This camp is the most popular development program and continues to be the "Gold Standard" for officials to reach the next level of their officiating career. I want to thank MN Hockey for the resources it provides. The MHOA Women's camp will be held again with Mike Mooney of district 5 coordinating the logistics. It will be held in conjunction with the MN HP15 Girl's festival in St. Cloud. Also, all our female officials are encouraged to work games during the Girl's U18 USA Hockey player development camp in St. Cloud (July 15-21). They will have the opportunity to work high level hockey and be supervised during each game. There continues to be an abundance of opportunities for officials to develop and deepen the Minnesota officiating talent pool.

**Officiating Development Program:** The 21<sup>st</sup> season of the Junior Officiating Development Program under the leadership of Scott Zelkin gets stronger every year. This program continues to oversee officiating assignments in the USHL and works closely with Andy McElman (SPHL) and Keith Kaval (NAHL) in coordinating development and identification of prospect officials at the Junior, Collegiate, and Professional levels of play. Minnesota currently has 30 officials working in this program. Our relationship remains strong and it creates the crowning step in the development process for our officials. Also, many Minnesota officials were identified to work games and receive evaluations at NAPHL showcase events in Blaine. This complements the existing development camps or programs that may not be a good fit for the grass root official who serves as the foundation of our officiating ranks.

**Education, Registration and Project RODEO:** Project RODEO (Rebuilding Officiating Development Education Opportunities) continues to evolve. More on-line courses have been added, and a committee to look at streamlining the registration process and increase retention has been established. Plans are to move officiating registration up to June 1 to try and capture the younger official (an issue on the eastern seaboard). It should not affect our numbers or processes.

**Screening:** This past falls every Minnesota official registered with USA Hockey (Complete or Incomplete) who was 18 or older prior to Jan 1, 2019 and did not have a screen currently on file was screened through MN Hockey. We also took this a step further and were able to import that data into USA Hockey's national database as some of the other affiliates currently do.

**Summary:** Minnesota officiating remains stable and strong and I have no doubt we will implement strategies to increase our registration completion and retention rate. I want to thank our local supervisors, evaluators, mentors and assignors. I anticipate many accomplishments for the 2019-2020 season.

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Tatro, Referee-in-Chief

- **President's Report: Mike Mannin**

At the winter MN Hockey meeting there was some discussion about enforcing the Unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for banging the boards. 601 (b) 5.

Checking at the bantam level.

We will be assigning the NAPHL events again this coming season. The dates are:

September 19-22, October 18-21, December 13-16, January 17-20

We have hired a new MHOA scheduler (Tom Nergard) who has started with the HP events this spring.

We do need more quality officials on this roster. Let me know if you have anyone that can be promoted to work in the 3-person system as a referee and a linesman.

Fall meeting set for Sept 21st at Giants Ridge.

What we accomplished this past season:

Renegotiated rates for the HP and Tier 1 events assigned by MHOA and New State Tournament rates for the next 3 years.

We have secured a budget within MN Hockey which helps pay for lodging at the fall meeting.

Goal for next season:

Get our 501C (3) status finalized or incorporate.

Respectfully,

Mike Mannin

### **Open Forum:**

Jr. Gold Fees: D-1 200.00, D-2 216.00, D-3 244.00, D-5 235.00, D-6 238.00, D-10 235.00

Should we standardize our rates? Mike will send the rates to the supervisors to support a common negotiating fee. Supervisors should reach out to Mike if they need any support.

Handing puck off during stoppages: Let's commit to holding our officials to the mechanics taught by USA Hockey.

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Signing Score Sheets: Districts may have procedures that increase the responsibilities of coaches. USA Hockey/MN Hockey requires the head coach and CEP # and level be listed in the book.

Referee Game Reports: Remind officials to put a description of the event without opinions on the score sheets.

### Mid-Winter Meeting:

Kaposia Club St. Paul Sunday, January 6, 2019

- Meeting called to order at 11:41 am.
- State tournaments
  - Assignments need to be in to the host supervisor and Mike by February 15th. • Junior Gold 16U will be 3-man. Jr. Gold A & B will be 4-man.
  - Executive board will discuss gift for state tournament officials.
- Referee spotlight games
  - Dave has sent in names for all games for through March to the Wild. Hasn't heard since sending names in. Thank you everyone for sending names.
  - Executive board picked an official from Grand Rapids to do the hockey week in America game.
- Last Chance Seminar
  - Discussed pros and cons of holding a last chance seminar.
  - 222 officials in Minnesota are still incomplete with their requirements for 2019.
  - D-10 hosted a last chance seminar the first weekend of December which was successful with over 60 officials.
- Evaluations Status
  - Bruce Carlson not in attendance. He will send out a report regarding evaluation progress.
  - Steve will also send out an update on evaluations. June 1st, 2018-January 6th, 2019 290 evaluations have been completed.
  - Talked through issues with supervisors not receiving evaluations. Evaluations need to be emailed to supervisors.
- Incident reports/Scoresheets
  - Talked about issues with receiving or not receiving game reports.
  - Stress the fact that officials need to put the correct level of play in the reports.
- 1
  - Supervisors please forward game reports that occur in your district to other supervisors from the offending player/coach's district.
- MHOA Camps
  - Please send in names to Mike. Send as many names as possible.
- Spring/Summer Camps
  - Addressed in previous bullet point.
- Leslie Fund
  - \$23,948 currently.
  - Talked about different ways to use fund money in regards to Instructor's camp, MHOA camps, etc.
- MHOA Scheduled Games
  - Hired a new assigner for these games. Tom Nergard has been hired by the Executive Board to schedule. He does not have rights to adding or removing officials this is under the boards control. His first tournament is in 2 weeks for the One Hockey in Blaine.
  - Need to get more officials and supervisors for the NAPHL training opportunity.
  - Things have gone well so far, have a lot of good officials.
  - District games come first, MHOA games come second.
- Rec League
  - 43 teams this year. 45 last year.
- MHOA Service Award
  - Get candidates in for this year.
- Registration Completion Push

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

- Talked about demographics of officials who haven't completed requirements. • 86% completion. Highest rate since 2001.
- Steve would like to get at least half of the current 222 officials to get completed with the goal of retaining these officials for future years. 75% of these officials are new. MN is higher than the national average. Steve broke down numbers between different levels of officials. Steve briefly spoke on the National Symposium being held this summer. 120ish officials have applied during the early bird period.
- Screening
  - 1 official was disqualified from officiating in MN. Another official appealed and was reinstated.
  - Next year screening process will be changing. Nothing has been confirmed but the fee will most likely increased.
- Instructor Camp
  - Contact Steve with candidates.
  - Going forward instructors will no longer be certified for life. Instructors will have to recertify every 5 years by means of online. Anyone becoming an instructor will have to recertify but there are no fees for certifications.
- USA Hockey Winter Meeting
  - Steve talked about upcoming meeting. Currently, MN is pushing 90% retention from last year for officials. If you have anything for Steve to address at the meeting contact him.
- Minnesota Hockey Rule Changes
  - Mike talked about MN Hockey wanting to enforce banging on the boards by players after big hits. This will be discussed at upcoming winter meeting.
  - MN Hockey is discussing changing the minimum for checking from behind to a more severe penalty. This will also be discussed at upcoming winter meeting. Discussion followed regarding these types of penalties.
- 501c3
  - Kurt spoke on the process and the difficulty with getting this completed. Mike recommended bringing in a 3rd party to help. Kurt will do further investigation.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM 3

Kaposia Club St. Paul Sunday, January 6, 2019

### **Old Business:**

Mark will need to update a list of seminar staff list. USA Hockey will be using this list to plan for training.

MHOA Scholarship Fund: Held golf tournament last summer to raise funds. Maddens will host the event again this summer. The board is committed to providing annual scholarships to MHOA members who are looking to further their education. The board will consider moving money from funds raised outside of member dues to the scholarship fund.

### **New Business:**

MHOA Development Camp: Camp #1 currently has 9 participants of which two are female officials.

Camp #2: Currently has 9 participants. These camps can be used for a seminar.

Supervisors are encouraged to attend the camps and support the development of our young officials.

The MHOA Board discussed via email thread the importance of recognizing our camp instructors and that a raise has not been given in many years. The group was in favor of this concept.

**Dave Kemp made a motion to raise the stipend rate for camp instructors from \$60.00 per day to \$70.00 per day. This motion was seconded by Ryan Swafford. The motion passed by an email vote.**

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

VFW State Tournament Responsibilities: MN Hockey does recognize this event. Supervisors can ask for support, but they are responsible for this event.

Tenure Seminar Gift: The max attendance for the event will be 250.

**Scott Kuhl motioned to allocate not to exceed \$1000.00 of MHOA funds to be used to buy welcome gifts for attendees of the seminar, Mike Mooney seconded the motion. Motion passed by a voice vote.**

Background: Starting the 2021 season background screens will be Federally required. This will change our requirements.

Leslie Golf Tournament: June 14<sup>th</sup> at Stone Brooke

Physical Assault of Official: Referee drove 5 hours round trip to testify in a hearing regarding his assault. This was a USA Hockey Hearing. MHOA will cover the cost for these expenses.

**MHOA Service Award: Ken Carlson is the recipient of the award! Ken has been a dedicated USA Hockey Official and mentor for over 30 years.**

Ken began officiating in 1975 and had a 30-year career in officiating youth hockey. He started when it was still AHAUS which eventually became USA Hockey. Ken was the RIC for the St. Cloud area Great River Referees Association for 17 years. There was first part of District 3, then D10. Ken's duties include supervising, training and mentoring all the officials in the Great River Referees Association and doing all the assigning of officials to games. Ken, although he was retired at the time, was very instrumental in helping the St. Cloud officials transition to D5 when that realignment took place. When Ken began there was one arena in St. Cloud, the MAC. Eventually they added one more surface to the MAC and then they built the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center and finally the Sauk Rapids, Arena East. By the time Ken retired he was responsible for the officials at five arenas.

Ken became a USA Hockey certified instructor in 1991 and instructed at seminars and clinic throughout Minnesota. Ken was a mentor to many young officials over the years. A few have done well in officiating.

Brian Thul just retired from NCAA Division I after a 20-year career, minor professional, D10 & D5.

Evonne (Young) Fix, Worked the Olympic Games, NCAA Division I & III, D5 & D10.

Brian Mach, NHL, D15 Little Falls. Kenny has had a very positive impact on many young people's lives. I have never heard anyone say anything negative about Ken but anyone that knows him can tell you stories about how he helped them. Ken always has a smile on his face and a kind word on his lips, he is just not a great official and mentor he is a great human being.

Ken is exactly what this award represents, he is grass roots, behind the scenes guy that has done more for officiating than we will ever know. Ken is retired and resides in St. Cloud with his wife. He can still be found at the ice arena; Ken is an off-ice official for the NCHC at St. Cloud State.

**Recognition of Mike Mooney: Mike has been an official since 1971 and District 5 Supervisor for the past 12 seasons. The board thanks Mike for his service to our group and the officials within MHOA!**

**Chet Stewart Award: Congratulations to Dave Kemp, District 6 Supervisor and South Vice President for being the 2019 recipient of this annual award.**

In June of 2000, USA Hockey established an award to recognize the achievement of a grassroots officiating volunteer. The Officiating Education Program presents the award each year at the President's Awards banquet during the USA Hockey Annual Congress. The Chet Stewart Award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the officiating education program during many years of service as an official and volunteer. The recipient will have been a grassroots leader in officiating education and development and provided dedicated service throughout his/her career to both the officiating and hockey community.

## 2019 MHOA Spring Meeting Minutes

**MN Hockey President's Award: Congratulations to Steve Tatro, MN District Referee in Chief for receiving this award form MN Hockey.**

The Presidents' Award is given annually to those individuals whom the President of Minnesota Hockey feels have given exemplary service to the organization's efforts

**Motion to adjure the meeting by Kemp and seconded by Kuhl.**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Thul  
MHOA Secretary

### **Elections of officers:**

**Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward Tod Plackner for North Vice-President. Dennis Alm asked for other nominations three times. Brett Klosowski was nominated from the floor by Chris Kavanaugh. Tod Plackner won election.**

**Tod Plackner was elected as the new MHOA North Vice President by a voice vote.**

**Nomination Committee brought one nominee forward Mike Mannin for President. Dennis Alm asked for other nominations three times. No other nominations from the floor.**

**Mike Mannin was elected as the MHOA President on a white ballot.**