

Alaska State Hockey Association Meeting
December 4, 2021

Members present: Travis Frisk, Jeannie Carey, Brandon Harker, John Stenehjem, Ben Roth

Members present via Phone: Scott Sivulich, Heidi Haas, Jake Thompson, Jason Beach, Renee Loree, Jen Hunter, Shana Pilkington, Mandy Reale, Josh Ellis, Kirk Kullberg, Jenna Redford

Members excused: Justin Marcum, Annetta Powell, Rick Trupp

Officers present: Darryl Thompson, Jim Newhouse, Jamie Larsen, Steve Ludwig, Carol Hammingh,

Officers present via Phone: Lacey Smith, Kirk Payne, Matt Thompson, Kirk Payne

USA Hockey Alaska Representatives present: Anna Culley, Pacific District Associate Registrar for Alaska, Kirk Kullberg, USA Hockey ADM Representative of Alaska

Visitors present: Tom Hancock, President of California affiliate

The meeting was called to order by Darryl Thompson, President

Seating of Board Members:

Anchorage Hockey Association	Jeannie Carey
Hockey Club Fairbanks	Ben Roth

- Roll call was done. Quorum established.
- The agenda was approved as presented.
- The October 9, 2021 minutes were approved with the amendment that the block grant for Toys for Tots was for \$5,000 not \$4,000. Minutes approved as amended.

Persons to be heard:

Tom Hancock- President of California affiliate

- Tom shared how their board in California is structured. 20 voting directors for their state board. These voting directors are elected members, elected by the memberships. Smaller associations and special interest groups, i.e., disabled hockey, etc. would likely have to pool together to put votes towards those members that they'd like to see on the board.
 - Tom suggested that we look at and adopt some sort of different structuring of our board. To have more interested members on the board to have true representation of the participants.
 - How can and should we restructure our board to be more manageable and have people on the board that actually want to attend meetings and contribute to the board?
 - Kirk Payne mentioned that a proposal is being composed. Mike Walsh with the Foraker Group is working hard on this. The idea is to take the best things that we see in California and in other states and seeing what we can make fit for Alaska.
 - In order for any change to be made, it requires a bylaw change. This has to be at an annual meeting which is in April.
 - A potential plan is for something to be available on paper for a first read/review at the January meeting.
- Tom shared how they do seating tournaments in California.

- Their process until two years ago: Labor Day weekend- Tier II- 4 game seating tournament with comp committee at the event watching and evaluating each game. This brought much improvement with getting teams into their correct divisions.
- Now at the Tier II level they play 3 pre-season weekends to determine their division teams. You play every team in your group and the top teams are Tier II. Middle teams move to a double elimination tournament the 3rd weekend and that ultimately determines the Tier II teams, etc. Tom thinks this would work great for Alaska to determine Tier II teams.
- Another option is that A and B teams have a 'pre-season' for the first three weekends, the competition committee evaluates these games and scores then meets and determines if any teams need to shift up or down. They can then delegate if teams would move up or down divisions.
 - Carol mentioned that travel for teams in Alaska would be an issue in some of these cases. CA has two leagues so that helps with any travel issues for them. They play within their league until state tournaments.
 - Darryl mentioned that municipal ice contract gives substantially more ice for programs with competitive teams, also causing an issue with hockey in AK.

President's Report:

- Darryl thanked Tom Hancock for coming and sharing with us.
- Darryl shared that the match penalty program that USA Hockey has implemented has radically reduced the number of discipline hearings. We have seen no appeals for the initial decisions at this time.
 - Still a vacancy for the Discipline Committee chair position. Bruce Graham has filled in when needed and Darryl expressed his thanks to him for his willingness to help.
 - Carol shared that the system is working great, but sees a flaw as well. If someone has prior offenses, the ref in chief may not know that history. Carol suggested that we figure out a system to help with this.

Finance:

- Jim Newhouse provided the financial report. Mentioned that any questions or if anyone needs explanation on anything to contact him.

VP Tournaments:

- Carol shared that some of the state tournament dates may change.
- Now is a great time to find the state tournament trophies from last season, make sure they are engraved, cleaned & repaired before passing them on to the next hosting association. January 29th, the next ASHA board meeting is a great opportunity to pass on the trophies.
 - **10U Minors Kenai needs to get it to North Stars**
 - **10U Majors Blue Devils please keep it for another year in your trophy case**
 - **12U Minor HCF need to get to Blue Devils**
 - **12U Majors Alaska Oilers give to SAHA**
 - **14U Tier II Alaska All Stars give to Matsu**
 - **16U Tier II Valley Thunder give to Jr Avalanche**
 - **18U Tier II Alaska Oilers give to Kenai**
 - **10U A Delta give to Matsu**
 - **10U B Alaska Avalanche give to Homer**
 - **12U A Delta give to Kenai**
 - **12U B Matsu give to Mustangs**
 - **14U A Juneau give to Palmer**
 - **14U B Matsu give to HCF**
 - **16U A Alaska Avalanche give to AHA**
 - **16U B Gomez Foundation give to AHA**

- **18U A Juneau give to Jr Avalanche**
- **18U B Jr Avalanche give to Matsu**
- **14U Girls Tier II HCF give to North Stars**
- There are 92 teams set to participate in House state tournaments this season.
- There are 46 teams for the comp & 2 for Girls comp state tournaments this season.
- 3-day state tournaments will more than likely run Saturday, Sunday & Monday to help with the ref pool.
- State Tournament participation item this season is a helmet repair kit.
- The 18U Tier II schedule is done. All others will be sent out as soon as they are done and approved.

VP Comp Council:

- Steve Ludwig shared that the comp council met before the ASHA meeting and discussed options for a seating tournament and a committee to look into this.
- The comp council would like to see an interactive calendar or other way to easily get information to associations, etc. for items not only with comp council but also for ASHA as well.
- Steve mentioned that there was a steering committee for Team Alaska. They will start evaluating the next steps with Team Alaska and where we want to take that from an ASHA standpoint.

VP House Council:

- Lacey brought up the Delta 10 & 12 teams having to stay at the A level due to missing the deadline. They have chosen to participate in many AA level tournaments and have been doing quite well. She hopes to also help associations know the deadlines they may need to be aware of in the future so they can participate at the best level of play for their team.
- The exception requests have been crazy this season. 16 requests involving 20 kids dual rostering.

VP Girls/Women Council:

- Block grant money is available for programs/associations to utilize. Contact Kirk if you or your association is interested.

VP Adult Council: No report. Excused.

- Ron Gray is looking to step down, if anyone has any recommendations, please let Ron or Darryl know.

VP Player Development:

- Matt Thompson shared that Selects (Boys & Girls) is coming up 12/18th & 19th. Good numbers so far for registration. Deadline is 12/13 for registration, hoping for some more to join.
- Darryl reminded Matt that any association that has a comp team is required to send a representative to help with Girls/Boys Selects or they are to pay ASHA \$500.

Discipline Committee: No report. VACANT

Registrar Report:

- Anna shared that we currently have 122 registered youth teams. Over 6,280 registered players. That doesn't include all players as A and B teams are still being entered in the portal.
- Anna reminded registrars that December 15th is the deadline for all 1T's to be submitted. If associations need more time with their A & B teams past that date, please reach out to Anna personally.
- Anna reminded coaches/managers to review all notes added to your 1T's.
- December 31st is the deadline for all Tier I, Tier II, Major & Minor teams to make any changes to players. There are NO player changes allowed after 12/31.

- December 31st is also the deadline for all coaches to update their CEP levels. If coaches do not update before 12/31, they will not be on the 1T for the rest of the season. They may not be on the ice or bench.
- December 31st- if you have a player that is dual-rostered they MUST declare in writing (the registrar can do this) to Anna declaring what team they will be participating with in the post season. They can play on both teams until the end of the season, but only one team for post season play, unless they have been approved for dual participation by the House council.
- All birth certificates for 10U & up need to be submitted by 12/31 if possible. 6U & 8U can continue to come in throughout the season.
- January 31st is the deadline for all A & B team player changes. NO changes will be allowed after 1/31.
- We have over 1700 unclaimed members in Alaska currently, reminding that all teams/associations need to claim their members.
- Reminder to those submitting travel permits to get them to Anna sooner than later. You know when you are traveling, please submit the forms so they can be returned to you.
- So far this season we have 12 sanctioned tournaments. Anna created a Google sheet that will be updated throughout the season. It has been sent it to Jamie Larsen and Andrew Goode for referencing.

Hall of Fame:

- Looking for more nominations!

COVID Report: No report.

Referee in Chief:

- Josh Ellis emphasized that we are currently short on refs. He has a few ideas to help with this, he plans to share them at the January meeting to get feedback.

Coach in Chief: Excused. No report

- Rick Trupp shared, via email, the list of upcoming clinics for coaches to update their CEP's.

Jr. Hockey: No report.

SafeSport Coordinator: No report.

Goal Tender Coordinator: No report. VACANT

Alaska ADM Coordinator:

- Kirk Kullberg mentioned that Toys for Tots was awesome, great for ½ ice and cross-ice games.
- 2nd annual SeaPup Cup is coming up Dec. 16th-19th. Goal is to donate another \$5,000 to the 5th Line. Age groups are 8U White, 8U Red, 10U & 12U.

Old Business:

- ASHA COVID-19 Policy: Nothing new
- House and Comp Tournament Hosts and locations -update if any.
 - Carol's update is listed above in her report.
- Wolves Readmission into the Alaska League
 - Travis Frisk shared that this is the 3rd consecutive year in a row that the Wolves have not fielded a team. This current season is due to missing the deadline to be reinstated in the comp league.

- Travis asked for the Alaska Wolves to be reinstated into the Alaska League for the 2022-2023 season. They are aiming to field one or more teams in the 14-18 divisions, but are not limiting themselves. He stated that if they can't field a competitive team, then they will step aside and not field a team.
- The recommendation from the comp council was to hear from Travis Frisk and for those representatives to take it back to their associations.
- Jim Newhouse made the motion to reinstate the Alaska Wolves into the Alaska League.
 - Carol Hammingh seconded the motion. Discussion was had, concerns and questions voiced regarding numbers, ice availability, & competitive level. Darryl tabled this decision until the January meeting after ASHA receives a recommendation from the Comp Council.
- Governance – notes on discussion are detailed above

New Business:

- Huddle- Jim Newhouse motioned to pay actual costs for purchasing of Huddle for Tier I Alaska teams.
 - Travis Frisk seconded the motion. Motion passes.
- Jim Newhouse motioned to waive the fee for Alaska Firebirds and Alaska Wolves.
 - The motion was seconded. Motion passes.
- Jim Newhouse motioned to cover the tent fee for the SeaPup Cup out of remainder of block grant funds and the general fund.
 - Steve Ludwig seconded the motion. Motion passes.
- We had the following electronic votes ratified:
 - Matt Shasby resigned as VP Player Development on 11/5/21. Kirk Payne motioned for Matt Thompson to replace Matt Shasby as VP Player Development and to serve the remainder of the term, which expires April 2023. Jason Beach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
 - Scott Vockeroth motioned that for the 2021-2022 season, 10U teams may use the following information to determine which teams they can play to secure the 6 required half ice games.
 - 10U Minor: 10U Minor, 12U A, 12U B
 - 10U A: 8U Red, 10U B, 10U A, 12U B
 - 10U B: 8U Red, 10U B, 10U A
 Jason Beach seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Board Member Comments:

- Carol has ASHA handbooks. If anyone needs one, let her know.
- On behalf of Challenge Alaska, Brandon Harker wants to thank Travis Frisk and the Alaska Wolves for their generous donation to help offset their season costs.
- Ben Roth asked that if anyone has suggestions for what works best for league technology tools, websites, etc. please let him know. Darryl suggested he contact Jason Beach. Kirk Kullberg offered any help needed with SportsEngine.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on January 29, 2022 at 10:00am at Megan's Room, 6591 A St. 1st Floor, Anchorage or via Zoom if mandated.

Respectfully,

Jamie Larsen
ASHA Secretary