

SDAHA Fall Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2021

Attending the meeting as voting delegates were Tony Leif (SDAHA President), Jeff Scheel (SDAHA Treasurer), Duke Witte (Aberdeen), Sam Johnson (Brandon Valley), Justin Kirchhevel (Brookings), Lori Goldhammer (Mitchell), John Ullmann(Oahe), Dan Laughlin (Rapid City), Bill Waring (Sioux Center), Adam Gorra (Sioux Falls), Lucas Deutsch (Watertown), & Sarah Thoms (Yankton).

Also attending the meeting were Jenni Wirkus (SDAHA Executive Director), Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Rob Kittay (SDAHA CIC/Boys Development), Vince Foley (USA Hockey HS Section), Greg Evenson (NP District Representative) Shane Wirkus, & Jared Ahlberg (SDAHA RIC).

A Quorum was determined and President Leif called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

President Leif introduced & welcomed Greg Evenson, NP District Director, to the meeting. Greg gave a report on the NP District and USA Hockey.

President Leif approved the agenda as written.

Spring 2020 Meeting minutes were reviewed, motion by Aberdeen and 2nd by WHA to approve the minutes as written. Motion Passed!

President Leif gave a brief Presidents report citing that recruitment and retention of players should be a big focus this season. Numbers have been down with USA hockey over the last 2 years due to COVID and they are focused on growth using the 2019 model. President Leif noted that he is available for questions, concerns and support via phone or email and associations are encouraged to reach out if they need anything.

Treasurer Jeff Scheel reviewed the 8/31/21 Year End Financials. Motion by Oahe and 2nd by Sioux Falls to accept the Financials as written. Motion passed!

Treasurer Jeff Scheel presented the Budget for the year ending 8/31/22. Discussion was had on possibly increasing the amount allocated to SDAHA from the USA Hockey registrations. Jeff will review options with USA Hockey and will present them at a BOD Meeting to be held prior to the end of this year. Motion was made by Aberdeen and 2nd by Brookings to accept the Budget as written. Motion Passed!

The SDAHA registrar was not present at the meeting and no report was provided. It was noted to reach out to Annette via email or phone with any registration questions or questions concerning the completion of coach and player roster requirements.

An official's report was given by the new RIC Jared Ahlberg. Jared and Doug Sorenson will be conducting the in person seminars for SDAHA. Level 1 officials will have a 5 hour class which

will include on ice training and also the completion of the required USA Hockey modules as USA Hockey found that 50% of the officials attending the class were not taking the time to finish all of the requirements after the completion of the class to get the final certification. The open book test will be the only requirement needing to be done after the seminar completion for Level 1 officials. Level 2 & 3 Officials will attend seminars together. Young level 2 officials are encouraged to attend the on ice training portion of the Level 1 clinic as well. Level 2 & 3 officials will complete all of the requirements for their certification during the seminar other than the open book test. They will have 7 days after the seminar to take the open book test and 1.5 hours to complete it once they open and start the test.

RIC Ahlberg highly suggested that associations encourage their coaches to attend an officials seminar this season as there are a lot of new updates for this rule change year. The coaches would not need to register through USA Hockey and complete the official certifications but would be given valuable training at these seminars. Coaches should email Jared at ahlbergsdric@gmail.com to reserve a seat at a seminar of their choice.

SDAHA Executive Director Jenni Wirkus reminded associations of the importance of recruiting officials and getting the information out in their associations on the upcoming officials seminars.

SDAHA Girls Player Development Director Shelby Edwards was not in attendance but submitted a report which was included in the meeting packet.

Rob Kittay spoke on the Boys Player Development side and noted next year's camp will be held in Sioux Falls on April 22-24, 2022. The dates of the NP Camp in Grand Forks are May 20-22, 2022.

Coach in Chief, Rob Kittay reviewed the certifications of the coaches in SDAHA and noted the new rules for Level 4 coaches who participate with a Tier I or Tier II Team. These coaches will now have CE credit requirements to maintain their Level 4. Rob reviewed the playing rule changes that pertain to the coaches specifically noting and reviewing that the coach will now receive a suspension after 12 team penalties vs 15. Playing Rule 10c was reviewed and clarified for suspensions pertaining to dual rostered coaches at the BJV/Varsity and Girls 14U/Varsity levels.

Growth & Retention representative Curtis Egan was not present at the meeting but sent notice that he will be sending a report to the associations soon with information from the Level 5 Symposium.

Vince Foley, High School Section Representative, reported on the High School Nationals. When committing a team/s for HS Nationals SDAHA will need to follow through with a team. Teams backing out from attending after a commitment may lose their spot for future years. Vince noted the importance of SDAHA sending a team annually and suggested that SDAHA commit to a \$5000 stipend to help defray the travel expenses incurred for the team to attend. Discussion was had on where the funds would come from for this and did not result in a motion for consideration.

Executive Director Wirkus reported on Team South Dakota. All 6 teams, 2 Boys and 4 Girls, kicked off their Fall season of games this weekend. Locations of the 2022 National Tournaments were given and a discussion was had on the play-in games for the Girls 14U and 16U which will be held the last weekend in February. USA Hockey has set the last weekend in February for the play-in games for the 2023 season as well. SDAHA will need to review the State Tournament weekends next season if a GJV League is fielded as these dates would interfere.

Cherry Hunter, SDAHA Risk Manager, encouraged associations to have a local Risk Manager and Safesport rep that is independent of their board. It was also encouraged that locals make sure the information of their representative/s is clearly listed on their website. Board members and individuals in local associations who have contact with the youth must have the proper safesport and background certifications PRIOR to any on or off ice activities. Safesport is an annual training & background checks are every other year. Local association registrars can check the certifications for all players, coaches & volunteers.

Vice President/Discipline chair Mike Hunter was not present at the meeting. President Leif noted that email notifications were sent last week to any associations who have players/coaches with carryover suspensions. Any association wishing to make a change to their discipline representative should notify SDAHA by October 15th, 2021.

Executive Director Wirkus reported on scheduling for the 2021-2022 season. The list of team counts were presented at each division. Discussion was held on the PB, BB and BJV State Tournament locations and were awarded as follows: PB-Mitchell, BB-Oahe & BJV-Watertown. The January GJV Jamboree was awarded to Mitchell. Jenni noted that if any associations had any last minute changes to their blocked weekends they need to submit them before Monday.

Matt Tobin, Sioux Falls Power, was not in attendance at the meeting but submitted a report which was included in the meeting packet for review.

Local Association reports were given by the 10 Delegates in attendance. Delegates discussed player numbers compared to last season, team counts, fundraising details, rink updates and aspirations for the season.

Old Business:

Treasurer Scheel reported on the Dave Stahl Scholarship Fund noting a group of Trustees was formed to provide the framework for the scholarships and to help administer this fund. As of 8/31/21 there was just over \$20,000 in the fund and \$4,000 in funds will be allocated for registration fees for the 2021-2022 season. Executive Director Wirkus noted that the deadline to apply for a scholarship to defray registration costs was September 8th, 2021 and 13 applications were receiving requesting \$4300. Treasurer Scheel advised that once the initial

allocation requests are reviewed if funds are remaining applications will be accepted again at a later date for camp registrations.

Executive Director Wirkus discussed the Friends of SDAHA Scholarships, 13 were awarded for year one with amounts totalling \$16,000. SDAHA is looking for opportunities to replenish the fund for the upcoming season's allocations. Jenni discussed hosting an awards banquet at the end of the season to award the scholarships, honor the Varsity State Champions, recognize officials and possibly start a SDAHA Hall of Fame. Discussion will continue on this over the next couple of months for potential implementation. Anyone having ideas/suggestions to raise scholarship funds is asked to please reach out to Jenni.

New Business:

Treasurer Scheel reported on the results of the USA Hockey Audit of SDAHA. USA Hockey has requested that SDAHA have a Conflict of Interest Policy. Treasurer Scheel presented a sample policy and noted that the adoption of such policy will be an agenda item at the next BOD meeting. Treasurer Scheel also noted that USA Hockey has investment options available to SDAHA. Discussion was had on potential options and the BOD requested that Treasurer Scheel continue to investigate the options and bring some recommendations to the next board meeting.

A resolution naming authorized signers was presented to the board. This item needs to be completed when there is a change in officers and needs to be completed at this time due to the change in the SDAHA Presidency last Spring. Motion was made by SF and 2nd by Yankton for approval to change SDAHA's authorized signers. Motion passed!

The vacant SDAHA Secretary position was discussed and President Leif reported that the clerical duties of the Secretary were currently being handled by the SDAHA Executive Director. President Leif recommended that the Secretary position remain open for the season and be revisited at the Spring Meeting for an appointment to this position or a change in the Bylaws pertaining to this position.

The 2021-2025 Rule changes were recapped by RIC Jared Ahlberg. USA Hockey has a great 9 minute video tutorial of these changes that SDAHA has sent to the locals, posted to the SDAHA website and SDAHA Facebook page. Locals are encouraged to make sure this information is shared with their membership. District Director Evenson noted that USA Hockey could assist also with getting this video to our registered membership. Jenni will follow up on this. The new rules allow for affiliates to adjust the time length of penalties based on the length of the game periods. A motion was made by Brookings and 2nd by Sioux Center to change the squirt minor penalty length from 1 minute 30 seconds to 1 minute and leave all other penalty lengths the same. Motion passed!

Mitchell Delegate, Lori Goldhammer, discussed the Jamborees at the Squirt Level and questioned them being mandatory for teams. Currently there are 20 games at Squirts which consists of 6 regular game days with 2 games a day (12 games) and 2 jamboree weekends

where 2 games are played both Saturday & Sunday (8 games). It was noted that SDAHA initially decided on 20 games for the Squirt league based on USA Hockey's recommendation of 25 games for this age level. Mitchell was advised that the game counts could be revisited at the Spring Meeting if a proposal was submitted.

Adam Gorra, Sioux Falls President/Delegate, led a discussion on the Bantam Divisions suggesting the possibility of alternative options to split the team divisions to bridge the gap between the skill levels. Suggestions were A,B,C league if we had enough SDAHA teams or possibly an option to "tier" the teams. A committee was formed to begin exploring options for the Bantam level. Committee members include Lucas Deutsch, Justin Kirchheval, Duke Witte, Curtis Bales and Adam Gorra (chairman).

Executive Director Wirkus reported that there will not be a GJV Division scheduled for the league this season as only 2 associations had enough players to field a team. Instead, SDAHA will have a GJV Jamboree league in which all GJV eligible players from each of the 11 associations will be allowed to participate.

The GJV Jamborees will be held November 12-14th (Sioux Falls), January 21-23 (Mitchell) & February 25th-27th (Huron). Pending team counts, the goal will be to host games Saturday and Sunday only to reduce travel costs for families. The first event in November will be part of the SDAHA Girls weekend and will begin on Friday.

A list of eligible players from each association will be created by the local coaching staff and submitted to SDAHA along with a list of SDAHA coaches interested in coaching during these weekends. A draft will be held amongst the teams coaches to select the rosters for the GJV Jamboree season. This provides an opportunity for coaches to create competitive teams with a diversity of players from all of the associations.

Jersey's will be provided for these teams and SDAHA will seek sponsorships to cover the cost of the purchase. The cost of the officials for the GJV Jamboree weekends will be split between the locals.

Executive Director Wirkus will be hosting the SDAHA Girls weekend again this season in Sioux Falls November 12th-14th. This year the plan is to include the GJV teams, 10U teams, 12U/14U teams and the Sioux land sled hockey team. This event has an approximate price tag of \$11,000 which Jenni will be working to secure sponsorships and donations for. Delegates were asked to provide a contact in their association for Jenni to work with for ideas on sponsorships. Each association will be asked to provide a basket again this year for the silent auction & raffle. This went very well last season.

This was a free event last season and players also received a free T-shirt with all of the sponsorships listed and a free ticket to the Stampede game that evening. This is the goal again this year and the hope is to top our registration from last year and be over 200 participants!

Proposals:

One proposal was received from Treasurer Scheel to update the wording of Bylaw 11.4. As SDAHA has been working with Donors to the Dave Stahl All Star Fund, SDAHA has been

approached regarding the ability to accept donations of In Kind Stock. While the bylaws may allow it in the current format, the revisions below clearly define the ability to accept an In Kind Stock donation. It changes the verbiage from "funds" to "financial assets" and expands the type of entities where funds can be held. Motion was made by Sioux Center and 2nd by Yankton to accept the proposal as written. Motion passed!

The update will read:

11.4 Deposits: All financial assets funds of SDAHA shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of SDAHA under such conditions and in such banks, brokerage companies, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may designate or as may be designated by any officer or officers, agent or agents of SDAHA to whom such powers may from time to time be delegated by the Board of Directors. For the purpose of such deposit, any person or persons to whom such power is delegated may endorse, assign and deliver checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money which are payable to the order of SDAHA.

Two playdown requests were received at the Bantam Level requesting to play Bantam B vs Bantam A.

Request #1: Aberdeen hockey has 17 players at the Bantam level made up of 14 skaters and 3 Goaltenders. President/Delegate Duke Witte provided statistical data on the make up of this team and their inability to compete at the BA level noting that in order to be competitive the team would fit in better at BB. A motion was made by Aberdeen and 2nd by Brandon Valley to allow Aberdeen's Bantam team to compete at the BB level this season. Motion passed 9-2 with Brookings and Rapid City in opposition.

Request #2: Sioux Center Hockey has 15 players at the Bantam level as they moved their only 3 Freshmen up to help with their low numbers at BJV/Varsity. All but 3 of the players on this team will be first year Bantams. Sioux Center's goal this season is to be able to retain these players and provide a place for them to play where they can be competitive and they feel that they could not be competitive at BA. A motion was made by Sioux Center and 2nd by Brandon Valley to allow Sioux Center's Bantam team to compete at the BB level this season. Motion was passed 11-0!

Spring Meeting: Saturday April 9th, 2022, location TBD

Meeting was adjourned by President Leif at 3:21PM.