



**NED Minutes - May 5 & 6, 2023
Presidents and Directors Session**

Attendees:

Directors: Chris Wasburn (on phone), Cheri Bonawitz, Richard Oliver

Affiliate Presidents: ~~Matt Roy (NH)~~, Nate Isham (on behalf of John Cioffi) (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI)

NED Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin/Interim Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer), David Fritz (Membership Council)

Guests: Mike McCullough (NED Registrar), Tom Regan (USA Hockey), Bobby Rodrigue (Boys Player Dev), Aubie van Beuren (RI VP)

EXECUTIVE SESSION 5/5/23 - called to order at 12:55pm / adjourned 4:58pm

GENERAL SESSION 5/6/23 - called to order at 8:00am / adjourned 10:17am (CT 1st - VT 2nd)

*******ME makes a motion to accept the Fall 2022 minutes as written. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)*******

***President Reports**

- ME (Mike): Good season and Futures weekend - tough year with parental behavior. Tryouts are done, T2 girls won Nationals which was very exciting. Struggling with volunteers. Annual meeting coming up, looking for someone with strong professional credentials to assist with SafeSport. Mike will be attending Annual Congress.
- NH (Matt): N/A
- VT (Nate): Program merger in VT (two for profits) underway and making sure they remain T1 eligible. John, Nate & Kim all re-elected. Exec Board added a few supplemental penalty policies that seemed to pay off towards the end of the season. Nate and Kim will be attending Annual Congress.
- RI (Andrew): Quiet - tryouts and parity is done. No end of season feedback from organizations. SafeSport complaint workflow and timing continues to be frustrating. Andrew will be attending Annual Congress and bringing another RI representative.
- CT (Chuck): Quiet - successful at Regionals and Nationals. A few new board members. Chuck will be attending Annual Congress and bringing another CT representative.

*Financial Report - J.Strong (see attachments)

Discussed - Debit card spending during high volume weekends, higher limits always need pre-approval; Supplemental Affiliate Grant Disbursements will be issued to each state at this meeting per the motion made in October 2022 meeting minutes.
Camps were successfully structured financially and net income to date shared.

*Tournaments - R. Oliver

Things went mostly well. NB tournaments need to have EMTs and follow the guidebook. Recommendation to no longer host 10U T2 & T3 level tournaments. Discuss eliminating the other Non-NB tournaments as well. 2024 NB Regionals will take place as they traditionally do Mar 8-10, will likely need to add a 13O Division..

*******RI makes a motion for the District to cover the costs of the banners and hats for the 2023 regional tournaments (one year). – ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)*******

*Futures - J. Strong

Still organizing financials from apparel, potentially consider an in person screenprint for the Saturday event in future years. Tryouts HAVE to be done and submitted earlier. Player attendance felt good, Coaches were ok but a little light. Officials process and evaluation went well. Maine will host 2024 but the exact weekend will be firmed up at Annual Congress. Also discuss the possibility of assigning a Futures Camp Director and/or Administrator similar to Girls and Boys camps, compensation to also be discussed.

*Girls Player Development - C. Bonawitz

It was fun! 300 registered players, numbers growing from previous year(s). Need to do a little better with internal communication leading up to the event and prep. Great event but can be executed better.

*Boys Player Development & NED Tryouts - T. Regan & B. Rodrigue

Went well, including selections. Attendance was good, both events were full. Coaching staff was unbelievable, all college coaches. New process for the 17s, each district will have its own team, so NED will have a team and will be coached by NED representatives at the camp in Buffalo. Process for assigning the at-large players is still being discussed. Good group for 16s. Upcoming 15s are now a weekend camp.

*Disabled & Youth Council - R. Oliver

Really need to work on getting a disabled rep for the NED. A lot of positive feedback from Nationals, 2024 will have (5) new host sites. Residency Rule being discussed amongst the committee. 13O T1 division will be added for 2024 Nationals - each district will get one team.

*Legal & Governance - T. Regan

Discussed the strategic plan at the most recent meeting, including how the council can better support the districts and affiliates. A committee of 3 was formed to look into the admission of members to affiliates in Tier 1 programs and have a standard across the country to address conflict of interests.

*Registrar Section - Mike McCullough

Registration opened April 3. The IT change with USA Hockey has been a good change. SafeSport is good for a 12 month rolling period, everyone has concerns of mid season lapsing. IT is hoping to automate redlining. The At-Large process for Nationals has changed on how teams are selected and announced causing some communication concerns. Credentialing issues in New England require longer discussions. Discussion surrounding T1 teams being required to have 2 goalies, the need for backup goalies was significantly higher this year. 13O T1 was approved at the winter meeting for 2024 Nationals, which will be available in the porta for this upcoming season. T1 18U roster is being extended to 20 skaters and 2 goalies - everyone can dress. T1 vertical movement pilot - will allow a 15O rostered player to play on a 16U or 18U team without being rostered on those teams - NED logistical and precedence concerns voiced.. Following an issue at 16U T2 Nationals - discussion around the eligibility of "junior hockey" players.

*Elections - 3 positions up, no nominations from the floor, no objections

Ray St. Pierre / District Admin
Tom Regan / NED Director
Cheri Bonawitz / NED Director

*******Directors have been re-elected, following USA Hockey policy, with the majority of the presidents representing the majority of the members in the district. RI - first, CT - seconds, ALL IN FAVOR*******

*Referees Section - B. Zalcmán

Congratulations to Amanda Tassoni for reffing the gold medal game for 2023 Women's World Championships. 3 NED refs were at NCAA Frozen Four. ME RIC Jess will be stepping down to take on NED Women's RIC role. It's been slow going to find next in line for Maine. Matt Leaf resigned after 28 years. 22 refs worked Nationals from NED, Presidents willing to assist with

travel costs for these refs in the future. Numbers are still down from pre-Covid, for this year 1625 officials, half of which are Level 1. About 2% of all officials are female. Level 1 buddy system seemed to result in higher retention. Ref fees are going up, registration opens 6/1 for next season. Summer camp invites just went out. Green armbands are being discussed for minor referees. There needs to be conversation about how to handle USA Hockey teams playing non-USA Hockey teams (ie penalties, game reports)

*Coaching Section - Bobby Rodrigue/Jacob Strong

Quiet time with no real updates since January. Always looking for more coach developers. Larry Rocha would like to send a second person from NED to an upcoming training for goaltending coaching.

*******ME makes a motion for the District to cover the costs up to \$2,000 for Mackenzie Bruch (from CT) to attend the upcoming goaltending training in Colorado with Cheri Bonawitz coordinating the final details to include a commitment of time at an upcoming NED event or camp to share what was learned. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)*******

*Membership Council - D. Fritz

Spent a few months ahead of this past season going door to door getting feedback from communities about hockey in CT. 10 members of the new membership council met for the first time last month. Growing the game ideas..... Trying to get hockey in more homes in NED. GYK group. More buy-in from equipment manufacturers. Would like to go to each state and see what's happening at the development ages. Conversation around floor hockey being a good feeder into ice hockey.

*Old Business

- Fall 2023 Meeting to be scheduled for Oct 27-28 in Rhode Island
- Reopen the NED swag store in the fall ahead of October meeting

*New Business

- Presented by ME: Current 8U policy - Affiliates can make a proposal to USA Hockey to request 8U teams permission to play part of the ice full season as the standard is cross-ice or half-ice. New 8U policy - for affiliates to grant their programs a limited number of full ice games after 1/1. (Long proposal with significant details)
- Presented by ME: Residency policy - change for the purposes of restricting residency - residency needs to match primary residence (ie player from Texas can't play for CT if in prep school there)
- Discussed: America Hockey Alliance (AHA) - publicly formed in CO in January
- Presented by M.McCullough: District website will need to migrate to a new platform