

New England District Meeting

NED Fall Meeting

May 3 & 4, 2019

Double Tree, Nashua, NH

Presidents/Directors Session – 1pm-5:00pm

Attendees: Ray St Pierre (NED Secretary), Maurice Rosales (NED Managing Director), Richard Oliver (NED Director), Chuck Wilkerson (CT President), Nate Isham (VP Vermont), Keith Barrett (NED Director), Mike Keaney (ME President), Cheri Bonawitz (NED Director), Matt Roy (NH President), Art Blakeslee (NED Treasurer), Kevin Kavanaugh (MA Hockey ED), Tom Regan (NED Director), John Cioffi (VT President)

SafeSport Report – Cheri Bonawitz

Safesport will now be required for a player that is 17 yrs old at the beginning of the season, must now take Safesport training – including players on split season teams.

In addition, starting with the 2019-2020 season, everyone will be required to take Safesport annually. After the initial completion of the Safesport program, it will be a refresher class- which will be 35-40 minutes. There will now also be a national banned list, and new policies on one-on-one policies

Body Contact Discussion – Keith Barrett

Keith explained that the discussion is about the definition of body checking vs body contact. Note, this is not a rule change year, so nothing can be changed immediately. Bob Hall is the chair of this investigation into the subject. Keith is on the committee. Conference calls are every 2 weeks.

The focus of these meetings is to find the changes that can be made, without changing the rules – could be terminology. What is the definition of puck possession? By tweaking the definition, we may be able to protect the player from certain hits. Without wholesale changes, we can impact the safety of the game. Essentially, if the player does not have the puck, there should be no contact. No more finishing your check.

Plan is to better educate officials and coaches. Help them better understand the playing rules. In addition, there is a discussion about better educating the parents as well.

Nothing will be voted on during the Annual Congress. There will be a briefing to the national board from the committee, but this is certainly a work in progress.

Youth Council Report – Keith Barrett

Nothing to report from youth council at this time.

Juniors – Cheri Bonawitz

NCDC (top level of USPHL) is applying for Tier 2 status with USA Hockey. Essentially, Tom and Cheri believe it may be that they want to get back into USA Hockey to be at the Tier 2 level for their top teams to compete with the NA (Tier 2 USA Hockey junior team league) while still operating their Tier 3 teams outside of USA Hockey.

Massachusetts Hockey Update – Kevin Kavanaugh

Election season in Massachusetts. There will be a new president, as the existing president has completed his 4 years. There are 2 candidates running – Bob Joyce and Dan Esdaile.

National bound tournaments (regionals) in the Fall went very well in Marlborough, MA – which involved teams from the NED and Massachusetts. Scouts were appreciative of the event, because so many high-end players were in one place.

Kevin appreciates the opportunity to work together and attend our district meetings.

Boys Development Camps – Keith Barrett

Report from the Boys 16 & 17 development camps in Attleboro Arena went extremely well. Keith reported that it was also financially successful: netting approximately \$25,000.00. Jason Guerrero ran the camp extremely well. Jason is very accessible and works well with the players.

Jason will be running the Boys 15 camp in June 25-28, 2019 at Keene State. Reed Cashman (asst coach for Washington Capitals) is going to run the Select 14 camp from July 8-11, 2019 at Keene State.

The fees will remain the same. Registration will begin the middle of May.

Keith would like to discuss locking in the Attleboro Arena location for a longer period of time, because it runs so well there. Richard brought up the suggestion of changing the camp format for the Boys 14 & 15 camps like the Boys 16 & 17 camps – will discuss further.

Cheri reported that the Girls 14-17 camp was held in Northboro. It was very well done. It was held during the NCAA Division I Women's Frozen Four. There was also a high-performance coaches clinic.

The Girls 14 development camp will be June 22-26, 2019 at St Anslem's College. The Eastern Selects Girls 14's camp is June 26-30th, also at St Anslem's College. This camp is for the best 14 girls' players from Maine to Florida.

Futures Development Camp – Ray St Pierre

Ray reported the Futures Development camp was very successful. Feedback from all district staff members, from the constituents was very positive. We had 408 players spots for the camp, and had 403 registered (only the Girls 12 was short). Video of the event was sent to USA Hockey, and was posted by USA Hockey Magazine, as well at the NED website.

Discussion was that Vermont will host the Futures camp for 2 more years – 2020 and 2021. Proposal to have the next Futures Camp on March 20-22nd, 2020 or the following weekend March 27-29th, 2020 – will depend on ice availability. Art reported that while the final numbers are not complete, the Futures Camp will NET approximately \$30,000.00.

Deadline for each state to submit their players rosters will be February 1, 2020.

Motion by Mike Keaney that the host association get 25% or up to \$5000.00 of the NET profits of the Futures Camp for their efforts – which includes the 2019 Futures Camp. 2nd by Chuck Wilkerson. Voted by all presidents – passed unanimously

Annual Congress

Group dinner will be on Thursday night. We will also be having a district meeting at annual congress.

Treasurer's Report – Art Blakeslee

Reported there is \$320,000.00 in our money market account. There is \$31,000.00 in our checking account. The Futures Camp NET approximately \$30,000.00.

Discussion about issuing 10-99 to people to work our camps. Consensus is that we would issue 10-99 to all, regardless of how much each check was. If they work at a camp at Keene State, they will be paid as an employee and have deductions.

Richard Oliver reported that Affiliates will be getting an invoice for the banners and medals for the regional tournaments.

Block Grant Reports – Maurice Rosales

Maurice is requesting block grant reports from all affiliates – he needs to submit to USA Hockey in the next week.

Motion to adjourn at 4:37pm by Mike Keaney, 2nd by Chuck Wilkerson

Attendance at General Session: Maurice Rosales (NED Managing Director), Richard Oliver (NED Director), Cheri Bonawitz (NED Director), Mike Keaney (ME President), Art Blakeslee (NED Treasurer), Sue Hamlin (Maine registrar), Mary Turner (CT registrar), Robert Greemore (VT registrar), Roger Gillies (NH registrar), Matt Roy (NH president), Charlie Fortier (NED Risk Manager), Chris Micciche (VT Secretary), John Cioffi (VT president), Raymond St Pierre (NED Secretary), Emily Cabral-Haag (VT Women's Director), Kim Gaines (VT 2nd VP), Nate Isham (VT 1st VP), Chuck Wilkerson (CT president), Graham Gill (CT Girls Director), Kevin Kavanaugh (MA ED), Tom Regan (NED Director), Keith Barrett (NED Director).

New England District General Meeting – started at 7:00 pm in Ballroom C at Double Tree

Elections

Keith Barrett up for re-election for District Director - for a 3-year term

Maurice Rosales up for managing director – for a 1-year term

Art Blakeslee up for NED Treasurer – 3-year term

No other nominations from the floor. Secretary cast 1 vote for each nomination. 2nd by Matt Roy. All in favor. The vote carried and all parties are re-elected to their current position.

Massachusetts Hockey Update – Kevin Cavanaugh

Election season in Massachusetts. There will be a new president, as the existing president has completed his 4 years. There are 2 candidates running – Bob Joyce and Dan Esdaile.

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Treasurer's Report - Art Blakeslee

Reported there was \$320,000.00 in our money market account. There is \$31,000.00 in our checking account. The Futures Camp NET approximately \$30,000.00. Good income from successful camps, but we are coming to the season where we have limited income but expenses – like from the NED Spring meeting, as well as Annual Congress.

Risk Manager – Charlie Fortier

Report of lawsuit in CT for an injure player, playing in a game with non-sanction player. That is pending. The litigation is based on the fact that the State is not policing the rosters. The player involved is clearly a red-lined player. Mary Turner reported that is a responsibility of the association registrar. Mary advised that the coaches are not trained on how to ensure the roster is correct and everyone is approved.

Charlie requested notice to get COI's out

Registrar's report – registrar group

Report from the registrar's – push to get rid of Tier designations for 12 and under.

2018/2019 – 122 tournaments were sanctioned thru the district – 51 were for for-profit tournaments. Some of the tournaments that were sanctioned were actually fundraising tournaments – for charity – the question is whether the charity tournaments could pay the lower district rate – ie \$60.00 vs \$110.00.

Safesport is now annual

Challenges will be on the registry for 17 and up player, who will need to take Safesport – as to whether the roster will be up to date?

For the sled teams, they will need to be taking Safesport program and approved.

Junior player and 2001/2002 players – will need to be Safesport trained in order to be rostered.

The question is How Will the Information be Provided to Affected Players?

SafeSport Report – Cheri Bonawitz

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Legal Council – Tom Regan

Transgender policy for USA hockey was put in place in January, and approved by the USA Hockey National Board of Directors.

New conflict of interest policy was approved in January, which means affiliated and associations need to update their conflict of interest policy.

Ted Stevens Act is being reviewed in the US Congress.

Motion to recess the meeting for the evening – by Matt Roy, 2nd by John Cioffi. All in favor

General Session, Saturday, May 4 – 9:00 am

RIC Report – via email by Barry Zalzman

Ref numbers – 2018/2019 season NED came in just under 2000 officials, about a 9% reduction compared to prior season. The top reasons, across the country, for the falling numbers continue to be three main topics, parent/coach abuse, game availability, and long task of completing the certification process.

The abuse topic will be a main focus of the District RIC's during the upcoming June Annual Congress. I will ask all states to move to adopt tougher rules impacting coaches and parents should an official eject

the individual for abuse of an official. As an example, IL and CT have initiated changes whereby the parent and coach, subject to an appeal, encounter a minimum of 10 days out of the rink if they are ejected. More to come. In addition to Barry's request for parents removed from the rink – Ray added the recommendation that parents removed for behavior issues must take Safesport before being allowed back in the rink.

In regard to game availability, most of the officials we have in level 1 are also players, so availability as an official is difficult from the start. The theme that I have started already with the local RIC's is that we need to be smarter. The assignors need to be smarter when assigning officials by looking to see who may already be at the rink working games before or after. The organizations need to be smarter when scheduling games. Organizations can't schedule a Bantam A game after a Squirt C game. I ask that all states begin to notify organizations to scheduled smarter starting this upcoming season.

In regard to certification process, registration and seminars will now begin 2 months earlier starting in June. This will help get kids in the door before their hockey season starts. Also, NED was recently granted the ability to pilot a new 1 day certification process whereby the official comes in at 8am, attends the seminar and the on ice portion, takes the open book exam, completes the modules and leaves at the end of the day with their patch. I was granted the pilot on 4/29/19 and I have not identified the time and location for the pilot.

A referee symposium will take place this season in MN. The symposium works similar to a Level 4 coaching clinic whereby after completion, the official will no longer need to attend an annual seminar or take a closed book exam. This year's symposium will take place in MN. I am pushing to have next year's symposium to take place in RI (to service NED, NY and Mid Atlantic).

I continue to look to increase the number of female officials within the NED officiating ranks. We will be holding one or two female only seminars this season. I have already held conversations with CT, ME and VT regarding options.

I am working with other local district RIC (MA, NY, NJ) to hold a female elite development camp in Marlborough to take place in mid July. The camp will include seminars, on ice games, video review and topical sessions.

National tourney – Twelve NED officials participated in National Tourney's across the country this year. This was a slight increase over the prior season. My goal is to continue to make sure officials in the district are aware of their options.

Camps – Several NED officials have signed up for the USA Hockey and NCAA camps that will take place over the next 90 days. Participation is up over 100% compared to the prior season.

I was extremely pleased with the results of the NED futures camp in VT. The officials gained a tremendous amount experience and all states were represented. Special thanks to the VT staff for their hospitality.

Seminars – As previously stated, registration for officials will open 2 months earlier this year, on 6/3. We are working on putting together a list of seminars on the USA web site.

Arbiter vs Horizon – I have a small group of officials working on comparing the scheduling software as the price for Arbiter, the software we use today, continues to increase. My hope is that we will have this resolved by July 1.

Lastly, some of you may or may not be aware, Dave Maxfield is no longer the RIC for NH and Matt and I continue to put together a list of candidates for the position.

CIC Report – Larry Rocha (as reported by Maurice)

Only 2 Level 4 clinics being held this Summer in our district: 6/29 and 6/30 in NH. 8/3 and 8/4 Hartford, CT. See USA Hockey website for details and to register.

Girls Section – Cheri Bonawitz

Discussion about district tryouts for the girls, which will no longer be held in Hooksett in the Fall. They will now be held over a long weekend in Northford, CT. The event will take place over 2 days before the initial cut. The committee will follow-up with conference calls with Bill Leidt and Kristy to nail down format.

Registrars Report – Sue Hamlin

Sue Hamlin reported that Mike McCullough was on a USA Hockey registrar committee looking to make changes to 12 under hockey. Next year there will be no tier level for 12 and under in the registrar portal. (those who do not have a national tournament). There will only be 2 options – Travel or House/Rec. This is still a work in progress with the plans finalized at Annual Congress.

Tournament Committee – Richard Oliver

Richard reported the following schedule for regional tournament

Boys Tier 1 - 15,16,18 at Marlborough, MA - November 8-10, 2019

Girls Tier 1 - 16,19, likely also in Marlborough, MA – will confirm, November 29, 2019 thru – December 1, 2019

All other NED regionals will be March 13-15, 2020

Richard advised he will be setting up a tournament committee conference call on May 22 at 7:00pm to go over the rotation for picking a host for each regional tournament.

Disabled Hockey Section – Richard Oliver

Richard reported that 4 of the affiliates have disabled reps. New Hampshire is working on theirs. Richard is recommending that these reps attend an Annual Congress or Winter meeting to get involved in the committee work. He recommended the affiliate foot ½ the bill and the NED pay the other half. He added there are many committees in the disabled section – sled, blind, amputee, warrior, etc.

New Business - Tryout Evaluation Software – Team Genius – Nate Isham

Nate is recommending that the affiliates and district use the software for the evaluation process. Nate will put a demo together for the meeting at Annual Congress.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am by Matt Roy. 2nd by John Cioffi.