

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2020
5:30 p.m. CONFERENCE CALL Meeting due to Coronavirus Precautions**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep
Darryl James – Squirt Rep
Jon Flynn – House Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Randy Boysen – Member at Large / Program Development (Girls and Goalies)

Absent Board Members:

Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep

Guests:

None

Meeting Called to Order 5:40 p.m.

Minutes

Jon had a change to the minutes. Lance moved to approve the minutes with Jon's change. Allison seconded. Motion passes.

Rink Update

The rink is closed due to coronavirus.

Registrar – Lance

Lance will send a reminder to all members that nominations will be accepted through April 1. Then nominees have until April 6 to accept or not accept. He will mail out ballots by May 1. Nominees can send a short biography to Lance to be posted on the website by Miles.

Practice Schedule -- Ryan

Ryan emailed the board four practice schedule ideas. The board discussed these options. Basically, HAYHA will reserve the ice from 4:20 p.m. – 9:50 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Then on Friday, girls will practice 4:20 – 5:20 p.m. and house will play afterwards if the Bighorns are not. Judy said she asked all coaches and managers about the 4:20 termite time this year

and heard that parents appreciated kids getting to bed early, but it was hard for some families due to work schedules. She requested that termites not have to do two 4:20 slots, and suggested termite do it on Tuesday and mites do it on Thursday. Jon expressed concern about late times for House 2 program. He said some of these kids might be 12U players and those are young kids to be practicing until 9 p.m. Shawn, Jon and Darryl came up with some changes including Darryl offering to swap a time with house, to share the burden of late practices across HS, Bantam and House 2. Judy wanted the end dates for every division squirt through high school to be the same and suggested that all divisions can practice through the final state tournament, which is usually bantams the second weekend in March. Ryan will edit. Kurt reminded everyone that some coaches are just done after state tournaments, so this doesn't mean that every division will practice through second week of March. The board picked the best of the four options that Ryan sent, and Ryan edited with changes that were discussed. Allison reminded everyone to recognize that we are growing organization and we have to puzzle this together. Here it is. Ryan will wait a week or so to make any further changes before submitting to Stan.

2020-2021 HAYHA Schedule - Pending final Confirmation With Rink				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4:20 - 5:20 House 1	4:20 - 5:15 8U 1	4:20 to 5:20 Squirt	4:20 - 5:20 8U 2	4:20 - 5:20 Girls Hockey
5:30 - 7:00 Squirt	5:20 - 6:20 8U 2	5:30 to 6:30 House 1	5:25 - 6:20 8U 1	
7:10 - 8:10 Pee wee	6:30 - 7:30 House 2	6:40 to 8:10 Pee wee	6:30 - 7:30 HS	
8:20 - 9:50 HS	7:40 - 8:40 Bantam	8:20 - 9:50 Bantam	7:40 - 8:40 Bantam	
	8:50 - 9:50 HS		8:50 - 9:50 House 2	
*** If there are 2 HS teams - someone will need a morning practice				
2020-2021 Start Dates - Week of			All Division Days Off	
High School	10/12/2020		11-25-20 through 11-27-20	
Bantam	10/12/2020		12-23-20 through 01-04-21	
Pee wee	10/12/2020			
Squirt	10/12/2020		U-8 Games - Saturdays (Start 10-17-20)	
House	10/12/2020		10:00 to 10:55	
8U - 1st	10/13/2020		11:00 to 12:00	
8U - 2nd	1/4/2021			
Other Topics				
Goalie Training - Every other week Starting in September (Either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday Morning @ 6:00)				
House League Games - Friday Evenings @ 5:30 when Bighorns are not playing at HIA				
Weekly practice schedule noted above will end 03/11/2021				
Tryouts - 09-26-20 & 09-27-20 (Preferred) or 10-10-20 & 10-11-20 (If September dates are unavailable)				
Saturday	Sunday			
Squirt 1:00 to 2:00	Pee wee 7:00 to 8:30			
Pee wee 2:10 to 3:10	Bantam 8:40 to 10:10*			
Bantam 3:20 to 4:20*	HS/16U 10:20 to 11:50*			
HS/16U 4:30 to 5:30 *	Squirt 3rd session 12:00 to 1:00			
Squirt 5:40 to 7:10	Pee wee 3rd session 1:10 to 2:10			
	Bantam 3rd session 2:20 to 3:20*			
	HS/16U 3rd session 3:30 to 4:30*			

Coach-in-Chief – Shawn

Shawn reported that three of our coaches were nominated to coach at the MAHA development camp. There are some CEP changes for next year. Shawn shared the committee's recommendations for non-parent coach reimbursements. Committee members were Shawn, Sarah, Darryl and Mekell. The recommendation is as follows:

- The program would be piloted in the 2020-21 season with high school division.
- HAYHA puts in \$2,000 seed money so there are funds to reimburse coaches for early season expenses, while waiting for money fundraised by families comes in. Business sponsorships don't often come in until January.
- High school players raise \$250 in sponsorships for the poster or put \$250 out-of-pocket into the fund. With a 20 person roster, this is \$5,000. This money is then used to cover regular season league games' reimbursements for two non-parent coaches:
- 45 cents per mile for mileage for one coach vehicle, coaches ride together
- \$25 per day per diem for meals.
- \$110 per night for hotel room, coaches share room.
- Tournaments would be extra and coaching reimbursements would be paid for through tournament fees.

Darryl made a motion to approve the recommendations. Judy seconded. Motion passed.

Shawn did a checking clinic for peewee players, which was very well received. He will do another one in the fall. Stan offered ice time for a second one in the fall.

Safesport – Scott

Scott reported there was a house league player behavior issue that seems to be resolved. He and Jon Flynn worked directly with coaches and player's family. SafeSport is a brand-new program for 2020-21 season. More information to come.

MAHA – Mekell

The development camp has been canceled. Mekell submitted the board's recommended changes to the squirt half-ice rules during their committee meeting on March 10. Here were the results of that meeting:

- Add net size measurements to rules. Answer: They agreed to add.
- Associations must declare an A team before they can declare two B teams. Answer: They disagreed with this, felt it should be left to coaches.
- Make sure to give A and B teams 16 league games each. Answer: They agreed with this.
- Increase penalty times to deter bad behavior. Answer: They agreed and increased to 3-minute run-time minor penalty, 6 minute run-time major penalty.
- We asked for working on placement of nets. Answer: They are going to add wording.
- We asked about the size and placement of the dot. Answer: They aren't going to regulate the size of the center ice dot. They will add wording on placement.
- We asked for protective nets be required to be hung across the half-ice boards. Answer: They do not want to require. They do not feel it is necessary.

- We asked to leave the percentage of required games to be 75% in order for a player to participate in the state tournament. Answer: They agreed.
- We asked for clarification on face-offs. Answer: They are adding wording on that.
- Why not 3 periods vs. 2 halves. Answer: They wanted it to be fair how often teams got to sit right next to the door to the bench. With two halves, each team will get even time next to the bench door.
- Time-outs: There will be no time-outs due to running time, except in the state championship game.
- Injuries: Run-time clock will not stop, since there are two games going at the same time.
- Tracking penalty time: The scorekeepers will write down times and work with coaches on when player can be let back out on the ice since it will be impossible at most rinks to track penalties in two different games being played at the same time.
- Other notes: Some associations only want to reserve one hour of ice for these games. Glasgow and Kalispell want to do away with A and B teams at the squirt level. Other towns disagreed.

Darryl suggested sending an official letter to MAHA stating HAYHA recommendation for all associations to buy a cross-ice protective net. Mekell thinks she should bring it up again at the annual meeting in May. Scott suggested that HAYHA lead the way and purchase one for Helena rink. Kurt felt it was practical for us to get a net. Mekell will reach out to Billings to find out how much theirs cost and where they got it. She will work with Randy on this.

A more detailed MAHA update:

MAHA Notes update presented 3/18/20 HAYHA Board Meeting

- *I sent in HAYHA Board's Half Ice recommendations Feb. 25*
- *MAHA Committee gathered input received from associations and subcommittee met on March 10, 2020. Also spoke with Billings Chair of Coaching.*
- *Committee went line by line reviewing entire document/half ice proposal with all input received from associations, including Helena. Thoroughly reviewed & discussed all items.*

HAYHA Boards Recommendations that I submitted (in black type), including info (in red type) that was decided by MAHA committee...

Our HAYHA (Helena) Board & Coach In Chief recently met and would like to recommend for your consideration the following changes/updates to the 10U half ice draft rules...

** add Net size measurements to the document (I think these are already in the process of being added... wanted to confirm)*

DOING. Intermediate net size (may vary by 1 to 2 inches, but approx. 3 x 4)

** HAYHA recommend that local leagues would no longer be allowed to put in "2" B teams, without putting an A team in the division. If cities have enough players for 2 teams, 1 should be rostered as an A team. This would help prevent teams being stacked in the B league, and help reduce high number of B teams. This would also help with more A teams as in the past there have often not been enough to play 16 games - games were reduced to 12.*

Was thoroughly discussed but none in favor of doing. They believe this is coaches / divisions decision & has been thoroughly discussed before including at last annual mtg. MAHA agreed could make recommendations that if you are going to have two you do this, but would not require as a rule, or mandate this. Decision would be left to associations/coaches. Some associations expressed that they still feel strongly with dividing even teams. Some associations don't really support A?

I was able to discuss our frustration with A team this year only getting 12 games vs B team getting 16. After discussion everyone agreed that 16 league games are necessary for both A & B, these shouldn't be different. If there are only 4 teams at A level, then they may need to play twice or come up with solution with scheduling to still allow them 16 games. There should not be different game number for A vs B. Discourages teams from going A that are maybe on fence? All agreed and it was discussed that this will be done when scheduling and that for 10U it probably is not necessary for rep to attend scheduling meeting as hopefully they will be able to each submit a weekend they have ice, and each city will host one festival? This will be worked out with scheduling.

** Increase penalty time from 1 minute to 2 minutes (since running time), and increase "major penalty" time to 4 minutes (needs to be a bigger consequence for these to help deter)*

Based on associations input - Most other associations were in agreement and they elected to do 3 minute minor, 6 minute major to keep consistent with rules for our other nonstop play rules.

** include some more wording regarding placement of net ex. "Net located near center ice should be placed equal distance that the net on the opposite end is in relation to the boards. (Equal distance behind both nets)*

Will be added

** dot size on center ice - how is this measured or placed, and size for consistency?*

Will be placed equally between both ends. Permanently placed in rinks. Other 4 dots are already on the ice currently, so only asking arenas/associations to add a center ice dot.

** Our Board believes hanging nets across the rink at half ice should be required. They believe these will be A & B kids shooting pucks and so there may be more force and distance than current house kids playing, and worry*

about the safety of players, refs, and coaches in the other game if puck goes over the boards. They likely will be watching their game and not watching for incoming pucks.

Was thoroughly discussed and other associations did not feel was necessary, and they did not want to impose this additional expense/item on associations to purchase this first yr since they have already been required to purchase boards/nets etc. I discussed all our Helena reasons why we felt strongly, but no other associations were in favor of. They indicated that they do not believe kids will be shooting this high, especially with intermediate nets, and indicated that those associations currently playing half ice without these nets have not seen any problems.

** They would like the percentage of games that players need to play to be left at 75 percent, not 50 percent.*

They ended up agreeing with. So it will remain 75%.

** Faceoffs - would just like some additional clarification on when and where they will occur.*

Adding. Was discussed.

** Record how penalty time will run since there will be two games going on, and most rinks have one clock. Want this to include more detailed info.*

Will be added.

MISC OTHER –

Scorekeeper – On each bench. They will monitor / signal when penalty is over and player can return. Will be a signal or verbally notified coach/team. Since running time, time currently when player gets penalty gets recorded on timesheet, so it will still be done the same way, and then the scorekeeper will notify when those 3 minutes up.

Discussed 3 x 20 min periods vs 2. Was discussed thoroughly. One reason they want to keep two halves is for equal advantage. Team closest to door will switch each half, so one primarily uses door, one may be jumping boards etc.

Timeouts were discussed – There will not be timeouts (due to running clock). Will allow 1 per team/State championship when it's final game and only one game going on at a time.

Frozen puck results in faceoff at nearest of 5 dots. Wording will be clarified / added.

TSL manual is going to be separated from Annual Guide this year – annual mtg May. Will be it's own document.

Division Updates

U8: The Spokane tournament was canceled due to coronavirus but all families received a refund. Mites had a blast at two outdoor events – first at camp child on a Friday night, second at Phillipsburg on Sunday playing pond hockey with Missoula mites. Judy asked the board to look at the volunteer policy this summer. She suggested something similar to what swim association in Helena does -- a mandatory number of hours, such as two hours per family, for home tournaments. It's the only way hosting home tournaments work, when you have enough volunteers. A lot of families already had their full four hours before the U8 tournament. Thank goodness nearly everyone stepped up and did even more to make it a huge success.

House:

2019-2020 House League

37 players served by House this year.

- 8 Peewees
- 29 Squirts
- 10 Girls
- 10 **new** HAYHA members **or** members who **returned** after leaving the association
- 8 players who did not make travel teams were retained
- 20 **returning** House members did not try out for travel teams. These players chose House due to family size, commitment to other activities, cost of travel or just preference for local, House hockey.*
- 3 House players will likely **move up** to Bantam travel, opening the possibility for A/B bantam division.
- 11 players with moderate to high interest in playing **goalie**.

Players were guaranteed **8 home, league games** but had the **opportunity to play in up to 12**.

10U Players were offered **three optional travel tournaments** in Salmon, Kalispell and Billings.

All players were offered a single game in Helena vs. Bozeman **and** a game in Bozeman vs. Helena.

10U and 12U played in the **Helena House Tournament** in March. The tournament was attended by teams/players from Kalispell, Idaho Falls, and Billings and **guaranteed 4 games, all but one played 5**.

Helena House players were offered participation in an in-house mini-3v3 tournament – the “**House Holiday 3v3**.” This event is a fun taste of tournament play for House players who may not have experienced it in the past and it exists in a nice spot in the calendar – where kids have their legs underneath them and are ready for some fast, small area games.

While 2018-2019 was predominantly a first-year-squirt group, this program continues to develop and 2019-2020 House gave us older, more developed players who chose to return to House. The level and intensity of competition is only going up. As an older, more developed group this year, House kids did well in their travel and tournament opportunities, often placing relatively high and out-performing larger, more developed programs.

Squirts: The B team won the state championship! Woohoo! The A team got third place.

Peewees: A team earned second place at the state tournament. The B team tied Bozeman and ended up in the middle of the pack.

Bantams: 3rd place in state tournament.

HS: good senior night, very cool senior banners.

Girls: Good inaugural season of Friday practices. Randy asked about 12U girls team next season. Mekell will ask MAHA about girls program for next season.

Equipment: Randy will do equipment return in April.

Other Business

Kurt would like to send thank you cards and gifts to Paula for doing scheduling and jerseys and to Amber for doing cookie dough fundraiser. Board approved thank you cards and small gift for both of them. Kurt also said that Paula will not be doing scheduling again so the board needs to be thinking of who might do that next season. It's a big job.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2020, most likely a conference call

Annual Meeting: May 21 at Lewis & Clark Library, 6:00 p.m. Darryl noted we most likely need to find a different location due to the remodel at the library.

Items for Next Meeting:

- Squirt Half-Ice committee recommendations
- House program expansion
- Approval by rink of practice Schedule for next season
- Visioning committee follow-up
- Bylaws

Meeting Adjourned at 9: p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____