



USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting January 25, 2024

Attendance

Present: Mike Trimboli, Keith Barrett, Ryan Bedford, Cheri Bonawitz, Bill Daly, Dwayne Dillinger, Joe Eppolito, Declan Farmer, Don Gould, Donna Guariglia, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, T.C. Lewis, Taylor Lipsett, Mike MacMillan, Kevin McKee, Don Mulder, Steve Oleheiser, Jenny Potter, John Tobin, and Andrew Yohe.

Absent: Julie Chu, Brian Gionta and Jen Lee.

Staff Members: Pat Kelleher, Casey Jorgensen, John Vanbiesbrouck, Kevin Erlenbach, Scott Monaghan, Kelly Mahncke, Bob Mancini, Tami Tranter.

Call to Order

Mike Trimboli called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from yesterday's meeting will be submitted for approval at the next Board meeting.

Foundation Update

Tami Tranter highlighted information from the Annual Report, including some of our donors and people we work with. The development report highlights planning for the 2026 Winter Olympics with major donors, work on the capital campaign for Arena for replacing the ice plant and other needs. The campaign will include naming the NHL rink after Jim Johannson. The Foundation is also preparing an online auction for game-used national team jerseys.

Strategic Plan

Tony Driscoll discussed plans for the annual updating of the Strategic Plan. Each group responsible for a section of the plan should be reviewing and assessing progress on their portion of the plan for updates later this Spring.

Girls/Women

Don Gould highlighted the work done by the Council in its first year, and the work together with the Youth Council. The Girls Council will be hosting the Game On Leadership Summit at the Women's World Championships in Utica in April. The purpose of the Summit is to provide information and training to volunteers supporting girls/women's hockey and empower attendees so they can connect their





local community and enhance the experience, knowledge, and diversity of our future leadership pool. Don also referenced that the IIHF Global Girls' Game is upcoming in February.

Youth

Keith Barrett addressed the National Championship Appeals Committee and how it operates to address final eligibility decisions for players and coaches for national championships.

Keith referenced the Tier I Tryout Task Force Proposal, which arose from the Affiliate Presidents meeting a year ago and where problems were discussed with the current tryout rule. The Tier I Task Force has worked over the course of the past year to develop the proposal, including meetings with Tier I programs and various versions of the proposed rule change. Other issues raised during those discussions can be addressed in the future, including playing rules, requirements for residency definitions, roster sizes, vertical integration, the 20/10 game rule for youth versus 14/10 game rule for girls, the number of teams in nationals, and game limits. Keith is requesting the appointment of a commission that would review these items and allow discussion of the impact of the recruiting rule during the upcoming season.

International

Dwayne Dillinger noted that USA Hockey has won Gold medals at the first two international events of 2024. Dwayne recognized the youth coaches across the country who helped our players from 6U to their national team careers. Dwayne also pointed out that the Professional Women's Hockey League will have positive impact on the development of players for our Women's National Team. Dwayne also advised that we will be hosting several international events over the next few years, including the Women's World Championships, Men's U18 World Championships, Sled World Championships, and the U20 World Championships in 2026.

John Vanbiesbrouck thanked everyone and was grateful for everyone's contributions and support of USA Hockey's international programs. We have excellent leaders on the teams. Mike Trimboli and Pat Kelleher described the IIHF structure of Councils and Committees, including current USA Hockey representation on a large number of committees.

Adult

Don Mulder reported that with hard work on recruiting leagues, USA Hockey has increased Adult membership to 160,000. The USA Hockey Pond Hockey Championship in Eagle River, Wisconsin was cancelled this year due to unseasonably warm weather and not having enough ice thickness. Kevin Erlenbach reported that the alternative site at the derby track was not available this year.

Junior

TC Lewis reported that NCAA eligibility for Canadian Hockey League players has been discussed. TC has good relationships with the USHL and NAHL commissioners which has helped him in his role.

Membership

Donna Kaufman described the Town Hall presentation on Saturday morning that will discuss membership and the work of the new Membership Council, including the planned National Administrative Training Program and NHL Learn to Play Pilot Program. Kevin Erlenbach reported that 8U registrations are tracking even with last year, the 9-14 age categories are strong with good retention and overall





membership is up 4%. The NHL Industry Growth Fund is approaching its 10-year anniversary and NHL representatives are attending the meetings this weekend.

Marketing

Tony Driscoll reported that although there have been a few sponsorship losses, most sponsors have renewed their partnerships. Tony also discussed the status of event planning for the upcoming Women's Worlds and later plans for hosting other international events.

Affiliate Presidents

Steve Oleheiser reported that the meeting in Las Vegas was very successful and important for the Affiliate Presidents' continuing work.

USA Hockey Arena

Scott Monaghan reported that the arena had the best gate revenue year to date. The first year of the outside ticket vendor has been successful. The NTDP teams have had a good development season.

US Ice Rinks

TC Lewis reported that US Ice Rinks has had a record membership with this year being up by 11% and revenue up by 9%.

Legislative Proposals

Casey Jorgensen described the legislative proposals that will be voted on at Sunday's meeting. Casey also described proposals that have anticipated amendments to address matters from the USOPC audit that will be raised at Sunday's meeting. Proposed amendments will include adding a term limit to committee members' service on USA Hockey Councils, Committees and Sections, term limits for Athlete Directors (similar to term limits for other directors), adding an anti-retaliation provision to Bylaw 10, and incorporating additional provisions into the dispute resolution process for protected competition eligibility disputes. As described earlier in the meeting, the Tier I Tryout Proposal will also be fully amended with the updated proposal from the Tier I Task Force.

Casey also reviewed the proposal made by the Safety and Protective Equipment Committee to require Neck Laceration Protection for all players in all age groups. Discussion included whether the neck laceration protection should be required or strongly recommended for adults, whether it should apply to officials, and how we can provide guidance to our membership on what types will satisfy the rule and how it will be enforced. A non-binding straw poll was conducted about whether the neck laceration protection proposal should be mandatory for all ages and officials. While potential amendments were discussed, they cannot be made until Sunday's meeting. The board members indicated broad support for the proposal.

NHL Industry Growth Fund

Pat Kelleher welcomed Rob Knesaurek from the NHL and Chris Campoli from the NHLPA to report on the Industry Growth Fund and its use to develop hockey over the past 10 years. The Industry Growth Fund directs funds to lower revenue and smaller markets for development of hockey in their area. The fund has invested 33 million dollars in the US Learn to Play program, and it has resulted in a strong





uptick in girls' programs. Retention from players participating in the Learn to Play programs has been strong. They have introduced over 160,000 kids to hockey and invested \$105 million dollars to date. They are working on collecting data to follow up with those kids. There has also been 90% growth in BIPOC programs. The diversification in the IGF grants is very strong with the NHL looking at inclusion through the lens of growth.

New Business

Casey Jorgensen described some new policy matters to address matters from the USOPC audit. Kelly Mahncke described the Financial Policy & Procedures. Steve Oleheiser moved to approve the Financial Policies & Procedures (2nd by Kris Knauss). Approved.

Casey described some minor amendments to the SafeSport Handbook. TC Lewis made a motion to approve the amendments to the SafeSport Handbook (2nd by Joe Eppolito). Discussion included whether it should be ratified by Congress. Donna Kaufman moved to amend the motion to have it ratified by the Congress (2nd by Cheri Bonawitz). The motion to amend was approved, and the proposal as amended was approved.

Taylor Lipsett raised concerns about the sled development team being removed and that there was not athlete involvement in the decision. There were questions on the process and communication in making this decision.

Mike Trimboli raised for discussion whether the monthly meeting schedule should be modified or whether the structure of the meeting could be shortened. Following a healthy discussion on options, Mike indicated that we will keep it under consideration for the future. Mike MacMillian made a motion to not hold the February meeting (2nd by Steve Oleheiser). Approved.

Adjournment

Kris Knauss made the Motion to Adjourn (2nd by T.C. Lewis).

