

CHE Women's League Meeting Agenda – June 2017



Date: Monday, June 12, 2017
Time: 8:30 PM
Location: Conference Call
Presiding Officer: David L Fryer Jr, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dave Fryer at 8:34 PM.

Roll call

Members in Attendance: Buffalo Cal U Of PA, Delaware, Liberty, Maryland, Navy, Pittsburgh, RIT, West Chester

Others in Attendance: Mercyhurst

The Commissioner noted that there was an in-person meeting on May 13th, which was the official CHE Annual Meeting.

GENERAL ORDERS

Financial Report

Many teams still owed money, new invoices to come. It was stressed that payments need made in a timely manner. Discussion on when invoice should be sent, potentially semester breaks.

All expenses and invoices have been paid. Current bank balance is \$3,943.

2017-2018 proposed/tentative budget was discussed. Budget is dependent on number of league teams. Playoff expenses and league operating costs are now predictable/static.

Season Review

The Commissioner covered the new teams to the Women's League – Pitt and Maryland – and that we lost Cal U as a team for the past season. He stated that registration went well with the women's teams, and there were no major issues with scheduling. Forfeits are an issue on the men's side, but this was not a problem with the women's teams. Discipline was also great with the women's teams, including no suspensions.

The Commissioner cited competition as being a highlight of the season. Final standings were close throughout the season. All three playoff games were great, including Delaware and Navy going to 3 OT. Buffalo won its first championship in our league.

Three of our teams went to ACHA Nationals. The venue was not adequate, but the event still ran fairly well. Our teams did not do great on the ice because the west teams were dominant this year. The Commissioner pointed out that is cyclical because the east teams were better just a few seasons ago.

Awards

League Champions: Buffalo (W), Cal U of PA (Kaleina Cup and D3 playoffs), Penn State Altoona (O1), Edinboro (O2)

Individual Awards:

- D3 Points Leader – Nate Ropelewski Points Leader (PS-Behrend)

- D3 Playoff MVP – Bob Robison (Cal U Of PA)
- Coach of the Year – Michelle Donlon (Buffalo)
- GM of the Year – Adrienne Baer (Maryland)
- Sportsmanship Award – University of Delaware
- Student Athlete Award and Conference Teams are TBA

National Awards:

- 31 ACHA Academic All-Americans (21 for W2, 8 for M3)
- ACHA W2 Community Service Award – University of Delaware
- ACHA W2 Coach of the Year – Joe Vonakis (Navy)
- ACHA D3 Select Team –Dan Yost (UPJ), Daren Braudis (RMU), and Head Coach Craig Bioni (RMU)

CHE Achievers – the Commissioner announced the creation of this group:

- Charles Kuzniewski, Samuel Kelly, Michael Kaleina, Jamison Roth, Robert McCurdy, Kevin Dumond, Jack McKinnon, Thomas Holowaty, Thomas Harper, William “BJ” DePaoli, Edward Bittner, Justin Berger

Commissioner’s Report

The Commissioner spoke on the state of the CHE, focusing on financial stability, growth and expansion, leadership, and governing documents. The commissioner touched on the challenges facing our league today to include: numbers, generation/culture, junior hockey, school support, and personnel. The commissioner talked about the positives, including USA Hockey involvement, overall operations, a new game manual, growth in teams, and the website. Areas for improvement are communication, deadlines/fines, registration, score reporting and forfeits. Sportsmanship overall was a success and only a limited number of issues presented themselves over the course of the season.

Associate Commissioner’s Report

Paul Hebert is now the ACHA President; Michael Walley remains as the Executive Director. Teams will now be able to input home and away games on ACHA website. ACHA Nationals will be heading to either Dallas, Tampa, or Nashville following another year in Columbus

The Rostraver Ice Garden – home of Cal U – won the 2017 Kraft Hockeyville USA contest. Several events will be planned in conjunction.

Old Business

USA Hockey Coaching Clinics are now more important as each ACHA coach should strive to be a Level 3 coach by 2018.

ANNUAL ORDERS

Elections and Nominations

The annual elections were held at the May meeting. Dave Fryer was re-elected as the CHE Commissioner. Jamison Roth is the Associate Commissioner, and Chuck Kuzniewski is the Executive Assistant. The Board of Directors consists of Craig Bioni (RMU), Jason Greenway (Cal), Ed Maras (PSB), and Dave Layman (UPJ).

Membership

Commissioner indicated that all Women’s Teams are expected to return, and Cal is going to try to field its team again.

The Commissioner gave the floor to Tom McKinnon of Mercyhurst University to talk about their new women’s team and answer questions. After a short discussion, Mercyhurst was unanimously accepted into the Women’s League.

There is a hope that Malone will join in the future, as they have contacted the league about getting a team started. Rowan has also recently asked about switching to our league.

The Commissioner said it will now be a requirement to have the membership pledge signed by a person that is not from the team. Discussion on dates for a deposit to ensure teams will be in the league for the upcoming season, as well as some ideas on long-term commitments.

NEW BUSINESS

League Structure

The CHE will be changing its divisional nomenclature to Men's Division 3, Men's Division 4, Men's Division 5, Women's Division 2, and Women's Division 3 (future).

The Commissioner presented 3 options for the structure of Women's Division 2. One option had all teams playing each other in a full schedule; another divided into two conferences (east/west) with no games across conferences; and the third was a hybrid of the first two. Discussion about each ensued, followed by a vote. Option 1 received no votes, Option 2 received 7 votes, and Option 3 received 2 votes. Option 2 will be implemented for the 2017-18 season, with two conferences of East and West and no requirement to play teams in the opposite conference. A scheduling matrix will be sent to all teams.

Scheduling

Schedules should ideally be completed by August 1st and the last day to play league games will be February 11th. The Commissioner reminded everyone that: Super Bowl Sunday is February 4, 2018; minimum ice slot is 2.5 hours; and the Official Schedule is the league website.

There was a discussion on using the contact sheet to stay in communication, which is key to the process. The goal is to play two games per weekend trip, so that requires cooperation.

Discussion on forfeits and non-league opponents. It was emphasized that it is important to honor commitments. The Commissioner recommended to have contracts for all non-league games.

Postseason

The possible playoff dates for Women's Division 2 are February 23-25 or March 2-4.

Discussion on number of teams per division in playoffs (4 or 6) and how to seed. Discussion on developing an overtime procedure to prevent multiple overtime periods (i.e. women's league Delaware vs. Navy). Discussion on a league protocol for dress code at playoffs. The Commissioner noted Navy and their uniforms at playoffs was a stark contrast to other teams, who did not represent themselves well in that regard.

By-Laws

The Commissioner presented a draft of new league by-laws. Discussion followed on the layout, contents, and ratification procedure. The Commissioner would like to form a By-Laws Committee, so anyone interested should email the Commissioner. The Commissioner stated that we will need to create transitional resolutions to properly implement this, and the process may require special meetings.

Areas that the Commissioner highlighted as needing attention: Executive Committee staffing, elected positions vs. appointed positions, Commissioner and Associate Commissioner job duties, new members, and divisional membership.

Game Procedures

The Commissioner reviewed the protocols and importance of professionalism in our games. Discussion on warm up period length, number of ice resurfacings, length of intermissions, curfews, and running clocks.

The Commissioner addressed staffing for games. An EMT is required for all games, no exceptions.

The Commissioner stated that the Forfeit Policy is going to change. Previously, the game was scored 1-0, which still could benefit the forfeiting team and harm the winning team. The new policy will make it 10-0.

The Commissioner reminded everyone that scoresheets must be sent to league office, and the league will continue to seek ways to make this process easier. It is vital that all scores are reported immediately after each game by texting the Commissioner.

League Logo

A modified and updated league logo was unveiled by the Commissioner and discussion on why the logo was simplified.

The league will also be ordering logo stickers for helmets, which will be mailed to all league teams prior to next season. They will not be required but are certainly encouraged. A location on the helmet will be designated by each team, and all players for that team must wear logo in same location.

Website

The Commissioner outlined why league will stay with PointStreak as the website provider for another year. The ACHA Webmaster informed us that he will assist Commissioner with "bug fixes." Website focus is to be used for scoring, standings, and registration.

The Commissioner noted that we should have the ability to create free, individual team sites through our league website. This is beneficial to member teams without a site and/or webmaster, if they wish to take advantage.

Officiating

The Commissioner reminded everyone that we are not an "elite level" of hockey, so nor should be our officials. He also said that "we get what we pay for," so we must consider that our own budgets limit us from getting the very best.

The Commissioner reviewed the approved officiating systems. He feels the 2-referee system for the women is working well based on the speed of the game and generally low number of penalties.

The Commissioner expressed the need for our policies to require that each team have an approved scheduler that is truly independent from the team. There was no objection to this. The Commissioner also urged the teams to have a contract with their scheduler, and the Commissioner can assist with this, where needed.

Wrap-Up

The Commissioner cited important dates, including a scheduling deadline of August 1st and a registration deadline of September 15th.

Mercyhurst thanked the membership for accepting their team into the league.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.