



WAHC BOD Meeting:

May 15, 2022

In attendance:

WAHC Board:

- Pat Sondreal-
- Brent Godbout-
- Josh Wendell
- Jonnie Zook
- Dan Hammersley

Other:

- Lonie Nelson-Admin

Absent: Todd Wiggins, Jamie Wyeth

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Meeting called to order 7:08PM

Minutes to Apr 12 Meeting approved by email. 6 In-Favor / 0 Opposed.

Charitable Gambling Updates

Gambling Reports Reviewed – Actual expenses to budget for months-ending Mar2022 & Apr2022, and 12-mos results through Apr 30, 2022 were reviewed and variances to budget discussed. Majority of variances were in the usual expense categories – *Combined Sales Receipts tax* and *Etab Revenue Share*. We continue to work with our Gambling Manager to understand how we can better estimate for these expenses.

Following are key points from our review/discussions:

- Cash Balance as of Apr 30, 2022 is \$96,253 – This does not reflect the \$27,170 ice donation paid at end of April to City of SSP for final Mar2022 ice usage at Woog. We anticipate receiving another donation from charitable gambling in June that will be applied toward our 23-24 game jersey/sock invoicing. We'll send additional information and request for approval for this donation by email if this falls outside our normal board meeting scheduling.
- Motion to approve Actual Expenses for the month of Mar2022 of \$81,849.31 was made by Pat S. with second by Brent G. Actual Expenses approved 5 In-Favor / 0 opposed.
- Motion to approve Actual Expenses for the month of Apr2022 of \$95,245.55 was made by Brent G. with second by Pat S. Actual Expenses approved 5 In-Favor / 0 opposed.

- It was noted that \$30,263.00 was included in April expenses. This is the repayment to the WAHC-General Fund of the loan advanced for the Carmine booth start-up. Board approved this repayment previously (see Apr-May2021 Minutes). Regulatory basis of accounting treats this as an expense.
- Motion to approve Estimated Allowable Expenses for month of June of \$80,503.00 was made by Pat S. with second by Dan H. Estimated Allowable Expenses were approved 5 In-Favor / 0 opposed.
- Pat S. inquired about budgeting Donations for 22-23 and specifically, considering donations as a % of Gross Profit. Following are donations and Gross Profit for the past 3 seasons. 21-22 was the first season with more than 1 site.

	Actual 21-22		Actual 2020-21		Actual 2019-20
Gambling Donations:					
Ice	238,398		78,375		70,825
Player Equipment	-		-		20,000
Total Gambling Donations	238,398	21%	78,375	21%	90,825
Gross Profit	\$ 1,160,882.00		\$ 366,793.00		\$ 282,921.00

MN Gambling Control Board Compliance Review – Update

The MN GCB completed a compliance review of our gambling operation. The review included Sep-Dec2021 activity at all 3 sites. 13 Findings of violations were noted based on the documentation reviewed. We are in the process of reviewing the findings so that we can respond with our corrective action plan. We are required to submit a written response within 60 days (**Due on or before Tuesday June 21**).

These findings are not unexpected - given our Gambling Manager is new and 21-22 included the addition to our operations of a second & third site; the review and findings give us an opportunity to make continuous improvements in our procedures and internal controls.

Mary completed a *re-training* with all sellers and auditors based on the findings; on-site trainings were completed by May 3. A draft of our response to the findings and our corrective action plan is in process and will be shared with the Board by email.

District 8 Request for Feedback

75 Minute Games – PW/12U

D8 is seeking input from its association regarding Eagan Hockey’s request to have D8 move to 75-min games for PW/12U. D8 survey Districts for current game length; majority of Districts (D-6,-9,-10,-11,-15,-16) are currently running 15- or 17-minute periods; D2 is at 12-minute periods.

After a brief discussion, WAHC voted in favor of 75-min games (5 in-favor / 0 opposed). **LN to send WAHC feedback to Rak.**

GameSheet –

D8 is seeking association input on their experience with GameSheet. MN Hockey is meeting with GameSheet on Monday May 16. LN requested feedback from our team managers and will compile responses to send to Rak. Overwhelming favorable experiences reported! Recommendation for GameSheet to develop an app for smartphones in lieu of using the iPads (storage and charged batteries can be a challenge).

2022-23 Ice Scheduling – Software and Scheduling Role

The Board continued to discuss solutions to ice scheduling processing ranging from in-house scheduling to a 3rd party scheduler in an effort to find the right path forward with our ice scheduling – in light of the challenges we face with limited ice, team demands and the learning curve with new software tool.

In line with this, we reviewed a proposal for AVARIO to provide Scheduler services for the upcoming season and the Board made the decision to move forward with AVARIO. This decision was not a reflection of Ice Scheduler performance; it's an effort to find a more sustainable scheduler process.

Pat S and LN to meet with our current Ice Scheduler regarding this decision.

Next step will be to connect with AVARIO to firm up an agreement and identify the ala carte services we need. We will also need to identify one primary (Board) contact with decision-making authority (see proposal) for AVARIO. A recommendation for a point person was made. Further discussion and follow-up recommended.

Team Tournament Registrations

We reviewed the current BlueBook policy regarding the # of tournaments included in a player's season fee by level. The Board approved the following # of tournaments to be included in the player fee (in addition to the District Playoff tournaments) and, where possible to be pre-registered by WAHC.

LEVEL OF PLAY	TOURNAMENTS included in Player Fee (Does not include District Playoff)
JRGOLD/16U	2
BANTAM	4
PEEWEE	4
SQUIRT	3
GIRLS 15U	3-4 (for 22-23 increase season fee to equal BN fee and add the 4 th tournament)
GIRLS 12U	4
GIRLS 10U	3
MITES/MINIMITES	2 *
GIRLS 8U/6U	2 *

**for 22-23 WAHC will register for 1 Jamboree, and reimburse the team for a 2nd jamboree -The team is responsible for finding/registering for the 2nd jamboree)*

The decision was made to discontinue our WAHC end-of-season Mite/8U 'jamboree' event due to the challenges with ice scheduling and finding teams to play give the late-season timing for the jamboree the past several seasons.

Secretary (LN) to update Blue Book for above changes at 15U level and 8&Under.

WAHC Hosted Tournaments – Proposed

The WAHC Board made the decision early in our 22-23 planning to consider reducing the # and size of the tournaments we host given the strains on available ice for our teams in-season and the continued challenges to get volunteers – necessary to serve as minor game officials and ensure a quality run tournament and experience for our tournament teams and fans. This was balanced with member requests to name/host a memorial tournament(s) to honor a beloved long-time WAHC coach and a JrGold player who lost his life in a tragic car accident at end of 20-21 hockey season. Based on this 3 hosted tournaments are proposed for the upcoming season.

We reviewed the dates/levels/#teams for as follows:

- Dec 9-11, 2022 Girls 10UB1/B2, 12UB1/B2 – 8 teams ea. level
- Dec 15-18, 2022 JrGoldB/16U – 8 teams ea. level
 - Garrett Bumgarner Memorial
- Feb 3-5, 2023 PWAA – 8 teams
 - Coach John Erickson Memorial

The above dates have been shared with M Health Sports Center for ice schedule coordination with the High School game scheduling. They have also been sent to the District for approval.

BG will work with coaching group on PW AA invitations once District confirms date.

LN will connect with A. Etshokin and WAHC Ice Scheduler re if/how we can work in flexibility with Mahtomedi to pick up some Harding ice between Dec 9-Dec 18

Administrative Updates – Grievance/Conduct Review Board Matters

Player Residency Inquiry

Discussion around an inquiry we received from another association questioning eligibility of a Squirt A player. Based on similar rumoring at start of 21-22 season, WAHC reviewed the player registration entry at that time and confirmed that a valid WAHC hockey boundary address was provided. Additionally, we reviewed our registration/player eligibility procedures with D8 and MN Hockey who 1) confirmed the same as adequate/appropriate, 2) affirmed that associations-WAHC are not in the business of surveillance, and 3) acknowledged that we must be consistent in applying practices/procedures across all player registrations.

With this recent inquiry, WAHC again reached out to District 8 to understand what could / should be done to verify residency in the upcoming season. The District Director re-affirmed our current procedures as appropriate and no additional procedures were recommended. We will work directly with our District Director on any questioned player registration to verify eligibility for the upcoming season. This is especially important for players at levels that advance to Region/State.

Board recommended that we update our Blue Book / policies to require that any player who is found to be an ineligible player due to inaccurate information provided in their registration, will be suspended

from the WAHC and required to reimburse the WAHC for any District/MN Hockey penalties and fines assessed as a result of the ineligible player.

Association's Right to Refuse Membership

WAHC Conduct Review Board recommends refusing registration/membership to 3 players. Request/Notice of hearings sent.

One family declined a hearing as not necessary as they will not be registering to play in the WAHC in 22-23 as they are moving out of the WAHC boundary and would only then be eligible with a discretionary waiver.

The other two families have requested another hearing date or additional time to send a formal response. **Board recommended Hearing Committee via WAHC Admin (LN) follow-up with a specific date for a response.**

2022-23 Season Planning Parameters –

Proposed Teams:

Initial Preliminary team counts and designations were presented as follows:

BANTAM 7 Teams (AA/A/B1/B2/B2/C/C)

PEEWEE 9 Teams (AA/A/B1/B2/B2/B2/C/C/C)

SQUIRT 8 Teams (A/B1/B1/B2/B2/B2orC/C/C)

15U 2-3 teams (A/A/B)

12U 5 teams (A/B1/B1/B1/B2)

10U 4 teams (A/B1/B1/B2)

8U – 4 teams (Top/Mid/Mid/Lower)

6U – 2 teams (Top/Lower)

MITES 4 levels with 2 teams ea. level

MINIMITES 3 levels with 3 teams ea. level

Discussion followed on

- How to balance aligning to USA Hockey recommended team sizes and our current ice constraints (specifically, is it better to have more players on a team and more ice time because you will have less teams, or less players on a team and less ice time because you will have more teams),
- District 8 requirement to have balanced teams at a given level and providing the best individual player development and hockey experience
- Opportunities for Girls program to have smaller team sizes (and more teams) but to reduce # of solo ice and increase # of shared ice per team and/or have 3 teams on-ice at a time to align with overall team ice usage for Youth/Girls teams.

Hockey Group (BG, JZ, JW) to work to a final recommendation for teams including designations and team sizes to present to Board by end of May.

Jerseys & Socks

Tryout Jerseys:

Recommendation for Skater tryout jerseys to be BLUE and VEGAS Gold with #s front & back and STOP patch. Goalie jerseys to be BLACK (or any other color too). This would allow players to have 3 colored jerseys (if they have their White/Black practice jerseys from past season(s). Note: # should follow alphabetical order AtoZ by last name.

Game Jerseys & Socks:

Jersey mockups from Gemini are in process. Key considerations for 22-23

SOCKS:

- Feedback was the socks were too big! Gemini does not have this problem with other associations. LN to request (purchase) sample socks in actual cut/sizes.
- Requested a one-design sock for both home and away jersey. Gemini indicated many Adult league teams go this this sock design as a cost saving measure. For WAHC, we would still order each player 2 pairs of socks-this would give a player 2 socks as a replacement for a torn / lost sock.

REVERSIBLE JERSEYS:

- We asked Gemini to price a reversible jersey & sock for our 8&Under teams. Our current jersey /sock pricing is \$33/\$12. Gemini estimated cost for reversible \$49/\$17

CONTRACT EXTENSION:

Gemini offered to lock in the current pricing for an additional year if we approve a contract extension by June/July2022. We've been discussing formalizing an RFP or RFB process for 23-24. Both K1 and Gemini have reached out for next season.

LN to email 22-23 design mock-ups and pricing proposal for reversible via email for Board input by week of May 23.

Dryland Program at Woog Arena – Expanded

SSPYHA is agreeable to allow us to use the dryland area this upcoming season at the same rate \$50/hour. Jonnie is currently planning 5 dryland sessions per team for the Girls program. Josh will work with Pete on how Mites/Minis could use dryland to supplement their weekend ice scheduling. Brent will consider for the Youth-side after discussions with D.E.

Pete Talafous & Lonie met with Michael Ahern, SSPYHA Treasurer and Dryland Area Coordinator to walkthrough some space modifications/reconfigurations that would allow for more kids to train at a time. Pete also proposed putting in plastic ice in the shooting area (note: This is extra sheets that XHockey Products has in inventory, that Pete would sell to either SSPYHA or WAHC at a significant discount for use in this space. If WAHC purchases it, the ice could be removed at a future date if/when WAHC no longer uses the Woog dryland area).

LN to follow-up with SSPYHA on approval to install ice and if space modifications could be made. LN to schedule meeting with Pete T, JZ and JW in 1-2 weeks to finalizing dryland planning/calendar to share with SSPYHA by mid-June. Need language re WAHC purchase of the plastic ice, and right to remove it.

Hockey Operations Role

discussion of a possible candidate for Hockey Ops Role – would include dryland training, preseason training lead. BG to follow-up and bring back to Hockey Group & Board for further consideration around a Hockey Ops role.

Tabled for Hockey Group recommendation to formalize a role, define deliverables and identify candidates.

Goalie Development Training Proposals:

Results of the Goalie Development Survey were discussed in general.

Discussion followed around Goalie Development opportunities and how to best address our current goalie shortages and gap in goalie coach development.

Board recommended Hockey Group to review feedback with our current Goalie Provider and considerations around Goalie Dev needs/changes proposed for the upcoming season.

Hockey Group to explore formal proposals and make recommendation to Board for final approval by end of May.

ERAA Hockey Group Update –

Pat S. updated Board on the discussions we've been having with the ERHS-Hockey group, the CGHA President and D8/MNHockey and key considerations in understanding how we engage in / manage this - including

- MNHockey association's autonomy and
- the right to appeal an association's decision to MNHockey
- WAHC's responsibility to represent its membership and its commitment to keeping the members informed with enough good information to make the right decision if/when they are asked to vote on any split/realignment

We reviewed projected player numbers in each of the 3 associations as re-aligned by the split proposal and noted the ERHS-boundaried association would have 50-51% of the combined players, WHS-boundaried association would have 19-20% and CGPark-boundaried association would have @26%, with the remaining 3% players tbd.

Next Steps –

PS to follow-Up with CGHA Pres regarding their Board position/decision. Recommendation to follow our review/member vote only if and when CGHA approves the proposal.

LN to coordinate a meeting with MN Hockey Exec Director-Glen Andresen to update directly on WAHC's approach in managing this and key considerations and factors for the same.

Communication to our membership to update (in conjunction with any CGHA membership communication). Draft attached to agenda to be revised per above next steps.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm