



Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The June 25, 2022 Meeting was held in Great Falls, Montana, and called to order by President Traver McLeod at 10:05 am.

Roll Call was taken, and was as follows: (Gray means not present) (Blue means via Zoom)

^**Billings Rep** Megan Davis
^**Bozeman Rep** Dave Weaver
^**Butte Rep** Dan Blando
^**Flathead Rep** Dustin Zuffelto
^**Whitefish Rep** Ryan Ulvin
^**Glasgow Rep** Russ Barnett
^**Great Falls Rep** Mike Pancich
^**Havre Rep** Dominique Preputin
^**Helena Rep** Jon Flynn
^**Miles City Rep** Rick Lang
^**Missoula Rep** Grace Hoene
^**League Commissioner** Todd Young
^**USAH Coach-in-Chief** Pete Kamman
^**USAH Ref-in-Chief** Jason Manning
^**Adult Rep** Barry Brownlee
Tourney Director Kate Leonberger
10U Commissioner Angela Toldness
12U Commissioner Colleen Scheile

President Traver McLeod
Vice President Jason Kindseth
Treasurer Karen Young
Secretary Connie Murphree
USAH SafeSport/Risk Manager Kari Riley
USAH Registrar Chandra Picicci
USAH Player Safety Jason Moran
USAH ADM Brian Stinson
USAH GTG Russ Barnett
Youth Development Mike Wilkinson
Girls Development Annie Petschauer
USAH Youth Goalie Develop Ryan Riley
USAH Female Goalie Develop Lisa Prescott
Disabled Rep *Position Open*

14 U Commissioner *Position Open*
HS Commissioner Carin Barnett
Girls Commissioner Chris Herring

^ = Voting Member

Others in Attendance: Pat Picicci – NPD Ref-in-Chief, Jay Hoffman - Billings, Shannon Hagen – Billings, Hilary Lozar – Polson, Al Bloomer – Finance Committee +.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Annie moved to approve as submitted, seconded by Todd. Motion carried.

Executive Director

Traver introduced Pete Kamman as the new Executive Director for MAHA. His official start date will be July 18, 2022. Pete shared that he has been active with hockey in Montana for 18 years. He is excited to get started as the ED. His goals include developing coaching leadership to improve coaching quality, overall program growth, and working with all 11 associations to identify and meet their needs.

Northern Plains District

Traver noted that the NPD has grown enough to be given a 3rd Director position, adding it would be great if that person could be from Montana. The first District meetings in 6 years will be held August 19 – 21, 2022 in Deadwood, SD.

Elections

Traver discussed each of the positions to be voted on, and the nominations. There are two new positions to be voted on. 1) At-Large Rep – a voting position to be filled by someone who knows hockey but is not affiliated with any of the current Associations. 2) DEI Rep – a non-voting position to be filled by someone who will work on incorporating diversity, equality and inclusion in all Montana hockey. Disabled Hockey Rep is a non-voting position that has been vacant for several years. It is a 3 year term. Paper ballots were distributed to voting members and returned to Connie for counting. The following are the results.

Vice President – Nominations: Jason Kindseth	Unanimously Elected for 3 year term
Treasurer – Nominations: Karen Young	Unanimously Elected for 3 year term
Youth Player Develop – Nominations: Mike Wilkinson	Unanimous Elected for 3 Yr term
Girl's Player Develop – Nominations: Annie Petschauer	Unanimous Elected for 3 Yr term
At Large Rep – Nominations: Al Bloomer	Unanimously Elected for
DEI Rep – Nominations: Hilary Lozar	Unanimously Elected
Disabled Rep – Nominations: None	By write in – Hilary Lozar, she accepted

Per the by-laws approved in October 2021, effective July 1, 2022 – Each zone shall elect one person to be a member of the Executive Committee.

Zone 1 – Glacier, Flathead, Missoula

Available to be Nominees: Ryan Ulvin, Dustin Zuffelto, Grace Hoene

Dustin declined. By majority vote – Grace Hoene was elected for a ONE YEAR term.

Zone 2 – Butte, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls -

Available to be Nominees: Dan Blando, Dave Weaver, Jon Flynn, Mike Pancich

Dan and Jon both declined. Dave prefers to not sit in this position. By majority vote – Mike Pancich was elected for a TWO YEAR term.

Zone 3 – Miles City, Billings, Havre, Hi-Line

Available to be Nominees: Rick Lang, Megan Davis, Dominique Preputin, Russ Barnett

Megan declined. By majority vote – Dominique Preputin was elected to a 3 Yr term.

There was follow up discussion in regard to the Disabled Rep position. The original rep, Jill VanSon, had gotten a \$20,000 grant for MAHA to purchase sleds and a trailer. Traver will try to get in touch with Jill to find out where that equipment is at currently.

Player Development

Annie reported there was record attendance at the April Player Development Camp. There were 266 participants. From the camp, 5 moved on to the Western Regional Camp, 2 went on to Girls Select National Player Development Camp (and 1 of those went on to win Silver in World Championship), 5 went to Mid Am for Girls, 3 boys went on to Mid Ams, and 1 to National Camp. The Development committee has been meeting regularly to establish Annual Guide language, mostly for deadline establishment, and policy for play offs.

Goalie Development

Ryan noted goalie numbers seem to be increasing in Montana. Several girl goalies are playing at a level near the top of the NP District. Development camp is definitely improving goaltenders. From the camp, 11 went on to District Camp.

Referee-in-Chief

Jason was not in attendance, but did send a written report. (See attached). Pat further noted for the 21-22 there were 326 registered officials, and 267 completed certification. USA Hockey is advocating for associations to implement a Mentor Program for new officials to help get more to certification. USA Hockey is also advocating for pregame introductions between coaches and officials during warm ups. All officials are being asked to be very strict, especially at the beginning of the season, to both curb abuse and to set an example for new officials. Spectator conduct continues to be an issue. Associations should have an employee readily available to remove fans as requested by officials. Rule change proposals for 2026 will need to be submitted by April 2024. Al reminded that rule changes focus on Safety, Development and Growth. Al also added that USAH is hiring a new ADM Officiating person, and working toward more opportunities for instructor training.

Adult Rep

Barry reported he has been able to have more communication around the state as COVID requirements ease. He would like to have a contact within USA Hockey. Barry would also like to put together a State Adult Tournament if possible.

Coach-in-Chief

Pete noted that the Northern Plains District had 10 Coaching Instructors prior to COVID. There is currently only one. Coaches can not be on a roster until their credentials are up to date. Temporary cards will be \$100. If Level 3 expires, there will be a one year grace period. Continuing Education is available at \$15 hour. Red-lined coaches will have 30 days to complete credentials. Montana needs to work toward advancing coaches beyond District Camp, along with getting more coaches to Level 5. Pete closed by noting a new Coach-in-Chief will need to be appointed when he resigns in July. Al wondered if this could be combined with the new Coaching Development position.

Diversity, Equality, Inclusion

As the new DEI Rep, Hilary noted she has reviewed the DEI information from USA Hockey. There are 10 steps that each association can implement. There may also be some grant money available for expenses related to implementation of DEI. Fasted way to begin is to establish a Mentorship Program for Minorities. Traver asked that each Association identify possibilities for Hilary to begin working on.

Registrar

Chandra noted this was her first season, she feels it went pretty well. Numbers seem to be up overall. Missoula and Bozeman both had nice growth. There were 334 youth and 958 adults not claimed. In future seasons, this will be reviewed by January 15th to determine why they are unclaimed. Players must be claimed to be on a roster. Chandra will conduct training for association registrars. Items needing attention going forward include 1) When registering, names must match birth certificates exactly, 2) Both 6U and 8U players need to be rostered, 3) Roster changes require a minimum of 10 days to process, 4) Safe Sport Agreements need to be completed and returned to Kari Riley before rosters will be released. Chandra also asked if there is currently a policy of whom is authorized to get minor contact information from her. With nothing formal being in place, a written policy will be created. Chandra also reminds all Associations that when hosting or participating in USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments, all participating teams must be USA Hockey registered and rostered.

Grants

Jason reported on the 21 – 22 grants, coming in at just over \$12,000. A similar amount is expected for 22 – 23. Applications will be accepted starting August 1, 2022. Requests should include plans for 25% Growth and 15% DEI. Jason and Traver both stressed the need for receipts to be turned in to Jason no later than April 1, 2023. There are multiple steps that take place to finalize the grant requests, and the annual USA Hockey audit does check to make sure the money was distributed before the end of June.

New Affiliate Associations

Traver noted that Big Sky is interested in applying to join MAHA. They have already been communicating with Pete in regard to this. Traver noted that the by-laws currently include expectations for Affiliate Associations, but not a process for applying. Red Lodge, Lewistown and Phillipsburg have also expressed interest. Polson is currently working toward establishing a hockey program, and will likely request to join MAHA as well.

Risk Management

Kari reported there is not much happening with this right now. Insurance will be increasing.

Safe Sport

Kari reported that USA Hockey has registered the Safe Sport name, and it now officially needs to be two words. The Safe Sport training module has been changed. Grace is graciously working on a video to instruct all on how to use the new system, MyHockeyHQ Portal. Kari reminds all Associations that every Safe Sport incident, even if handled at the local level, needs to be submitted to her promptly, as she has reporting deadlines to USA Hockey. The forms for the new season are updated and can be found on the website, www.mthockey.com. For the 22 – 23 season, all players born in 2005 or earlier are also required to complete Safe Sport training. Safe Sport training is required to be completed every other year, with a refresher taken the other years. Background screening is required every other year. Team Managers are now required to be listed on the rosters.

Spectator Conduct

Kari noted that she and Todd are currently working on putting together a formal policy. Several comments were made in regard to what other states are doing to help curb this problem.

Fiscal Year 23 Budget

Dustin presented the proposed budget for FY 2023. (See Attached)

Dustin then explained changes on many of the line items. It was noted that there may be a need for some adjustments, for example, to fund an Adult Tourney if offered. The projected budget shows a deficit, which was planned from the previous budget due to the hiring of the Executive Director.

Dominique moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

TSL Age Groups

Todd reported on the good and bad of last season's divisions based on feedback around the state. There will be a series of town hall meetings to further discuss each age group. Travel costs will need to be a factor in determining the upcoming season scheduling. Both 10U and 12U are Developmental, and multiple teams from one Association should be divided equally. 14U and older are Competitive. If there are multiple competitive teams at the same age level from one Association, there needs to be enough players to complete each roster. There was discussion in regard to how to divide A, B, C divisions. This will be discussed further in the town hall meetings.

Live Scoring should be better utilized. A training video will be put together to help train scorekeepers. Todd also reminded all of the high number of penalty minutes during the 21-22 season at the 14U and older levels. There was discussion of what neighboring states are doing to combat penalties. Todd also confirmed that to break ties at the HS level, there will be one 5 minute sudden death overtime, followed by a three man shoot out if needed.

Scheduling

Todd and Traver asked if Associations are able to move up their registration deadlines so the scheduling can be done sooner. Todd also noted that Associations with cross-rostered players need to ensure their scheduler knows to avoid conflicts between the two teams.

Forfeiture Policy

Each team is required to pay a \$500 bond before the season begins. Of that bond, \$100 stays with MAHA for administrative costs. The remaining \$400 is a bond to cover team penalties. Games that are either not finished, or one team chooses to not travel are assessed a penalty of \$400 for forfeiting.

Montana Hockey Summit

Bozeman will host the 2022 Summit. Due to the normal date of the first weekend of October, and also the second weekend, being home games for the MSU Bobcats, the Summit will be held September 23 – 24, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Todd Young moved to adjourn, seconded by Al Bloomer. No Discussion. Motion carries. Meetings adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Murphree *Connie Murphree*
MAHA Secretary