



USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting October 15, 2024

Attendance

Present: Mike Trimboli, Keith Barrett, Ryan Bedford, Cheri Bonawitz, Caitlin Cahow, Tom Cline, Don Gould, Donna Guariglia, Bob Joyce, Donna Kaufman, Kris Knauss, Taylor Lipsett, Mike MacMillan, Steve Oleheiser, Andy Yohe.

Absent: Julie Chu, Bill Daly, Dwayne Dillinger, Declan Farmer, Noah Grove, TC Lewis, Kevin McKee, John Tobin, Jen Yung Lee.

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

Call to Order

Mike Trimboli called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

Conflict of Interests

None.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Joyce moved to approve the September 16, 2024 board minutes (2nd Tom Cline). The minutes were approved.

President's Report

Mike Trimboli began the meeting by congratulating the U.S. National Sled Team on their recent gold medal victory. Mike advised the Board that the 2024 Warrior Classic had to be cancelled due to the hurricane in Florida hitting near the arena.

Mike has been discussing the rule change proposals with Sarah Fraser. That process is going very well. She will be calling into our meeting in Nashville to report on how it is going and any pertinent issues.

John Vanbiesbrouck, Pat Kelleher, Dwayne Dillinger and Mike recently attended the IIHF semi-annual meetings in Greece. There were several discussions regarding our efforts to gain approval as the host of the 2027 and 2029 U18 Men's World Championships, which was approved contingent upon approval of the contract with the IIHF. The 2025 U18 Men's World Championship is confirmed to take place in Dallas, TX. During the meeting, over sixty pages of statutes and bylaws were discussed and voted on. There was also discussion regarding adding three-on-three hockey to the 2030 Olympics in France. There were also discussions about player development and coach development growth initiatives in South America. New Zealand and Australia, as part of the Oceania region, were added to the Americas region.





under the IIHF governance. During the meetings we had productive discussions with Hockey Canada as part of our longstanding relationship.

Mike will be attending the Affiliate Presidents meeting in October. Mike met with the ECAC Commissioner who noted that the Advanced Officiating Development Program partnership with their women's hockey programs is going well.

Mike congratulated Victor Mancini on making the opening night roster with the New York Rangers and Will Brennan who is playing for the Cleveland Guardians in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

Mike reminded everyone to complete, if they have not done so already, their background screen and Conflict of Interest forms. Mike closed by expressing his condolences to Tami Tranter and Shelia May who both recently lost their mothers.

Executive Director's Report

Pat Kelleher reported that the Foundation's Board of Directors met on October 1st and will meet again in Nashville. Recently in Plymouth a group including Bob Mancini, Scott Monaghan, John Vanbiesbrouck and Pat met to discuss hockey operations and player development initiatives. There has been ongoing discussion regarding the NCAA and the Canadian Hockey League and the possibility of CHL players becoming eligible in the future to play NCAA hockey. Legislation has been submitted that would change the rule and become effective in August. Casey Jorgensen, Glenn Hefferan and Pat have met to discuss the proposed change.

Kelly Mahncke, Casey Jorgensen, John Vanbiesbrouck and Pat had an initial meeting with the Women's National Team's legal counsel and players to discuss an extension of the contract between USA Hockey and the players. Prior to that, Kelly, Casey, John and Pat met with Mike Trimboli, Donna Guariglia, John Tobin and Dwayne Dillinger to discuss the approach to the upcoming negotiations. On the international side, the IIHF and the PWHL are in discussions about the PWHL players' availability to participate in world championships during the PWHL season, and this could have an impact on our agreement with the players.

Lastly, Pat advised that Kevin Erlenbach will be departing after nearly 19 years at USA Hockey to become the CEO of USA Ultimate. There is a posting for the position and our staff is working in various areas of that department. Kevin will be missed.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Guariglia reported that the Board has not yet received the last financials for the 2024 fiscal year as the audit is about to be concluded. Donna and Kelly Mahncke will be providing a detailed report on the audit in November. Kelly advised that we expect to be very close to the projections from the last board meeting. The Finance Committee will be meeting to review the proposed Consumer Price Index (CPI) resolution that would be used as a baseline to address future membership fee increases. The Fee Structure Committee also met recently.





IT Subcommittee Update

Don Gould reported that the continuing work to update the Learning Management System (LMS) is going very well. The mockups for the new LMS are for web-based and mobile-based landing platforms and planned implementation is for early next year.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report

Donna Guariglia thanked Stephanie Jackson for her work compiling the report. The DEI Action Plan will be submitted to the USOPC on November 15th.

Legal Council Report

Casey Jorgensen reported that there have not been any new appeals since the last board meeting. Related to the Colorado Affiliate litigation, discovery from third parties, including banks, should be allowed soon so the forensic audit related the Affiliate's financials can be completed. A memorandum was sent to the Board with information regarding changes to the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook and we will ask for approval of the Handbook changes during New Business. Casey continues to have discussions with Congressional staff and other NGBs on a new bill that would make changes to the U.S. Center for SafeSport's investigative process and relationship with NGBs. A bill could be introduced in Congress soon.

Youth Council

Keith Barrett noted that sites are beginning to be selected for the national tournaments next year. There continues to be discussions on the playing rules proposals. Keith and Bob Mancini gave a brief report on the status of the work by the Tier I Commission.

Girls' Council

Don Gould reported that World Girls' Hockey Weekend was October 11th – 13th. There were many successful events and Membership is doing a fantastic job of expanding those events.

Adult Council

Tom Cline noted that the Adult Council has four subcommittees that have been meeting and they will be meeting soon with the full Council.

International Council

John Vanbiesbrouck reported that Nick Bryant, who has been the General Manager for the U18 Women's National Team, will be taking a new position with the PWHL in Minnesota.

Membership Council

Donna Kaufman reported that membership numbers continue to grow. She thanked Kevin for his support and for his help in getting the Membership Council up and running.





Marketing Report

Tony Driscoll noted that USA Hockey has received a new verbal commitment from Discover. The Rivalry Series will take place in San Jose, Boise and Salt Lake City, with two of the locations sold out.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Nashville, TN on November 9th. A schedule for the Foundation and Board meetings has gone out with draft agendas. Please let Pat or Mike know of any comments or additions to the agenda.

Bob Joyce made a motion to approve the dates and location of the 2025 Winter Meeting in Nashville, TN in January and the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO in June (2nd Mike MacMillan). The motion was approved.

Kelly Mahncke described Chris Washburn's recent presentation of a concept on following the CPI as a guideline for future membership fee increases. A resolution will be presented at the Winter Meeting to use CPI as a guideline for future fee increases.

Casey Jorgensen presented the changes to the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook that is expected to be published before January 1, 2025. Casey reviewed a memo that described revisions to the billet policy as well clarifying language that SafeSport investigations are conducted mostly at the local and affiliate level, not by the national office. Donna Kaufman made a motion to approve the changes to the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook (2nd Steve Oleheiser). The motion was approved.

Adjournment

Bob Joyce moved to adjourn the meeting (2nd Donna Guariglia). Meeting adjourned.

