



USA Hockey Directors Report

Steven Oleheiser

This has been as you can imagine an unprecedented year for USA Hockey much in the same manner as Covid 19 affected MN Hockey it also had the same or greater affect on USA Hockey. With many areas of USA Hockey unable to play hockey for most if not all of the season membership enrollment for USA Hockey was at a significant decrease from previous season. Below is a breakdown of the membership:

BOYS & GIRLS_8U				
	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
TOTAL	122135	123303	121796	94582
	5.6%	1.0%	-1.2%	-22.3%
NEW	55769	55652	53799	33875
	7.1%	-0.2%	-3.3%	-37.0%
RET	66366	67651	67997	60707
	4.3%	1.9%	0.5%	-10.7%

- USA Hockey finished down by 22.3% overall
- The most concerning piece of data is that the new player pool declined by 37%
  - New players have been trending downward for three seasons
- They are now projecting that it will take five seasons for a to return to 2018-19 8U totals. I do not believe that it will take five seasons to return to the 2018-2019 8U totals.

As we are aware here in Minnesota the ability to keep playing the game, albeit in a manner not of our liking, enabled us to lead the nation in player number as compared to last year. I firmly believe there were a great number of first year players that were held out of youth sports all together as a result of fears of Covid 19 and the unknowns regarding the season we were entering. Even with that I do not believe our numbers of new players compared to previous years was anywhere near -37%

As you can imagine with loss of players there is a loss of revenue for USA Hockey. Unfortunately for some of the leadership of USA Hockey the fix for loss of revenue is to increase the fees charged to those that are actually still playing the game and possibly instituting a charge to the incoming new players that have not in previous years been charged. Below is an excerpt from executive committee meeting held to consider fee increases to be considered by the USAH BOD.

There was a motion recommend that the membership registration fee be increased by \$9.00 for those members ages 9-18. The motion failed.

There was a motion recommend a \$15 per player registration fee to the 6 and Under classification and to recommend a \$5 dollar increase to the 9-18 age classifications. The motion failed.

There was a motion to recommend a \$15 per player registration fee to the 6 and Under age classification. The motion failed.

There was a motion to recommend no fee increase for the 2021-22 season. The motion passed.

I do not believe anyone believed that any of the above motions would pass except for the last one. In the end as you can see the Executive Committee of USA Hockey recommended NO fee increase.

I want to point out that the USA Hockey Finance Committee met extensively to consider options for mitigating the loss of revenue and to also examine cost saving measures and possible other sources of revenue. This Committee recommended NO increase in fees to the BOD. I feel I must offer our thanks to the two members of the Committee from Minnesota Hockey, Dave Margenau and Doug Kephart. They were very instrumental in asking the hard questions as well as offering some very unpopular suggestions for both increasing revenue and decreasing cost by becoming a more efficient organization.

The USA Hockey BOD meet in special meeting in late March and voted to have NO increase in fees. I will point out that the motion was: no fee increase in 2021-2022 season and this passed unanimously. I believe this speaks to the temperature of USA Hockey regarding both the sources of revenue and controlling of costs. I am sure there may be an effort in the coming season to consider a fee increase. I assure you that the USA Hockey Directors that represent MN Hockey will speak loudly and forcibly in opposition to such a move.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the fees charged by USAH to sanction Invitational tournaments. The fees of \$50.00 per tournament if including teams from outside MN Hockey but within USAH and \$75.00 for tournaments with teams from outside USAH (I.E. Canada) has been increased to \$250.00 per Invitational Tournament. Per policy and rules of MN Hockey, MN Hockey associations have only paid these fees when teams from outside MN Hockey are invited to their tournament. When an invitational tournament has teams only from MN Hockey, we will continue to charge only the MN Hockey tournament sanctioning fee and sanction them as MN Hockey.

The Affiliate Presidents committee also met twice virtually. In the first meeting there was much discussion regarding issues with all states regarding ability to play. MN Hockey was ahead of a great portion of the entire country. While we were playing games much of the rest of USA Hockey was seeing the season slipping away with very little hope that they would actually see anything that would resemble a season. The second meeting was informational by the President of USA Hockey Jim Smith and the Executive Director Pat Kelliher. This meeting was to inform and explain the rationale for a fee increase proposal. The proposal for a fee increase when much of the country could not play games and therefore had not registered a great percentage of their membership was met with significant hesitation from the Affiliate presidents present.

The summer USA Hockey meeting will be held virtually the week of June 7-12 with the Annual Congress Board of Directors meeting held on June 12, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Oleheiser

President MN Hockey

USA Hockey Director.