

Rocky Mountain District

2025 Winter Meeting

Thursday January 16, 2025

Renaissance, Nashville 7PM-9PM

- Call To Order **7:01 pm**
- Establish Quorum
- Quick Introductions
- Approval of Minutes of Annual District Meeting in NM – **Motion: Skinner, 2nd, Smith. Motion passes.**
- USAH Hockey Development Update:
 - 17 Camp Coaches Intern reminder-**Joe Bonnet 17 player evaluation camp. Head Coach Tyler Helton, Assistant Coach Greg Powers. Looking for a mentor coach, good positive youth coach. They have 1 or 2 people in mind. He has been working with a lot of us throughout this last year and things are looking good. 17 camp is July 6th – 16th. The 14U WRHPC in Colorado continues to be a stellar event and Joe appreciates the district's efforts to keep this camp going strong.**
 - Steve Thompson – **Getting a lot of calls and emails about a shortage of goaltenders. He has looked at the last 5 years of goalie registrations 10U – 19U our national average is 6.2%. There is a correlation to the shortage with overuse of goalies and injury. Looking to create more goalie mentoring and exposure. The district has approved a matching distribution of \$5000 for any district affiliate for use of goalie development.**
- Registrar's Report-Darla – **Thank Kim and Helen for being here. As of Jan 6, RMD has 63,214 players. 43 Tier I NTB, 93 Tier II NTB, 7 HS Div 1, and 25 HS Div 2. Have approved 174 tournament sanctions. Approved 1 playdown request from Idaho 12U playing down to 10U. Kathleen Smith is up for re-election this year. Darla will get details out in February. Monthly district registrar meeting, associate registrar meeting was held in December. This meeting was mainly covering credential process. Safesport minor athlete abuse protection policy changed and now includes a billet player/family requirement to complete safesport course. The emphasis is on 1:1 interaction between the billet player and the host family members. Vertical movement had a lot of movement. Two district affiliates. Arizona and Colorado. AZ 6 players and 9 moves. CO Rampage 10 players and 16 moves, Thunderbirds 12 players and 15 moves, 10 players 22 moves. Okanagan 15 players and 47 moves. RMRR 5 players and 12 moves. CO 110 movements total. District Registrar meeting was held earlier today, the meeting's primary focus was on coaches with expired CEPs. Affiliates can no longer have a stricter policy on rostering coaches with expired CEPs. Coaches will now be able to apply and obtain a Temporary Card. USAH has been recording the Temporary Card process since 2013.**
- Financial Audit Update-Bruce Urban – **In early Dec, there was a zoom call audit with USA Hockey. Went over several areas. We haven't received a final report yet, but we believe from all indications, the audit went well. We will go through an audit every three years.**
- RMD Budget and Matching Grant Update-Bruce Urban – **In our August meeting the district approved a 1-year matching \$5000 grant for each affiliate, so we will enter a \$30,000 line item in the budget for this initiative. Affiliates may receive up to \$5000 for goalie development prior to June 30th, 2025. Each affiliate in the Rocky Mountain District is quite healthy except for New Mexico who has less than 2000 members. New Mexico has plans for an expense of \$3500 for quick change goalie pads. Kathleen proposes a 1-year exception for the match requirement for New Mexico and thus the RMD will cover the \$3500 expense. Motion: Geoff, 2nd Doug Motion passes.**
- 2025 RMD Tournament-Ted Skinner
 - Dallas, Texas, Youth Tier 1, Girls Tier 1 & Tier 2 – **Dates for the District Tournament is March 6th – 9th in Dallas. Based on the declarations on November 15th we now have 46 teams participating. As far as the total games, 71 games will be played Thursday through Sunday. For Colorado - Tier I Youth is complete February 17th, Tier II Girls is complete by February 23rd.**

Tier I – 13O AZ, CO, TX 14U AZ, CO, TX, UT 15O AZ, CO, TX, 16U AZ, CO, TX, UT 18U AZ, CO TX, UT

G Tier I 14U AZ, CO, TX, 16U AZ, CO, TX, 19U AZ, CO, TX, UT

G Tier II – 14U. 16U. 19U six teams in each division. AZ, CO (2), TX, UT, ID

- Host Sites –
Youth Valley Ranch
Girls Farmers Branch
- Host Criteria Proposal, Stay to Play Requirements, Affiliate/Host Profit Share – **Texas Amateur Hockey and Dallas Stars Elite. Wendy Sarich is the host chairperson. All ice is secure. Blind draw was done 1/1/25.**
- Format Discussion, Declarations of teams by affiliate, Affiliate Tournament dates States – **All items have been ordered/purchased. Badges have been ordered. Mandatory meeting via Zoom on Monday March 3rd for all Head Coaches and Team Managers.**
- 2025 USAH National Tournament-TC Lewis – **National Tournament set and ready to go. 2026 sites have not been announced yet.**

District Player Evaluation and Development Camps Update & 2025 Finalized Dates

- Youth 15, 16, and 17-Doug – **May 16th – 18th, 2025 Camp will be in Dallas again this year. The fee is \$339 per player. The camp will move to sublimated jerseys and socks this year. The 17s will have an Allstar team/game on Sunday. Will make sure everyone receives the same amount of ice prior to Sunday. This decision came out of the evaluators wanting/needing to see the higher level, more competitive players against each other. The locations as of today will be Plano and Farmers Branch, but with the opening of an adjacent volleyball facility, we may think about moving from Farmers Branch.**
- Girls 15, 16, and 17-Ted/Kathleen – **May 16th – 18th, 2025 because of logistics and schedule constraints the decision was made to separate the youth from the girls. The fee is \$339 per player. Will still have a goalie clinic and parent/player informational meeting like last year.**
- Youth 14 High Performance Camp (Multi District)-Bruce – **Birthyear 2011 will once June 8th – 14th with players arrive on the 9th. Will be at Colorado College again. Looking for intern coaches again. Bruce will get all the information to all affiliates and Coaches in Chief for intern coaches. Will also be looking for goalie inter coaches as well. The cost will be \$895.**
- Girls 14 High Performance Multi-District Camp in Henderson NV. -Kathleen/Ted – **2011 birthyear girls will return to Henderson NV June 19th – 20th, 2025. It is a multi-district camp with Northern Plains and Pacific districts. Word got out earlier this year and is up on our website. The cost will be \$495. The feedback from parents and players from last year was all positive and look forward to that feedback helping to get the camp this year to capacity.**
- Girls 13 RMD High Performance Camp In Ogden, UT. – Kathleen/Ted **This camp will be held June 27th – 29th 2025.**
- Temp Cards Discussion-Mark – **Mark asked the affiliate presidents' feedback about Temporary Cards. Most affiliates do not feel that offering temporary cards should be an open/regular occurrence. Coaches can receive a temporary card only once in their coaching lifetime. There is a fee to obtain the temporary card of \$150.00. 682 temporary cards were issued for all of the United States, 41 was within RMD.**

- Affiliate board vs. USAH appointee positions-Ted – **There have been several instances in the district where affiliate board and USAH appointee position have had conflict. Both cases, the individual had to choose what position they would take. Per Casey Jorgenson, conflicts may arise and the volunteer simply has to choose which position they will choose.**
- Major playing rule changes-Ken – **largest change is going to be offsides and icing. Age will be a determining factor. Equipment including helmets and NLP will need to be HECC approved, the NLP will take some time to get the process through to the retail industry.**

Safe Sport Program updates-Darla – see above.

District Representative Election in 2025-Darla Thompson

- **Reports (send electronically) Time Permitting-quick verbal updates**
 - District Coach in Chief-Cosmo – **clinic season went well. Very positive uplifting energetic helping each other and supporting all. All clinics went from a district to a national level and clinics are better trackable. 18 or 19 people are active in helping run our clinics in RMD. Topics basically remained the same as years prior – there was a greater emphasis on goaltending. Issue of helmets and coaches, they need to be wearing a helmet that is properly fastened. Officials will be involved in our coaching academies. CDA dates May 9th – 11th, June 20th – 22nd, September 5th – 7th**
 - District Referee in Chief-Ken – **referee #s were up roughly 2%. Moving towards more of a teaching environment vs a testing environment. Shadowing has been switched where the shadow is actually the new official following the experienced official vs the new official trying to focus on making the right call etc, they are doing more observing and learning. Incident Reports are way down – 200 incidents less than last year.**
 - District Disabled Section-Sean - **Absent**
 - District Player Safety-Doug – **Sent out an updated Return to Play form to all affiliates. Doug asks the affiliates to get the updated form out to their member organizations.**
 - District Risk Manager-Ralph - **Absent**
 - High School Section Report -**Kenny –**
 - District Webmaster-Website Costs - **Kristy**
 - Affiliate Presidents Reports, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah
 - **CO – 17,000 registrations which is the highest CO has been. Goalie initiative Toyota give \$40,000 to run goalie clinics. Still going through lawsuit with prior president. Good thing to be in hockey in Colorado.**
 - **AZ – trying to put more emphasis on awareness on hockey. With the Coyotes leaving – trying to appeal to youth and keep hockey full and active. Tucson rink is going up should be a two rink facility should be completed fall 2026.**
 - **ID – 4800 registered players 60/40 youth and adult. Slowly growing. Struggling with High School league. Hard to get pure high school leagues. Girls are growing.**
 - **UT – up over 5000 registered players. 2 new adult groups that have returned to USA Hockey. Utah Hockey Club has been approved as a program. UHC – has bought the SouthTown mall with future hopes to build out a 2-sheet facility. 3 girls high school teams providing some good growth.**
 - **TX**

* Old Business

* New Business-Next RMD Meeting Time and Date-Confirm/Agree **Will be in Texas, no proposed dates but will likely be in September.**

* Adjourn **8:57pm Motion: TC Lewis, Reinhart 2nd.**