



2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: June 15th, 2024 – 9:00am

Location: National Conference Center of East Windsor

Meeting Call to order by Glenn Hefferan, President

Meeting Adjourned (Motion by Jay Finnigan & Eric Tye)

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Brian Peca, AAHA Secretary

In Attendance

50 members attended the meeting.

Voting Eligibility

Voting Members – 43

Simple Majority – 22

2/3 Majority – 29

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the 2023 in person Annual Meeting were presented. They were distributed electronically via email to directors prior to this meeting.
- Motion to approve the Annual meeting minutes made by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Dave Jackson.
 - **Motion Approved without opposition**

President's Report

- Glenn Hefferan addressed the current issues and concerns with Mental Health. A young Level 2 official committed Suicide. Glenn asked for a moment of silence for the young official.
- Glenn Hefferan introduced Eric Michaels as the new AAHA Operations Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Reports were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to the meeting.
- Audit Review with USA Hockey went thru without issues in January 2024
- Budget and P&L:
 - Projected Revenue of \$1.542 Million, with falling short by \$33,000.
 - Girls Quebec Tournament Team did not come together
 - Net Income: \$62,000

- Proposed budget for 2024 is projected to be similar to the 2023 Budget
- Motion to Approve the 2024 Budget by Gene Palecco, 2nd by Alex DePalma
 - **2024 Budget Approved without Opposition**

Vice President's Reports

- Vice President's Winter Meeting reports were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to the meeting.
- Maureen Thompson-Siegal: Update on the 8U Full Ice Waiver Update
 - This waiver would also be intended for the Full Ice Transition Event in February
- John Graves – High School:
 - Congratulations to the Flyers Cup and Pennsylvania Cup winners from this past season.
 - Game Misconducts carrying over from Travel Hockey to High School Hockey and High School hockey to Travel Hockey. They do NOT carry over.
 - A Match Penalty does carry over from one to the other. Match Penalties will be handled the the league commissioner and the AAHA VP of Protests, Suspensions & Appeals.
 - Per AAHA Rules, Clubs & Coaches are not allowed to prevent players to participate in High School Hockey.

USA Hockey Appointees Reports

- Glenn Hefferan acknowledged Ken Haas as the newest member of the AAHA Hall of Fame
- Ken Haas – Risk Manager: Ken reviewed points about the new USA Hockey Insurance carrier, specifically about official USA Hockey rosters and the additional staff that need to be listed for the associations.
 - Association Leaders must be USA Hockey registered, background checked and complete SafeSport training.
- Dave Baun – Legal Counsel:
 - Briefly discussed Minor Aged Players and Student Visas for players.
 - Players must be full time students in order to obtain Student Visas
 - Revisions are currently taking place with SafeSport and the Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Act.
 - Tier I Guidelines: USA Hockey is working on proposed guidelines that outlines what is required to be a Tier I Club/Team.
 - Rewriting Bylaw 10H that has to do with Arbitration after the appeal process.
- Jay Finnigan – Playing Rules:
 - Jay addressed the new rule pertaining to Neck Laceration Protectors, which becomes effective August 1st, 2024.
- Gene Palecco – National Tier I Update:
 - USA Hockey has 2 committees for restructuring Tier I Guidelines.
 - Addressed Guideline discussions for 12U & 14U vs. the Guidelines for 16U & Older
 - Survey went out to the Tier I Clubs
- Maureen Thompson-Siegal – Disabled Hockey:
 - AAHA Hosted the Inaugural Warrior National Championships and Inaugural Sled National Championships.
 - 60 Teams at Sled Event
 - 34 Teams at the Warrior Event
 - Thanks to Iceline & Ice Vault for Hosting these events

- The Warrior program has proven to be a positive step for Mental Health for Veterans
- Philadelphia Blind Hockey program is off to a great start, thanks to the Philadelphia Flyers and the Flyers Cup Tournament
- Alex DePalma spoke to the floor about starting Disabled programs within your clubs & rinks.

Old Business – Legislative Proposals

- **TIER I Applications:** Glenn Hefferan announced that due to the ongoing discussions with Tier I at the National Level, which Gene Palecco discussed, the AAHA will push back it's end date on the Corporate Resolution Suspending Tier I Applications. The end date will be pushed back to June 30th, 2026
 - Motion to approve updated Resolution by Mike Lichtenberger, 2nd by Jay Finnigan.
 - **Motion Approved without Opposition**
- **2024 WM-03:** Player Eligibility
 - Motion to take off the table by Frank McGady, 2nd by Bill Fox
 - **Proposal Passed without opposition.**
- **2024 WM-15:**
 - Motion to take off the table by Patrick Choules, 2nd by Jay Finnigan
 - **Proposal is Defeated without Opposition**

New Business – Proposals for Discussion:

- **2024 AM-01:** Early Contract Signing Period for Returning Players
 - Motion to adopt the proposal by Frank McGady, 2nd by Ken Anderson
 - This proposal would directly oppose USA Hockey Rules, but could be reviewed again in the future depending on what happens with the discussions at the National Level.
 - **Proposal is Defeated without Opposition**
- **2024 AM-02:** Invitational Tournament Rosters
 - Motion to Table the Proposal by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Frank McGady
 - **Motion is Tabled without Opposition**
- **2024 AM-03:** Coaching Certification
 - Motion to adopt by Frank McGady, 2nd by Mike Lichtenberger
 - **Proposal is Approved without opposition**
- **2024 AM-04:** Tier I Tournament Format
 - Glenn Hefferan rules the proposal out of order while acknowledging a Bye to District playoffs will be formatted for the Independent Tier I path.
 - Glenn Hefferan declares that the Independent Path will have a bye formatted to the AAHA District Playoffs
 - Motion to rule in favor of the Chair's Ruling by Jim Hunt, 2nd by Gary Williams
 - **Motion Carries without Opposition**

Officer Elections

- The following Officers were re-elected by Acclimation:
 - **Maureen Thompson-Siegal:** Executive Vice President
 - **Bill Box:** Vice President of Rules & Regulations
 - **Brian Peca:** Secretary
 - **USA Hockey Congress Representative I:** Glenn Hefferan

Upcoming Events & Closing Comments

- **District Playoffs:** March 7th – 9th & 14th – 16th, 2025
- **Mite 8U Full Ice Event:** January 31st thru February 2nd, 2025
- Tryout Dates for 2025-26 Season Announced and will be posted on the AAHA Website
 - Motion to Approve the 2025-26 Tryout Dates by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Frank McGady
 - **Motion Approved without Opposition**
- Upcoming Winter Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday January 28th, 2025