

Pacific District
Fall Board of Directors Meeting
Hilton Conference Center Seattle, WA
October 18, 2008

The Fall Board Meeting for the Pacific District of USA Hockey was held on the 18th day of October 2008 at SEATAC's Hilton Conference Center in Seattle Washington

Chairman Bruce Urban called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The following persons were present: Dick Coombs, Charlie Fuertsch, Dru Hammond, Donna Kaufman, Steve Laing, Natalie McEwen, Mike Sullivan, Dan Rogness, Bruce Urban, Cullen Wallace and Kevin McNaughton.

The following guests were present at the meeting: Lynn Beehler Urban - USA Hockey Director at Large, Larry Bruyere – Coach-in-Chief and Steve Stevens - Referee in Chief.

The Chair made a request to those in attendance for any additional items to be added to the agenda. It was requesting to add Tier I discussions under tournaments and to add the Anderson Awards to the agenda.

Minutes

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2008, as amended.

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2008, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Charlie Fuertsch gave a thorough recap on the financial position. He reviewed our financial statements, budgets and block grant. Charlie confirmed he has successfully opened an account under the Pacific District ID number and closed out the other account under the CAHA ID number. He will need a resolution from CAHA to completely close out the account, which is now at a zero balance.

Charlie suggested the Girls/Women's player development program generate a budget for their upcoming camp. Dick Coombs will communicate this request to Margo Dreyer.

The 2009 Budget was presented and approved at May meeting. Charlie indicated we might need to review a line item or two as we move forward in the new fiscal year.

Motion was made by Donna Kaufman, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved to add an additional \$500 to cover the additional cost for hosting the USAH Exhibitors show at that Annual Congress.

General discussions were held on a few of the line items from the financials and block grants. Donna Kaufman asked if anyone understood how a coach / player was counted at USA Hockey. There was also discussion about player's fee for 6 years old and under. Apparently PNAHA is the only affiliate collecting a player fee on 6 years old and under. Dru will insure PNAHA corrects their fee structure for next year.

Motion was made by Steve Laing, seconded by Natalie McEwen, and unanimously approved to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Affiliate Audit

USA Hockey is planning on implementing yearly audits for each Affiliate. Cullen Wallace discussed their president's conference call with all the USA Hockey affiliate presidents. Complete audits for each affiliate will be extremely expensive. It was discussed on this conference call USA Hockey will pay for the audit if the program's finances are under \$50,000. Anything-over \$50,000 USA Hockey will contribute \$4,500 toward this audit. There was also discussion if this would lead to district audits. It is believed this may be partly an insurance requirement.

It's the general feeling of the affiliate presidents this was an extremely expensive endeavor and the money could better be spend toward grass-roots hockey programs. The Pacific District has already implemented financial recommendations / audit parameters.

It was discussed by the board we should author a letter addressing our concerns. Dick Coombs will write the letter on behalf of the affiliate presidents and directors addressing the financial impact of this potential mandate.

Motion was made by Steve Laing, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved for Dick Coombs to write a letter on behalf of the affiliate presidents addressing their concern of the financial impact this annual affiliate audit would have on their programs.

Block Grants

Dick Coombs reminded each affiliate to start working on their block grants and visit with their members. Dick reminded us the grant requests are due for our meeting in January. Otherwise, all appears to be on track and nothing major to report at this time.

Registrar's Report

Dan Rogness informed he did not have any particular handouts or numbers to report at this time. Registration is in full swing. He recently attended their Registrar's meeting. He has visited a number of affiliates this year and all appear to be running smoothly.

Dan discussed Rae Briggles' request to consider the potential of changing the registration date from September 1 to May 1. This may have a small impact on the District's player development camp, simply based on timing of the camp (first week of May). The main reasons for this request are teams are forming shortly after Nationals. As well, learn to skate programs from the summer that get kids interested in skating and then require these players to pay again in late August or early September.

Dan informed the board there was also discussion about deleting the membership card, as it cost almost \$300K to print and mail these out.

There was also discussion, at the registrar's meeting, about Birth Certificate being gathered and carried around by the team managers. Dan has been tasked with creating a plan to eliminate birth certificate from being part of the manager's credentials book.

Tournaments

Donna Kaufman handed out a worksheet page for the District tournament affiliate selections. This also included the announcements of all the 2009 and 2010 National Tournament Sites.

The board reviewed the tournament dates and sites for the 2009 District Tournaments (below).

Date	Division	Organization	City / Location
March 5 – 8 **	Girls' / Women	Fairbanks Ice Breakers	Fairbanks, AK
March 5 – 8	Pee Wee – I	Sno-King	Seattle, WA
March 5 – 8	Pee Wee – II	Sno-King	Seattle, WA
March 5 – 8	Midget 16 – II	Valencia	Valencia, CA
March 5 – 8	Midget 18 – II	Valencia	Valencia, CA
March 12 – 15	Bantam – I	Alaska All Stars	Anchorage, AK
March 12 – 15	Bantam – II	Alaska All Stars	Anchorage, AK
March 12 – 15	Midget 16 – I	Las Vegas Ice Center	Las Vegas, NV
March 12 – 15	Midget 18 – I	Las Vegas Ice Center	Las Vegas, NV

** Date changed from May 17th Meeting and agreed to by board.

It should be noted there will be a mandatory coaches meeting the evening prior to the day the actual games start. Therefore March 4th or March 11th base on your respective tournament.

District Tournament Affiliate Allocations

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Natalie McEwen, and unanimously approved to accept the District Tournament brackets as presented.

Tier I	ASHA	CAHA	OSHA	PNAHA	NAHA	TOTALS
12 Under	N/A	2	-	H + 1	-	4
14 Under	H + 1	2	-	0	-	4
16 Under	2	2	-	1	H	6
18 Under	2	2	-	1	H	6
Tier II	ASHA	CAHA	OSHA	PNAHA	NAHA	TOTALS
12 Under	2	2	1	H + 1	1	8
14 Under	H + 1	2	1	2	1	8
16 Under	2	H + 1	1	1	-	6
18 Under	2	H + 1	1	2	1	8
G/W	ASHA	CAHA	OSHA	PNAHA	NAHA	TOTALS
12 Under	H + 2	2	-	-	-	5
14 Under	H + 2	2	-	-	-	5
16 Under	H + 2	3	-	-	-	6
19 Under	H + 1	1	1	-	-	4
Sr. B	H	2	-	-	-	3
Sr. C	H	3	-	-	-	4

Donna Kaufman will get these tournament team number to the respective host, so they are able to start planning their budgets. Donna is completing the tournament packages. She should be prepared to send out these packets early next week.

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved Youth teams will need to declare their National bound intent by October 1st. After a bit of discussion, Cullen withdrew his motion and Mike withdrew his second.

Bruce Urban announced the 2010 Tier II National Tournaments could potentially be a 44-48 team tournament, depending on the amount of participating affiliates. It could be one team from each state / affiliate (for each division). Bruce asked the affiliate presidents about their interest. This type of National Tournament would make each state tournament an important playoff. It would also remove the need District tournaments for Tier II. Affiliates who may not have sent a team to our district tournament would most likely send a team. This may even promote additional teams for these divisions within the affiliate.

Tier I Hockey

Bruce Urban advised that the Youth Council is diligently working to redefine Tier I hockey. Once complete, they should be into the Tier II structure definition. He handed out a packet on the Tier I structure as of October 17, 2008. This should be discussed with each affiliate's board. He indicated the youth council is hoping to get some form of this definition / structure presented at the January 2009 Winter meeting to take effect for 2009-2010 season.

Lynn Beelher-Urban liked the fact the affiliate is given the ability to tighten their own criteria. Dan Rogness thought there should be some clarification or definition of Major and Minor. Mike Sullivan expressed concern as it's written due to their current structure in Nevada. They currently have a different program "hosting" the Tier I programs. The proposed structure would require an organization to have at least two Tier II teams prior to forming a Tier I program. Some of the smaller affiliates or associations may need an exception or waiver to this proposed structure.

Cullen Wallace applauded the Youth Council for taking up this issue. He understands this is being driven by larger organization and recruitment that taking place. Cullen expressed the concern about coaches being required to participate in an entry-level program. A lot of our coaches in our affiliate have full time jobs outside of hockey and may not have the additional time required to participate and mentor an entry-level program.

Bruce asked about the percentage rule and the feelings of the affiliate presidents. Again this may be a concern for the smaller affiliates.

There was a lot of good positive discussion on the topic and Bruce will present these comments and concerns to the youth council members.

Bob Freeland Growth and Development Grant

Bruce Urban is working to get follow-up information from the different programs that received grant money from the Bob Freeland Growth and Development grant. Natalie indicated she has requested the Oregon program issue a write-up to the Pacific District.

The board discussed a deadline of April 1st for this next year. This would allow the board a little more time to review the applications and allow them to make a decision at the May meeting.

Kevin McNaughton will work with Bruce Urban to ensure the grant applications and information is uploaded on the Pacific District web site by November 1, 2008.

Boy's Player Development

Bruce Urban shared the Boy's development camp will again be held in Kent Washington. He is very concerned about the cost of the camp primarily due to airfare and hotel cost. Donna Kaufman asked if it's time for the players to get to the location on their own expense. Maybe we should consider this for the following year.

Lynn Beelher-Urban also felt we need to implement a strong cancellation policy due to the larger number to last minute cancellations. Cullen shared a plan the soccer program has, where a check is required at the state camp for their national camp. If your player does not make it to the next level, the check is returned. If you advance, your check is cashed immediately.

There were good discussions from all the members with concerns to minimizing the cost and still maintain the goal of the camp. Again this will year will be another challenge from a financial prospective.

Bruce also indicated the youth council is discussing the idea of deleting the 14 year old camp and minimizing the 17 year old program at the National level.

Girls' Player Development

Dick Coombs briefly updated the board on the Girl's player's development camp. They are not planning on the open application process but an on-ice tryout. Attached is Margo's report.

Margo has also produced a brochure on frequently asked questions for the Girl's Camp. This was emailed to the board members.

Natalie McEwen and Dru Hammond expressed their dissatisfaction about the on-ice process, as it hasn't worked well for their affiliates. Both have experienced low turn out for a girl's only camp. Cullen indicated he felt the on-ice evaluation is a good idea for the larger affiliates such as Alaska and California. This may not be the solution for a smaller affiliate. The goal is to insure the best players attend the camp.

Mike Sullivan shared with the board they are working to grow the Girls' program in Nevada. This has lead to a Pacific District festival for 17, 18 and 19 year old girls in July 2009. It will include female players for the Pacific, Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain Districts. The girls will be boarded at UNLV. Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain have never hosted a development camp, so Las Vegas has volunteered to host the festival the first year

Mike also announced Las Vegas will be hosting a national invitational tournament for the girl's runners up to the National Tournaments. It will be another opportunity to provide additional exposure for the girl's programs.

Dick Coombs reminded the board that Margo is soliciting help for her district evaluation camp.

Bruce Urban announced USA Hockey is hosting a Girls/Women "Tier II" National Tournament in 2010.

Charlie Fuertsch brought up issue that in January / February 2008 the District issued a check to Bellingham Travel as a travel deposit for the Girl's camp. Money can from their block grant and previous year's surpluses, but also resulted in a \$911 shortfall. The district loaned them the difference. Now that the girl's camp is complete, this money should be reimbursed back to the District's general account. Dick will remind Margo.

Coaching Program

Larry Bruyere gave a recap on the coaching program for the district. To date, this year, they've held 8 Level I, 8 Level II and 6 Level III clinics along with their annual Level IV clinic in Reno. A total of 711 coaches have attended the respective clinics with 87 of those having attended the Level IV advanced clinic. There are still a handful of clinics yet to be held and the total number of coaches should surpass last season.

There have been some issues in Oregon and Washington that are being dealt with relative to the reliability of the staff and follow-up. While there are some stable CEP people in place the logistics of the clinics and coaches is a large part of the problem.

The Pacific District, in conjunction with USA Hockey's recommendation, has had a long-standing tradition of not allowing waivers for coaches wishing to avoid attending clinics. A very few exceptions have been made. The program prefers to use the temporary coaching card process, which allows a coach to fill out a request and pay a fee to have a temporary card issued for one season only. The coach is then obligated to attend the clinic when it is scheduled for the following season.

Larry also updated the board on the ACE program. It seems every time they take a step forward the program takes a step or two backward. Larry is still working hard to get this network back in place. He is still looking for support in a number of affiliates / associations for the District.

Cullen Wallace updated the board on the current status of Blase Burkhart, the Alaska Coach in Chief. Alaska will wait until the spring to determine how they will proceed.

Playing Rules

Lynn Beelher-Urban reminder the board any playing rule change submissions are due to the National Office by November 1st. The playing rules committee will be meeting mid-November. This will be in preparation for the Annual Congress. It is believed the icing rule will be proposed again this session. Alaska currently has a test pilot program on short-handed icing program.

Larry Bruyere indicated he believes the offside tag up rule will also be on the docket again. He understands the coaches are in strong favor of changing the current rule back to the tag-up rule. There are also a lot of grass root coaches that would like to have the tag up rule back in place.

There was a lot of good discussion about the offside rule, icing rule and skill development.

Referee-in-Chief

Steve Stevens has hosted four Level IV referee clinics this year. Level IV participation has increased. This could be due to the Junior team increase, thus a need for higher level referees.

Steve is planning to host mini referee camps at the district player development camps. This will be geared toward the mid-level referee. This has seemed to spark a lot of interest among the referees.

Steve would like to link a their officials web site to the district web-site.

www.pacificdistrictofficials.org Kevin McNaughton will check the district site and assist with the link, if needed.

Steve indicated he is glad the District tournaments are spread out this coming year so there isn't a burden on a particular program to fulfill referees for multiple tournaments in the same weekend.

Anderson Awards

Cullen Wallace announced the 2007-08 Anderson awards. There are as follows:

Pete Anderson Award for Officials	Doug Gilliam
Dempsey Anderson Award for Coaches	Rob Pallin
Andy Anderson Award for Volunteers	Dan Rogness

Congratulations!

January Meeting

The Annual meeting will take place in Orlando, Florida on January 18, 2009 in conjunction with the USA Hockey Winter Meeting. It will be at the Wyndam Hotel. It is currently scheduled to start at 3:00pm or shortly after noon the USA Hockey Winter meeting adjourns.

Steve Laing brought up the concern of accessibility of our Annual meeting to the District's membership. Dick Coombs indicated the By-laws also showed a February meeting. Dick also commented the by-laws do not specifically call out an Annual meeting.

Dan Rogness asked the board to think about the number of meetings the district really requires. We should discuss this at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs and seconded by Cullen Wallace to amend our existing by-laws to reflect what the guidebook calls out in relation to meetings.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs to table the previous motion and was unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs and seconded by Dan Rogness to publish the District's by-laws in the guidebook.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs to table the previous motion and was unanimously approved.

The May meeting will be on May 16th in Seattle, Washington.

Board Member Comments

Steve Laing is working on creating a new Pacific District logo. We can see it on his computer. He will email to all the board members this evening.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin McNaughton