



Pacific District Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 13, 2016
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Marriott Hotel
Honolulu, Hawaii

Present

Gordon Brown
Flint DOUNGCHAK
Wendy Goldstein
Dru Hammond
Chris Hays
Kellie Hays
Donna Kaufman
Kris Knauss
Steve Laing
Natalie McEwen
Lisa McPheters
Darryl Thompson
Greg Yochum

Not Present

Jon Gustafson
Greg Johnson
John Silberstein
Eric Simmons
Steve Stevens
Rick Trupp

Chair Donna Kaufman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Lisa McPheters will be recording the minutes and everyone is encouraged to speak loudly and clearly for adequate recording.

Approval of Old Minutes

Kris Knauss motioned to approve the minutes from October 3, 2015; Dru Hammond seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Darryl Thompson motioned to approve the minutes from January 19, 2016 teleconference; Steve Laing seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

District Financial Report – Chris Hays

Chris provided a thorough verbal review of the district numbers as well as a written report. The proposed district budget was not approved at the October 3, 2015 board meeting due to Chris Hays absence. Gordon Brown motioned to approve the proposed district budget; Greg Yochum seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Bobby Freeland Grant – Natalie McEwen

- Palmer Amateur Hockey Association applied for a \$2,500 Bobby Freeland Grant. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve the grant; Greg Yochum seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.
- Western Washington Female Association applied for a \$2,500 grant. Kellie Hays motioned to approve; Gordon Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.
- Darryl Thompson to locate and forward to the board the grant application from Challenge Alaska Sled Hockey.

Disabled Hockey – Kellie Hays

Written report is attached, but two highlights.

- A new classification proposed – Warrior Hockey. Proposed eligibility requirement for this classification is attached in the written report – please pass this on in your affiliate and provide feedback to Kellie prior to the June 2016 USA Hockey Annual Congress.
- 100 mile rule change for sled hockey. Also attached to the written report. Please distribute to sled groups in your affiliate and provide Kellie with feedback prior to June 2016 USA Hockey Annual Congress.

Sunday Sled Hockey Clinic. 15 athletes currently registered, with 8 volunteers besides the Pacific District Board. There may also be up to a dozen athletes and coaches from the Ice Palace.

Upon arrival at the Ice Palace we will need to move the sleds over near the rink entrance. Everyone going on the ice must sign a USA Hockey Waiver.

Work Assignments as follows:

- Registration table - Natalie McEwen & Dru Hammond
- Helmet table – Lisa & Larry McPheters
- Glove table – Wendy Goldstein
- Elbow table – Greg Yochum
- Sled table/area – Gordon Brown, Chris Hays & Access Surf
- On Ice assistance – Gordon Brown, Darryl Thompson, Steve Laing, Kris Kanuss, Flint Douchak, Rink Personnel
- Floaters – Donna Kaufman & Steve Laing
- Cleanup – Everyone

Everyone should meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 am, with plans to be at the Ice Palace by 6:00 am.

All on ice participants will receive a medal similar to our Pacific District medal. Very nice quality medals.

USA Paralympic Gold Medalists – Taylor Lipsett & Andy Yohe – will be joining us for this event.

Kellie discussed working with athletes with disabilities. How to approach and talk to them using “person centered language”. “What is your diagnosis?” They have skills, abilities, and characteristics. No one is referred to as retarded, crippled or handicapped. Very informative, well-delivered presentation.

Coaching Program – Larry Bruyere & Rick Trupp

- Larry Bruyere submitted a written report, copy attached. No concerns or comments on it.
- Rick Trupp communicated that he had nothing to report.
- *CIC Selection Process – Kris Knauss*
Kris Knauss is the point person for the Pacific District’s CIC selection process. Currently posted on Pacific District website as an open position. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2016. Pacific District Board will make a recommendation to USA Hockey’s Executive Committee and Executive Director of at least 3 candidates, by the district’s May, 2016 board meeting. To date, one person has applied. Larry Bruyere has recommended Jeff Bruckmen, Rob Foster and Flint Douchak.

Female Hockey – Greg Johnson

Report submitted electronically, copy attached.

Kris Knauss raised the discussion that in 2015 our district was in the red from the Girls Multi-District Camp. Why? Do we have a budget for the 2016 camp so we can avoid being in the red in the future? The Pacific District likely needs more structure in the administrative aspect of the Girls Multi-District Camp. We not only need to know where the money is being spent, but be part of the decision making process. Having a member of the Pacific District Board take on an integral role in the Girls Multi-District camp is desirable.

Referee Program

- Eric Simmons, Alaska RIC, submitted a written report, copy attached.
- Steve Stevens, Pacific District RIC, submitted a written report, copy attached.

Would like the two RIC's to get together and come up with some plans for developing and increasing the numbers of referees. Our district is growing in player numbers, so we need to have referee numbers increase in correlation with this. Kris Knauss motioned that all affiliate RIC's (or their representative), along with the District RIC's meet on Friday night prior to the May 2016 Pacific District Board Meeting to have a "summit workshop" on the development of referees; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein.

Written report attached. USA Hockey shows our district ahead of where we were at this time last year. Girls registration numbers were included for Girls Tier 1 Hockey discussion and determination.

Wendy will electronically send notification of the District Director election out next week. Steve Laing and Dru Hammond are running for Director. Associations have to claim personnel by March 15th to count towards the voting numbers. Associations have one month to vote, April 1 to May 1, 2016.

Safe Sport Report – Steve Laing

Written report attached.

Discussion on concerns of people filing erroneous Safe Sport claims was held. These type of claims are an issue that the affiliates and district will keep an eye on over the season and into the future.

Tournaments – Donna Kaufman

District Tournament schedules are being finalized now, as teams qualify. We are very fortunate to have two great locations hosting tournaments, Anchorage, Alaska for Girls Districts and El Segundo, California for Youth Districts.

National Tournaments – all affiliates should notified the national office on spots to be reserved for Tier II teams. National office is looking at scaling back the Tier II national tournaments. 14U Tier I Nationals in Alaska – have 12 districts sending a team along with a host team, so that leaves 3 at-large bids instead of 4.

Add to May's district board meeting a discussion on when teams need to declare their Tier level.

National High School Tournaments. Steve Laing stated that USA Hockey is looking at reducing the numbers for the high school tournaments as well. Try to get back to single affiliate teams participating.

2017 Disabled Festival is April 6-9, 2017 in California. Please clear your calendars to be able to help at this event.

Player Development – Kris Knauss

- Boys Player Development Camp. All affiliate camps are complete. May 5-8, 2016 for 15, 16 & 17 District Player Development Camp in San Jose. Have good involvement from the affiliates for team leaders. Changed the hotel venue this year to the San Jose Hilton. This year we are bringing in more college coach evaluators from the east coast.

- Girls District Player Development Camp. Discussed above under Female hockey. Have some concerns that we are working on.
- USA Hockey has added an ADM Goaltender Coordinator to help with goalie development.
- USA Hockey working with Finland. Finland just won world juniors, yet are the size of the state of Massachusetts. Our ADM can learn from them and what they are doing to be so successful. Make our best practices our strongest practices.
- 10U Cross/Half Ice? ADM wants to move in that direction. Encourage affiliates to move in that direction.

USA Hockey Discussion - Legislative Proposals

Do we as the Pacific District Board support the Tier 1 Open and Tier 1 divisions that are being proposed by USA Hockey?

Tier 1 Open – Possible New Division in USA Hockey (legislative proposal 4)

- Recognized at only 14U, 15, 16U & 18U levels.
- Must have 12 on ice practices and 8 off ice practices per month.
- Program must have been in existence for 3 previous years.
- Requires a feeder program within your association, affiliate.
- Can have players from other affiliates, areas across the country. No restrictions.

Tier 1 Hockey (existing division) (legislative proposal 3)

- Can't advertise until 48 hours after the national tournament.
- Program must have been in existence for 3 previous years.
- For an affiliate to be eligible to have a Tier 1 team, as of September 1st, an affiliate takes 15% of its' players at an age level, based on 20 players per team, and that determines the number of Tier 1 teams an affiliate can have.
- Minimum of 15 players on a team.

After much discussion about all the criteria to be a Tier 1 Open program, and the differences between Tier 1 Open and Tier 1, the board determined they were in support of both Tier 1 Open and Tier 1 as presently defined in the legislative proposals. Tier 1 Open may be hard for affiliates to accept to begin with, but as time goes by, it gets Tier 1 hockey where USA Hockey would like it to be with affiliates having clear development programs. Development should be the focus for affiliates.

15 Tier 1 National Championships – discussed support of this championship.

Tier 1 Girls Hockey (legislative proposal)

- Can't advertise until 48 hours after the national tournament.
- Program must have been in existence for 3 previous years.
- For an affiliate to be eligible to have a Tier 1 team, as of September 1st, an affiliate takes 20% of its' players at an age level, based on 18 players per team, and that determines the number of Tier 1 teams an affiliate can have.
- Minimum of 15 players on a team.

Old Business

- Donna Kaufman stated Greg Johnson and Bridget Hopkinson need to establish a Guidebook Definition for the Associate Girls/Women Rep position to be placed in the Pacific District Guidebook.

- Kris Knauss stated that the new district website is up and available to the public. He asked that everyone on the board take the time to look at the website and provide feedback to what they like and what needs to be changed or added. He requested that all directors provide a bio to be placed on the website.
- Approved Board Meeting Minutes will be placed on website.
- Challenge Alaska – Bobby Freeland \$2,500 Grant. Darryl sent to the board his original request on this. Darryl Thompson motioned for approval of this grant; Kris Knauss seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition. Dru Hammond abstained.

New Business –

Election Process – Wendy Goldstein asked Rae Brigge and Casey Jorgenson for a determination on unclaimed personnel in the USA Hockey database. If unclaimed, are you considered a participant and therefore, does an affiliate president get to vote the unclaimed vote?

Affiliate President's Report – Steve Laing

- \$13,711 to the District for block grant money. Steve Laing motioned to earmark \$4,000 of these funds for district personnel travel expense to the 2017 Disabled Festival in California; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.
- 2015-16 Awards
Andy Anderson Award - Charles Fuertsch
Dempsey Anderson Award - John Beaulieu
Pete Anderson Award - Ales Kasparovsky
- Steve Laing retired as the Affiliate President Chairperson; Darryl Thompson has been elected as the new Affiliate President Chairperson.

Election of Pacific District Chairperson – Dru Hammond

Dru called for nominations for Pacific District Chairperson. Darryl Thompson moved that Donna Kaufman remain as Pacific District Chairperson; Greg Yochum seconded the motion. With no other nominations, it was declared by acclamation for Donna Kaufman to remain as Pacific District Chairperson.

Future Meetings – Saturday, May 14, Seattle, WA

Final Comments

- Greg Yochum – UNLV has ACHA hockey. Able to raise a large grant from a casino owner to market their program. In the top ten this year and made the ACHA playoffs. Will keep you updated on this. Modeling our high school team on the Duck Program. Our arena is opening in April. Hope to get an NHL team for the next season.
- Kellie Hays – super excited for tomorrow's sled hockey event. See you in the lobby at 5:30 am.
- Wendy Goldstein – level of play for teams. Affiliates need to be monitoring what teams really are, AA or AAA. As a separate question, when can youth players participate with a junior team? We need better clarification for our players so they don't participate with a junior team and become ineligible to continue playing with their youth team.
- Gordon Brown – PNAHA has had good progress with Joe Bonnett, their ADM director, this year. Hope it continues to translate across the state. Currently advertising for a Disabled Representative for PNAHA. Would like to see the board have meetings in other locations than Seattle.
- Donna Kaufman thanked everyone for being tremendous volunteers for their affiliates and the Pacific District.

Kris Knauss motioned to adjourn the meeting; Gordon Brown seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.