



Pacific District Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 14, 2016

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Doubletree Hotel - Southcenter

Seattle, Washington

Present

Gordon Brown
Flint DOUNGCHAK
Jon Gustafson
Dru Hammond
Tom Hancock
Greg Johnson
Donna Kaufman
Kris Knauss
Steve Laing
Eric Simmons
Lester Sparks
Steve Stevens
Darryl Thompson
Rick Trupp
Greg Yochum

Not Present

Wendy Goldstein
Chris Hays
Kellie Hays
Lisa McPheters
John Silberstein

USA Hockey Guests

Wayne Sawchuk
Bruce Urban

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

Lisa McPheters is absent attending her son's NAHL Robertson Cup Playoff in Minnesota. In her absence, Flint DOUNGCHAK will be taking notes and there will be an audio recording of the meeting. Please speak loud and clear for adequate recording.

Introductions

Welcome New Affiliate Presidents' Tom Hancock from California; Lester Sparks from Oregon.

Additions to the Agenda – no additions to the agenda.

District Financial Report – Chris Hays

Chris Hays electronically distributed the report to everyone, copy is attached. All affiliates should have been invoiced for player development fees, district tournament fees. Chris has been working on ensuring that everything has been invoiced or granted since assuming the role of district treasurer.

Bobby Freeland Grant – Lester Sparks

Jon Gustafson can work with Lester to move forward with the Bobby Freeland Grants. This year's grant requests have all been awarded.

Coaching Program

Rick Trupp, CIC Alaska – written report attached.

Alaska held 22 clinics with 262 registrants. New association – Kodiak Hockey League, we started them at Level 1, and held three clinics for them. Wasilla is interested in having clinics. Juneau continues to grow.

Updates for 2016 Summer, we will have new level 3 curriculum coming out in July. There's a level 5 taking place in St. Louis August 11-14, 2016. Alaska's level 4 will likely be held in November in Anchorage.

Still have a lot of coaches getting temporary cards in January; associations need to do a better job of communicating with their coaches to get their training done timely.

Flint Doungehak, District Associate CIC – in Larry Buyere's absence. District had 1,284 participants in various clinic this year. We have experimented with having clinics in May. Was met with some success so may do again. Level 4 is in Las Vegas August 19-21, 2016. The Northern District Level 4 will be on October 28-30, 2016 in Seattle. Training for the CEP instructors in Minneapolis and Hartford later in 2016. Larry sends his expression of gratitude for all the years of support from all.

CIC Position – Kris Knauss advised on the selection timeline. Larry gave notice approximately 6 months ago that he was retiring. Through the Pacific District website, we accepted applications for a replacement. The directors have agreed to recommend to USA Hockey that Flint Doungehak be the Pacific District Coach in Chief. Kris Knauss motioned for this; motion was seconded by Darryl Thompson.

Discussion ensued on a possible candidate for an Associate Coach in Chief. Flint has talked with some possible candidates but hasn't openly discussed the position with any of them. He would like to move the Associate CIC's in alignment with USA Hockey's Annual Guide job descriptions, which would allow our district to have Associate CIC's for Goaltending, ADM, Disabled, Off Ice, CEP Development, and Girls/Women.

How does being the CIC affect Flint's availability for the 14 Western Regional Camp? Camp runs fairly smoothly, and Flint has freed up his time to stay involved. But a new camp Director will need to be put into place.

Call to Question – in favor of sending a letter to USA Hockey supporting Flint Doungehak for the CIC. Motion passed with no objections.

Disabled Hockey – Kellie Hays is absent; Steve Laing delivered her report, copy attached. Kellie attended a disabled event in Detroit to get a feel for what our district is going to need to put on a quality event. From that a committee has been put together to start planning for the 2017 Disabled Festival in San Jose. Committee includes people from the Pacific District Board as well as the San Jose Sharks and Melissa Fitzgerald who was with Kellie in Detroit.

Detroit had 90 teams, 185 games, with an insufficient volunteer base, so it was over the top. We need to determine a fair number of teams so we are able to put on a quality event for the participants.

Nine athletes were nominated for Disabled Athlete of the Year, of which Sarah Bentencourt of San Diego was one of them. Sarah is one of the three finalists and the winner will be announced at the banquet dinner at USA Hockey Annual Congress.

Darryl Thompson announced that Challenge Alaska sent a team to Disabled Nationals in the C Division and they were crowned national champions.

Female Hockey – Greg Johnson
Recognized teams that attended Nationals.

- 19U Tier 1 was Anaheim Lady Ducks
- 16U Tier 1 was California Wave
- 14U Tier 1 was Anaheim Lady Ducks
- 19U Tier II was Alaska All Stars
- 16U Tier II was Alaska All Stars

- 14U Tier II Anchorage North Stars
- Womens B – San Jose Lady Sharks and Anaheim Lady Ducks
- Womens C – West Side Shockers and LA Traffic

All these athletes should be commended for their efforts in participating at Nationals.

Womens A – the Pacific District did not send a team this year; strongly encourage we put one together for 2017. If any one has any high-end female players interested in attending for 2017, please reach out to Greg Johnson.

2017 Tier I National Championships for Girls will be in Rochester/Macomb, Michigan, April 6-10.

2017 Tier II National Championships for Girls will be in Troy, Michigan, April 6-10.

2017 Women National Championships will be in Rochester/Macomb, Michigan, April 6-10.

2016 USA Hockey Female Honor Award goes to the Anaheim Lady Ducks. Tom Hancock will present this award to them. Given to the organization that goes the extra mile in the development of girl's hockey. USA Hockey will announce this award at Annual Congress.

For discussion purposes, Greg Johnson asked “How does the Pacific District want to handle those female players from another state in our district, playing in another state within the district?” As an example, a California player playing in Washington. Do they have to tryout for Girls Selects in Washington or in their home state of California? Kris Knauss responded that we need to be consistent with how we handle these situations. For players living in their district but not their home state, the player should go through the Selects process in the state they are playing in. If the player is living out of district, they are allowed to go through the Selects process in their home state.

Overall our goal is to find the best athletes to go through the Select process and move forward to national camps.

Greg is currently working with Kris to develop the player development policies for Girl's Selects to be similar to the Boy's Selects policies.

High School Section – Steve Laing

HS Nationals was in Virginia with 40 teams of 20 pure and 20 combined.

- JSerra, California made quarterfinals in the Pure Division
- Pure Championship was Wayzata, MN over Edina, MN, 2-1 in OT
- Combined Championship was JW Mitchell, FL over Boulder Monarch, Co, 8-7 in OT

Our concerns arising from High School Nationals are that there were too many teams. Some of the teams, skill wise, should never have been at a national event. To maintain the integrity of the tournament we are looking at not exceeding 32 teams in the future. 2017

High School Nationals will be in Cleveland, OH, March 30 to April 3.

High School showcase was a huge success. A good number of scouts were in attendance at the event, talking to a lot of Pacific District kids and their parents. An award that is decided by their peers, The Mitzi Toepfer Sportsmanship Award, was given to Team Oregon for their outstanding sportsmanship both on and off the ice.

Player Development – Kris Knauss

Two players invited to the NTDP 50 man camp – Slava Demin, 2000 defenseman from California and Isaiah Saville, 2000 goaltender from Alaska. Neither made the NTDP team, but received automatic advancement to the National Festivals.

USA Hockey's Warren Strelow camp is this weekend in Plymouth. Bring in the top 97 to 00 goaltenders eligible for national play. From the Pacific District, four goalies have been invited – Evan Sarthou from Washington, Isaiah Saville from Alaska, Kris Oldham from Alaska, and Dylan St. Cyr from Nevada.

- **2016 Boys Select Camp** – very successful camp.
 - 238 players and approximately 40 volunteers.
 - Camp hotel venue changed the San Jose Hilton downtown, which worked very well.
 - National office staff was well represented. Kenny Martel, Kevin McLaughlin, Kevin Reiter.
 - 14 Division I college coaches and another 5 or so scouting the event.
 - Advancement list was posted this past Monday
 - Evaluators did a good job in the selection process
 - We will continue to tweak the camp to make it better each year

- **2016 – 14 Multi District Festival** – Flint Dounghak & Bruce Urban
This camp is combined with 14-year-old players from the Pacific District, Rocky Mountain District & Northern Plains.
 - Held in Colorado Springs right on campus. Kids & staff love it.
 - Other USA Hockey districts are modeling our camp.
 - The 2016 budget has been sent to Donna to distribute to everyone. It fluctuates yearly as to being in the black or in the red. Currently has a surplus of approximately \$4,500.
 - Usually have 120 Forwards, 60 Defense and 20 to 22 goaltenders.
 - Allocations are given out per district and each district determines how to spread those out to their affiliates.

For 2016, we may be getting (not 100% sure yet) 6 players and 3 coaches from Romania as camp participants as an exchange program with USA Hockey. USA Hockey, not the 14U Western Regional Camp, will absorb the expenses for the Romanians.

In 2015, funds were allocated for a storage facility on private property to house all our camp gear from year to year. The storage facility is located at Bruce Urban's son's home in Colorado. We also purchased stick bags in 2015. For 2016 we are working to minimize our printing expenses.

Flint spoke on the coaching internship program, starting in 2016 at this camp. Looking for level 2 or level 3 candidates, with completed 14U Modules, completed Safe Sport training, and having coached for 2 or 3 years. They will be a 3rd coach on a team, being mentored by a college coach or USHL coach. They will also be taking some educational seminars. This will serve as a CEP seminar for the individual, earning them their Level 3 or Level 4. Flint will send detailed information out to everyone. He and Bruce will be selecting the viable candidates from those who apply.

The budget number for referees was questioned. Rocky Mountain District has used this camp as training ground for referees. Thus the \$0.00 dollar expense for referees for the camp.

Kris Knauss asked that he be kept in the loop on the budget and any shared costs between the 14 Camp and Girls Camp, so that he can knowledgeably respond to any questions asked about the budgets for the two camps. Bruce Urban assured that there was no surplus from the Boys Camp that picked up a deficit from the Girls Camp.

Bruce and Flint stated that for the 14U Western Region Camp there is a player development treasurer, Kelly Grover, who can provide a financial report on the camps, separately for each district, at a moments notice.

- **2016 – Girls Multi District Camp – Greg Johnson**
 - Our 2016 camp will basically run the same as the 2015 camp did.
 - We have produced a comprehensive guidebook so people understand the process from beginning to end.
 - Camp is June 11-16, 2016 in Colorado Springs, right on campus.
 - 272 Players are currently registered, with a goal of 290 players.
 - In the past we have had quite a few prep school coaches on the ice; would like to get more NCAA coaches as well as male coaches on the ice.
 - A goal for improvement is to tighten up the travel expense for the staff, possibly using a travel agent to make the arrangements.
 - The biggest item is the referee component – do we use combined referees from Pacific and Rocky Mountain districts or do we alternate years of use. Would also like to get more female referees to work the games.

Question on the budget being in the red from last year. What is the deficit number? Bruce Urban said the Rocky Mountain Player Development fund has paid the deficit upfront anticipating that when all the kinks get worked out, the Girls Multi District Camp will be able to reimburse the Rocky Mountain Player Development fund. Main reason for the deficit was the Northern Plains District pulling players out at the last minute. Final numbers, deficit or not, needs to be disclosed so the board is fully aware of all financial activity; it is very important to have full transparency and good communication moving forward.

Referee Program

Alaska RIC - Eric Simmons

- Numbers have not changed this year from last year.
- Historically retention is approximately 40%, retaining 4 out of 10 referees from one year to the next.
- A big issue is abuse of officials and loss of officials due to this.
- USA Hockey hasn't pushed the Zero Tolerance policy enough
- Attending a referee symposium in Houston, TX this July
- Plan to attend CEP Clinics in Alaska more to make a presence. Need to coordinate better with Alaska's CIC.
- Alaska and the Pacific District are doing better than the nation as a whole.

Girls District tournament in Alaska was great. Female referees sent to Alaska from the District did an outstanding job.

14U Tier 1 National Tournament – used 8 local referees and 4 out of state referees. Did a great job and was a very successful tournament across the board.

Pacific District RIC – Steve Stevens

Youth District Tournament was in El Segundo. We used the 4-man system for 18U and 16U and believe it went very well.

18U and 16U Tier 1 National Tournament in San Jose, CA. Used every Level 4 official from the Pacific District and we had officials come in from the East Coast. Overall very pleased with the officiating.

Pacific District referee numbers are down a little, but we are way above the national curve. Believe part of the decline in referee numbers is due to the required modules. The referees don't like having to take the modules, but they are adjusting.

Pacific District is going to have a Females Official Camp in late August 2016. I will send out information on this when I have all the details.

Recap of Friday Night's Referee Summit

- Attended by Affiliate RICs and supervisors.
- Purpose was retention and new growth of referees.
- Need to have improved communication, going both up and down the line.
- If we have a Zero Tolerance policy, the official has to make the call and enforce the policy.
- Work on getting official seminars set up prior to the August 1 Officials registration date.
- Asking officials to explore with their friends and family about interest in becoming referees.
- Going to have quarterly conference calls to continue to work on issues within the district.
- Alaska doing a shadow mentor program to develop their level 1 official.
- We need to do a better job of getting information out on how to become a referee.
- Appreciated the number of Directors that showed up and their involvement.

Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein

In her absence, Wendy sent out a written report on registration as well as the election.

California is seeing a 20% growth in the 5 to 8U age division.

Safe Sport – Steve Laing

- Safe Sport is growing in methods of handling situations
- Have an Alaska and a Nevada issue we are dealing with
- Have several California issues we are dealing with
- As more people learn about Safe Sport, we are seeing people use it as a crutch or way to get back at a coach that they have issue with. Not always a valid complaint.
- USOC will be taking over the abuse portion of Safe Sport. That is likely a year away from happening.

Tournaments

Final Report – 2016 District/National Tournaments – Directors

- Donna Kaufman said that the Girls District Tournament in Alaska was great. Only issue was a local team stayed in a non-tournament hotel. They were told it was a requirement to stay at a tournament hotel.
- Donna Kaufman said the 14U Tier 1 National Tournament was outstanding. Well run, great community support, TV/News support. Had 700-800 people attending a 9:00 am Championship game on a Monday for two non-Alaska teams. That tells you how much they support youth hockey in Alaska.
- Kris Knauss praised the utilization of and job done by Alex Stimson and Flint DOUNGCHAK on the social media promotion of the 14U Tier 1 tournament.
- Kris Knauss was at the Youth Tier 1 District tournament in El Segundo and said the LA Jr. Kings did a great job hosting it. Using the 4 Man system for referees was a positive change and there were no issues from the Tier 1 coaches.
- Kris Knauss also said that the Women's tournament took place at the same time and location and was also well done.
- Jon Gustafson spoke on the 16U & 18U Tier 1 National Tournament in San Jose. Was really happy to have that tournament west of the Rockies and the tournament was very well received. Had 150+ scouts.
- Donna Kaufman praised the district overall on doing an outstanding job hosting all district and national tournaments.

Pacific District Website – Kris Knauss

- Does anyone have any comments or recommendations?
- Would like to put CEP clinic schedules out there.
- Perhaps put California Rubber out there, some advertising.
- Getting items posted in a timely manner.

- Social media has been really good.
- We are updating the website as well as changing our logo to update and rebrand the Pacific District. We need to do a better job providing more information to our members in the district.
- Website contact is changing from Kris Knauss to Steve Laing.
- Send your information to Steve Laing and we can post it on the website or social media.

USA Hockey Discussion – Legislative Proposals

Girls/Women Proposal #1

- Add a 15 Tier 1 National Bound team
- Allows an affiliate to add a non-checking classification

Girls/Women Proposal #2

- Solidifies that there will be 16 teams allowed at Girls Tier I
- Solidifies that there will be 48 teams allowed at Girls Tier II

Girls/Women Proposal #3

- Changing the Age Classifications
- Putting in language prohibiting players Age 12 or younger from participating at a National Championship

Girls/Women Proposal #4

- Puts in a National Championship for 15 Only Tier 1 for 2017-18.

Youth Council Proposal #1

- Add Flex Hockey – creating a fun, safe environment where participants can have fun in hockey. Allows for optional rosters and players can participate or not participate on a regular basis

Youth Council Proposal #2

- Prohibit tryouts until after the current season is completed – 48 hours after the last national tournament game.

Youth Council Proposal #3

- Tier 1 Standards – Tryouts must be published/advertised. No solicitation or contracts until after Nationals are over. Tier 1 teams in each affiliate will be limited to 15% of players in an Age Classification divided by 20 and that is the number of Tier 1 teams an affiliate can have in that Age Classification. Each team must have minimum of 15 players. To be eligible for national participation the program/association must have been in existence for 3 years. To start in the 2017-18 season.
- Tier 1 Open – Has most of the above requires as well as parameters for on and off ice practices. They must also have a feeder program within their program/association.
- Teams will have to declare by October 1 as to Tier 1 or Tier 1 Open and once they declare they can not change.

Any other legislative items to discuss

- Playing Rules voted to unanimously not approve rule proposal 1 which is the “Look Up Line”.
- USA Hockey is looking to enact a proposal for player bad debt collections, which would require a program/association to sue the player (family) in court. If this were to pass, affiliates would have to follow this guideline, rather than handle within their affiliate as they do now.
- Adding Warrior Hockey for Disabled
- Adding Blind Hockey for Disabled
- How rules for Disabled Events can be changed

Old Business

- Finance Committee – Greg Yochum –
 - Finance Committee meet in February
 - Chris Hays setting up affiliate billing for the district
 - Look at going to an electronic version of accounting software

New Business

- A. Bid for 2017 District Tournaments – Donna Kaufman
9 organizations put in to host districts.

Kris Knauss motioned that the 14U Tier 1 and 18U Tier I District Tournament be held March 9-12, 2017 at Subway Ice Center in Anchorage, Alaska, hosted by the Alaska Oilers. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Kris Knauss motioned that the 15 Tier 1 and 16U Tier I District Tournament be held March 9-12, 2017 at Las Vegas Ice Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted by the Las Vegas Storm. Gordon Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Discussion on the two above tournaments centered on period lengths by division, and travel requirements for teams. Best fit was to have the 14U and 18U divisions together, as well as the 15 and 16U divisions.

Kris Knauss motioned that All National Bound Girls Tournaments be held March 2-5, 2017 at The Rinks in Anaheim, California, hosted by the Anaheim Lady Ducks. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

Kris Knauss motioned that All National Bound Women's Tournaments be held February 24-26, 2017 at Ice in Paradise in Santa Barbara, CA with a combined host. Lester Sparks seconded the motion.

Discussion on the Women's tournament dates centered on this is the historical set up. For the district directors, it is easier if the tournaments are spread out across the three weekend time frame.

Motion passed with no opposition.

Tournament Team Fee Increase

- 18's will be playing 20-minute periods with an ice cut in between each period. 16's will play 17-minute periods. 15's will play 17-minute periods; 14's will play 16-minute periods. 18's & 16's will use a 4-man system. Not sure on the 15's & 14's. With longer period lengths and more officials needed the cost per game increases.
- Based on this we will consider a new district tournament youth fee amount to be determined at a later date
- No changes to Girls game format so recommend that the district tournament girls fee amount not change.

Declaration for Girls is October 1, 2016.

Greg Yochum motioned that the Youth Tier 1 Declaration date be set for December 1. Lester Sparks seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.

- B. Guidebook Changes – Donna Kaufman

The board reviewed all guidebook changes.

Gordon Brown motioned to accept all changes as presented and discussed. Jon Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition. Donna will forward these changes to Lisa to update the Guidebook.

Future Meetings

- October, 2016 – After thorough discussion, the board determined that October 22nd would work for the board meeting. Usually in Seattle, do we want to change location? California would like to host.

Greg Yochum motioned for the meeting to be held on October 22nd in San Diego, California. Motion seconded by Tom Hancock. Motion passed with no opposition.

- February 11, 2017 – Las Vegas, Nevada
- May 20, 2017 – Seattle, Washington

Board Member Comments

Donna Kaufman – great meeting, appreciate everyone working through the meeting. Gordon Brown is stepping down as PNAHA Affiliate President – congratulations and thank you for all that you’ve done. Thank you Dru Hammond for your time as a District Director, and welcome Steve Laing, our new District Director.

Greg Yochum – Reno Ice Rink is moving slowly. Las Vegas is expecting to grow immensely. T-Mobile Arena is now open and the two organizations in Las Vegas have merged together. Greg thanked Kris Knauss for helping him to educate people in Nevada to what they have in store for them.

Gordon Brown – 4 years later and wiser, Gordon is stepping down so Dru can replace him as PNAHA President.

Lester Sparks – nice meeting and looking forward to working with everyone in the district.

Flint Doungchak – I attended the 14U Tier 1 National Tournament and ran the Social Media Campaign and want everyone to know how appreciative the parents and players were with the Social Media and the overall tournament itself. So many people provided great, positive feedback.

Kris Knauss – appreciate the support of volunteers and the public in Alaska to put together a great event for the 14U Tier 1 National tournaments. It was a very exciting event for youth hockey in Alaska. Regarding Player Development, I believe we had our best 15/16/17 Player Development Camp to date. Think it will continue to get better. Really appreciate everything that Flint and Bruce are doing with the 14 Camp. Likewise with Greg and the Girls Multi District Camp. Heading to NARS tonight and then to Annual Congress. I want to thank Dru Hammond for her years of service as a director and her help at our player development camp and hope to see you soon. I personally thank Lisa McPheters, who I’ve utilized greatly over the last several months and she’s put out a very quality product for both the Player Development Camp and the National Tournament in Alaska.

Darryl Thompson – Thanks Lisa for her work on the National Tournament, great group of volunteers put together. Great job Flint on the Social Media – helped to create lifetime memories. Our own Alaska team performed exceptionally and we are all very proud of them. We look forward to helping in the future. Challenge Alaska Team won at Nationals and I’m very proud of them. I thank all the people here in the room for all that they do as volunteers. Will miss you Gord. Welcome Tom and Lester.

Rick Trupp – likes the 3rd coach option at the player development camps to help them get their certification. Likes the mentor program in the Alaska referee program.

Bruce Urban – nice to be back at a Pacific District Meeting. Flint and I want to keep the 14 camp as transparent as possible. Please don’t hesitate to contact either one of us with any questions.

Eric Simmons – Very grateful that there are so many people involved in helping our game be great. Only two years in, I’m still learning, but have been very much embraced by the other RIC’s across the nation.

Steve Stevens – really enjoying having Eric on board. Great volunteer, has hit the ground running. Yesterday’s Referee Summit was very good and eye opening for us.

Dru Hammond – this is the finest group of people I’ve ever had a chance to work with. Lester, I was happy to work with Oregon through their challenges and wish you great success as Oregon President. Steve, I wish you all the best in your new role as District Director.

Gordon Brown motioned to adjourn; Tom Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed with no opposition.