

**USA HOCKEY
PACIFIC DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
January 18, 2009**

The Annual Meeting for the Pacific District of USA Hockey was held on Sunday the 18th day of January 2009, at Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Chairman Donna Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:05 am.

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

The following guests were present at the meeting: Lynn Beehler-Urban – Director at Large, Margo Dreyer – Girls’/Women’s, Steve Stevens – Referee-in-Chief, Janice Van Dyke – Disabled Hockey Rep., Casey Jorgensen – In-line Section Director, and Chris Milles – Alaska Referee-in-Chief.

The meeting started off with quick role call. The chair asked for changes to the agenda.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Mike Sullivan, and unanimously approved the minutes from the Seattle meeting of October 18, 2009.

Treasurers Report:

Charlie Fuertsch completely reviewed the District’s financial reports; which he emailed to all parties prior to the meeting.

Motion was made by Cullen Wallace, seconded by Natalie McEwen and unanimously approved the treasurer’s report.

Block Grants:

Dick Coombs reviewed the block grant procedures and the usual requests from around the District. There are no additional requests. The procedures are the same as with previous years.

Registrar’s Report:

Dan Rogness advised the board Dick Coombs is up for re-election this up-coming term. He did not receive any additional nominations by the cut-off date of December 31 2008. Dan has informed the National office Dick Coombs will again serve for another three year term.

Dan gave a recap on the current registration within the district, currently approaching 30,000 members. Dan was asked at the registrar’s meeting if we have any High School members.

Dan advised there is a request to screen all coaches at the National tournaments. Dan has been tasked to help revise the process for tournament bound team’s credential books and the need to carry birth certificates.

Dan advised the Registrar’s budgets have been reduced. If you have any requests for Dan, please get with him immediately, as his budget is due the first part of February.

Tournaments:

Donna Kaufman re-capped the recent changes to the District Tournaments. Alaska has been given a direct slot to Nationals for Bantam 14 Tier I and Pee Wee Tier II. PNAHA has volunteered to host the 14 Tier I tournament, as it will now only be 2 California teams and a PNAHA team. California has agreed to the tournament in Washington on 3/11-15. The PeeWee Tier II will now be a 6-team tournament in lieu of 8 teams. Donna will send the tournaments packages directly to all the tournament directors.

Donna reviewed all the dates, locations, and affiliate allocations. Tournament Directors and Registrars were also agreed upon.

Donna asked if there were any State tournaments too close to a District tournament, which may not allow for their credentials books to be reviewed in a time fashion. All affiliates appear to be ok. She reminded the affiliates to pay their tournament fee (\$1,000) directly to the District.

Boys Player Development:

Donna Kaufman advised Bruce Urban (not present) would send out a written report to everyone on the board. Dan Rogness recapped the dates for each camp. These dates are also published in the District guidebook.

Female Player Development:

Margo Dreyer issued a report (attached) and reviewed it with the board. She also confirmed the girl's development camp will be May 7-10. Margo is still looking for additional coaching staff. She asked if the affiliate president's could offer a recommendation from their state. Steve Laing will utilize their team leaders as coaching staff from California.

Cullen reminded the board the volunteers for these camps should be current on their screening.

Dick Coombs also reviewed the request submitted to the National office for a \$50 "rebate" for each Pacific District player attending the Western Regional "Player Development" Camp. This is not a Tiered camp, but a camp to develop girls hockey. It will take place on July 19 – July 23 in Las Vegas. The girls will stay at the UNLV dorms. Mike Sullivan reviewed the general itinerary and schedules for the camp. The cost is \$400 per girl with the age range of 12 to 15. Cullen asked the question, should the Pacific District Board endorse or sanction the Western Regional "player development" camp. There was additional discussion about this topic.

Margo also told the board about the "American Invitational Tournament" for 16U. It will only be one division this year. Margo also asked if any of the affiliate's had girl's high school hockey.

Playing Rules:

Lynn Beelher-Urban briefly discussed some of the rule updates. The new changes will be updated on the USA Hockey website shortly. Lynn strongly encouraged the Affiliate presidents to poll their boards and know where they stand. She discussed the offside rule as being one of the hot topics. She also commented on Alaska and Massachusetts's report on the icing pilot programs. There was general discussion by the board members on these two rules.

Please insure you get your input back to the Directors. The rules committee will meet one last time in Colorado Springs prior to the Annual board meeting in June

District Logo:

Steve Laing presented a proposal of four different logos to the board. Dick Coombs indicated he was responsible for bring this to fruition. These are to be supplemental logos and not replace the existing logo.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs, seconded by Dru Hammond to adopt one or more of the presented logos as an additional logo. An amendment was made for logo # 2 & 4 w/ Red, White and Blue and Hawaii being added to the logo.

Motion was made by Dick Coombs, seconded by Dru Hammond and unanimously approved to table the motion until the modifications can be made and distributed electronically.

Motion was made by Natalie McEwen, seconded by Dru Hammond that once the logo has been finalized, the District should purchase a jacket for each of the district's personnel. Motion passed with 2 opposed

Girl's Camp – continued

Margo discussed their philosophy about having a coach and an evaluator on the bench with the girls. Steve Laing offered his opposition about having the evaluators and coaches on the bench. The leader is simply there to place the players on the ice equally. Cullen Wallace suggested the Boy's and Girl's camps should have a similar evaluation / selection process. The two camps should be run similar or be more in align with each other.

There was good additional discussion.

Future Meetings:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be May 17 in Seattle, Washington. Dan Rogness shall advise us of the hotel arrangements.

Bruce Urban would also like to have a Player Development Summit on May 16th, also in Seattle, the day prior to the district board meeting. Each affiliate should send a representative for their Boy's and Girl's program. The purpose is to talk about player development after the completion of the camps. It will be to work issues, find common practices, and help improve the process.

Board Member Comments:

Casey Jorgensen – The Legal Council investigation of the Florida affiliate provides some lessons for affiliates in that the Legal Council reiterated that when a hearing is required under the USAH Bylaws the hearing committee has a duty to hold a hearing and cannot decline to do so.

Casey felt the cost of a High Performance program for the West Coast would probably be extremely expensive.

Margo Dreyer – The Girls/Women's program chose their evaluators based on knowledge of what they feel the camp wants and are high qualified. She publically thanked Robin for her work up front and Margo will continue to do her best to keep the camp moving in a positive direction.

Janice Van Dyke – announced due to economics the 2010 Disabled Festival will not be held in California. She is hoping for another opportunity in 2011(late March / early April). This would

bring 40 teams to the west coast. Janice would require assistance putting the festival together, if awarded.

Janice indicated the Disable Program is growing. They are experiencing growing pains and finances are getting more difficult. They do have 2 special teams in LA area. Oregon also has a small program. Janice is continually looking for more people to get involved. The program is also putting together a Camp Cool, bringing in enabled body members to participate in sled hockey.

They had their tournaments in November with five teams. It was a lot of fun. Currently developed a Reference DVD for all four disciplines. Coaching manuals out next year for each discipline.

Lynn Beelher-Urban – advised Bruce received a flyer in the mail for a reality TV show about Hockey mom's, apparently due to the popularity on Sara Palin in the Presidential race.

Steve Stevens – indicated he and his referees are geared up and ready for the upcoming District Tournaments. He will be sending a couple of women to Alaska for G/W tournament.

Mike Sullivan – expressed his concerned about the delivery of HP program back to the NAHA affiliate. He is also a little disappointed with four championships for each age group at the Tier II National championships. He is looking forward to working Margo on the camp in Las Vegas this summer.

Dick Combs – reiterated his reservations about the HP program and gave a few reasons. He is not trying to be negative, just concerned about the process. He does understand the executive decision making process, just concerned about the lack of information at this point in time. Dick hopes it's not another layer of elite hockey.

Natalie McEwen – advise their development camp this coming weekend with both boys and girls, same as last year. He affiliate program finally bailed on the USA Hockey website. They found a program, which was a better fit for them.

Natalie also finds the HP program frustrating and concerned about the implementation of an elite program. She believes it will directly and negatively affect their organization. She is also concerned about the expense and believes it will be difficult implement within her program unless it's USA Hockey mandated.

Casey reminded everyone the smaller programs should have access to the resources of the HP development program. Lynn believes the model will help with the membership drive and personnel will come to your program.

There were lots of additional discussions on the HP program.

Dru Hammond – advised their youth development camps coming up. They seem to have lots of registrations. PNAHA is still using an on-line registration. The girl's camp will be February 7-8 at the new Wenatchee rink. They are excited about the camp.

Dru also has some major concerns about the HP program. One of the largest is how to pass along the proper information to their associations. She is also concerned about the available information at this date and time.

PNAHA has a small grant to help promote Hockey Weekend Across America.

Steve Laing – will be looking at bring in folks from USA Hockey and the CAHA board along with Nevada to discuss the HP Program. He is tentatively looking at the date of February 28th.

Steve advise the board about the discussion in the president’s meeting stating a certified audit will not be required at this time, thanks to Dick’s letter to USA Hockey.

Charlie Fuertsch - expressed his frustration that USA Hockey indicated they had only talked to NHL teams in Boston, Detroit, and Chicago. USAH stated they hadn’t been to the West Coast, but LA Kings indicated to Charlie they had conversations / meetings with the program personnel earlier.

Cullen Wallace – expressed his concern over a potential risk management issue by having the age classification at “X” and under. One program has a 10yr old player on a Bantam team. Cullen is concerned about kid playing up at such a gap. Dan Rogness believes the state or district could implement a rule. California has a rule should any player more up more than one level he/she must have approval from CAHA board. Rarely is the approval given.

Chris Milles - advised or updated the board on the Anchorage Hockey Officials claim for unemployment. The District court rejected their appeal. Currently it’s under appeal with the Alaska Supreme Court. Currently the court has deemed Anchorage Hockey Officials as an employer.

Donna Kaufman - expressed her concern about not having any information on the HP program. She is hoping to see information soon. She expressed the need to take home the positive pieces and parts that help your programs. She feels it’s going to take time to see the impact.

Donna indicated she voted No has she didn’t have the details to endorse the program.

Donna also thanked everyone for their thoughts and cards for her husband.

Donna Kaufman also announced the Anderson Awards:

Andy Anderson	Ed Tarr	(Administration)
Dempsey Anderson	Greg Goodale	(Coach)
Pete Anderson	Jason Michealbook	(Referee)

Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McNaughton

Pacific District Girls'/Women's Report
Orlando, Florida
January 18, 2009

1. Girls' Tiering - Tier I, II, Scholastic: Due to the fact the Youth Council has decided to table Tiering, this offers the Girls/Women's subcommittee more time to delve into our definitions for each category. This will continued to be discussed at the Winter Meeting.
2. Adult Women: Women's 50 and over tournament will be hosted by the Adult Council – April 24 – 26 in Ellington, Florida. The Adult Council deemed this a National Tournament.
3. Retention and Development: The section has put out its first Girls/Women's newsletter. This newsletter will be sent quarterly electronically to all USA Hockey registered girls and women. The content of this newsletter is as follows:
 - Hockey where I live (e.g. list of contacts in a given area)
 - Female happenings (e.g. district tryouts, adult tournaments, calendar of events)
 - Female features (e.g. USA Hockey policies for women, grass roots, growth and retention, tips for college, coaching interviews)
 - Lady shots (e.g. photo gallery of girls'/women's players in action)
4. National Development Camp update:
[Goalie Recommendations for the Select 16 and Select 17 Camps:](#)
Each District will complete a goalie evaluation form designed by Dave Flint, National Team Goalie Consultant, to be submitted as part of their recommendation to the National Office. Districts will not get to invite goalies to the 16 or 17 Camps. The National Office will select goalies after receiving recommendations.

[Goalies for the Select 14 and Select 15 Camps.](#) Each district will select and invite one goalie. If you do not have someone strong enough, please give that spot back to the National Office.
5. Hockey Weekend across America: I encourage all affiliates to get with their associations (youth and girls) to participate in this event. If your affiliate has anything planned, please let me know if it affects the girls program.
6. The District Concerns: continues to run smoothly for the most part, however, we continue to have the following issue that face some of our Affiliates:
 - Girls leaving their affiliate to either play outside at a hockey school, prep school or another affiliate. This continues to deplete the local programs growth.
7. Pacific District tryouts: May 7 – 10, *Olympic View Arena, Mountlake Terrace, WA.*
 - Attached please see the budget that was submitted to Charlie regarding the Pacific District Girls' Select tryout.
 - Over the past years, I have heard parents complain as they were unable to use air miles to transport their daughters to the tryout. Due to the economic fiasco this year, I have taken a survey of all parents that may have a child participating in this event and asked if they were still interested in using air miles. They were. I have secured 30 seats from LAX and 25 seats from Anchorage. The deposit has been made on all seats through our travel agent.
 - All participants using air miles will need to be at the Seattle airport within the timeframe of the girls arriving via purchased tickets. Busses will transport the girls to the hotel from the airport and rinks again this year.
 - The following is our process for selecting girls at the Affiliate level and sending them onto the District level. The section has discussed this issue and the result of the conversations is as follows:
Players that live at home with their parents:

1. If a player lives at home with their parents, they will tryout in their home affiliate.
2. If a player lives at home with their parents and cannot attend their affiliate tryout because they are on vacation or some other function that is important to them takes place on the same days as the tryout; they may elect to tryout with another affiliate in our District.
 - a. If this were to occur, the players will be ranked with the girls from the other affiliate on their home ice.
 - b. The rankings should be sent to the player's affiliate representative (or if the rankings are sent to the District representative, they will be passed along to the Affiliate representative).
 - c. After the Affiliate representative reviews these rankings they have two options:
 - 1) If the player is a true standout, you may want to think about giving her a slot from your affiliate pool.
 - 2) If the player is not on paper (the rankings that are sent to the Affiliate) as good as those girls you have trying out on the ice, you may place her into the District at-large pool of players. During our conference call (which will be after the last tryout) the affiliate representatives will discuss these at-large players and determine which players should be placed into the "Other" category that has been to accommodate such players.

Players that are residents of one of the Pacific District Affiliates, but attend school outside the District:

3. If a player is a resident of your state, but attends school outside the District - there are a several options for them:
 - a. They are always welcome to come back home for the tryout.
 - b. They have the option to come back to the District and attend one of the other affiliate tryouts. In this case step 2.b would be followed.
 - c. They have the option of trying out in another District within their affiliate process (which would mirror the Pacific District Affiliate's process). In this case, their rankings would be given to that District's Girls/Women's representative, and they would forward this information onto the Pacific District Girls/Women's representative. If the girls choose to take this route, they must notify their home resident affiliate representative. The affiliate representative would need to notify the Pacific District representative. (Once the Pacific District representative is notified she/he will notify the other District that someone is going to tryout in their District from the Pacific District). If the players chose this path, the Pacific District representative would send their rankings onto the affiliate rep and 2.c.1) or 2) would be followed.
 - d. They have the option to tryout at another District's tryout, but the other District will not give an out of District player one of their slots. Nor will the Pacific District if we have an out of District player come to our tryout. If the player is to attend a tryout at another District, their rankings will come back to the Pacific District representative as an at-large and they will be discussed during our player discussion after the Pacific District tryout.
8. Pacific District Girls/Women's Tournament: Fairbanks, Alaska / March 4 – 8. Coaches meeting will be March 4th. Bruce has completed the game schedule and it is pending review.
9. Western Regional Development Camp: Approved by the Pacific District Board. Las Vegas, NV July 19 – July 23.

Thank you for allowing me to work with the wonderful volunteers within our District to help continue growing Girls/Women's hockey. I look forward to another challenging year.

Respectfully,

Margo Dreyer