



**2018 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ February 3, 2018
10:00 A.M. ~ 5:00 P.M. P.S.T.
Red Rock Hotel & Spa
11011 W Charleston Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89135

Present

Jaime Campbell
Flint Doungchak
Wendy Goldstein
Dru Hammond
Thomas Hancock
Chris Hays
Kellie Hays
Greg Johnson
Donna Kaufman
Kris Knauss
Steve Laing
Lisa McPheters
John Silberstein
Eric Simmons
Steve Stevens
Lester Sparks
Darryl Thompson
Steve Thompson
Scott Zucker

Absent

Jon Gustafson
Rick Trupp

Guests

Phil Osaer

Minutes

Call to Order

Kris Knauss

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Kris Knauss. Roll Call was taken. Kris introduced Phil Osaer, USA Hockey's GDC Manager.

Approval of Agenda

Kris Knauss

Darryl Thompson moved to amend the Agenda to add Risk Manager Report. Donna Kaufman seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions. Report to be given after Registrar Report.

Darryl Thompson moved to approve the Agenda; Lester Sparks seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Approval of Prior Minutes – October 21, 2017

Lisa McPheters

Dru Hammond motioned to approve the October 21, 2017 minutes; Donna Kaufman seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Chairman's Report

Kris Knauss

Kris welcomed everyone to Las Vegas, thanking all for making the trip in February. As the mid-season meeting, this is the ramp up to the District Championships and upcoming Player Development Camps. In an effort to minimize expenses and efficiently use folk's time, we need to limit who attends these events. In our budget

conversations throughout the meeting, we will need to seriously consider reducing our budget and/or increasing the membership fee.

I have been keeping track of what has been happening in our district. It's been fun to watch PNAHA implement 10U Half Ice. In California, the LA Kings are taking a larger role in the implementation of Half Ice, following what the New York Rangers have been doing.

I've been working with Phil Osaer and the GDC meeting, as well as with the Pacific District Goalie GDC's. It is unbelievable how organized and committed this group is, and the passion they are showing. I believe most important to this is the addition of Steve Thompson as the District GDC. He has demonstrated real leadership in this role and is doing an outstanding job of pushing the 51 in 30 goal. Steve and the affiliate GDC's are creating an environment in which the Pacific District is the elite district for goaltenders, and I am super grateful for all they are doing, and we as a board are doing, to move the goal of 51 in 30 forward.

USA Hockey

Phil Osaer

I am very excited to be here. I worked yesterday with the goalie development personnel that are here. It is unbelievable to be part of this, as your GDC's are so passionate and committed. Steve Thompson has been outstanding bringing the district GDC's together. Other areas of the country and elsewhere are looking at what we are doing with starry eyes. I, along with others in USA Hockey, am extremely grateful for what the District is doing to promote goalie development. You are changing our sport.

Financial Report

Chris Hays

A written report was presented and orally reviewed. The equity section has been reallocated based on recommendations of the October 21, 2017 meeting. Third page reflects what we have budgeted and what we've actually incurred. We need to spend some time determining how to incorporate the District Director's expenses into our District budget. Detailed reports are available if any one would like to review them.

CIC Report

Flint DOUNGCHAK

A written report was provided (copy attached). Does not include Alaska.

Looking to hold two Level 4 clinics in 2018-19. Looking at four different sites as possible locations.

Working on developing a metric on what should a coach represent. Have a sample survey in my written report that may be a useful tool on developing this metric.

Trying to set up Best Practices for 10U Half Ice. I've covered this in my written report. Logistical type things are covered. If we can standardize within the district, this might help with the promotion of half ice play. Donna Kaufman suggests using two referees at the beginning of the season; after several months, transition to one referee.

RIC Report

Steve Stevens & Eric Simmons

Steve Stevens reported that USA Hockey's Mid-Winter meeting for officials was a spirited meeting. USA Hockey is proposing changes to how officials are registered. An official could be a Level 1 for two years and then be required to obtain their next level of certification. After three years at Level 3, an official would receive tenure status. This would effectively minimize the amount of required training for an official. USA Hockey is also looking to change the referee modules to be level specific. All of these changes will be discussed and determined at USA Hockey's Annual Congress in June 2018.

We are teaming up young officials with NHL Officials – known as Officials Across America. This is a really neat program that is proving to be motivational for our young officials.

Jeff Lewis is the new director of officials in Las Vegas, and things have improved tremendously.

In Hawaii, the RIC and Rink Owner have been having some challenges. The new RIC will be Jason Short and he will be at the May instructor's camp to get things started.

People have been requesting that a female officials camp take place. Looking at doing this in Tacoma or Everett.

The Youth 15 Only classification will utilize a 4-man system at Nationals, so I recommend that we do the same thing at the Pacific District Tournament.

Officials want to be able to register in April or May and get started with their training, not wait until August. The National Office did not receive this very well.

Eric Simmons reported that the Referee Modules will provide identical information across the nation, so referees everywhere will have identical training. Believes that USA Hockey is being responsive to the RIC's requests and trying to work with them.

Specific to Alaska, the officials' numbers are not as dire as some of the local area supervisors infer. Eric is looking forward to Alaska's officials helping at the District Tournament in San Jose. For National Tournaments, not as many officials as previous years are being asked to work Nationals. Utilizing guest officials.

Registrar's Report

Wendy Goldstein

Wendy has provided a detailed written report (copy attached).

District Directors' expense reports will no longer be ran through Wendy and the national office. All expenses will now go through the District.

Election – Jon Gustafson ran unopposed. He will continue as a District Director.

Lisa McPheters, our district secretary and USAH Associate Registrar will be receiving her 5-year award at this year's Annual Congress.

Guest Arrival – Steve Thompson, Wylie Rogers, Tommy Tartaglione & Mike Landry – all GDC's, joined meeting, following their GDC meeting.

Risk Manager's Report

John Silberstein

John explained to the board what it means for a registered USA Hockey member to be "claimed" by an association and why it is important.

Private lessons are not sanctioned activities. ISI membership may cover these private or "individual" coaching lessons.

Professional Tournament Promoters should have a 2 million GL Policy with a 4 million aggregate for their events. They can obtain this for each event, it does not have to be an annual policy. They can provide this for proof of insurance. This does not apply to local associations who are hosting tournaments.

Not all travel is covered. If you have a team that is traveling and you are unsure of what is covered, reach out to me and ask.

Disabled Section

Kellie Hays

Kellie has provided a detail written report (copy attached).

To date, 96 teams have registered for the sled hockey event in Chicago. Please make sure that the athletes and teams in our district are registered if they wish to go. They have until February 16, 2018 to register.

Bobby Freeland Grants

Lester Sparks

We received one additional application, which I forwarded out to each of you. From a small association in Moses Lake, Washington, to purchase equipment for learn to play/skate. Lester motioned to approve; seconded by Thomas Hancock. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Dru Hammond asked if Bobby Freeland Grants can still be requested. Lester advised that the deadline has passed. Dru said that Yakima, WA will likely be applying for a grant, and this would fall under next year.

Player Safety/Concussion

Jaime Campbell

A detailed, written report has been provided by Jaime Campbell (copy attached).

Specifically want to give recognition to Nevada on steps they have made moving forward with Player Safety.

Boys Player Development

Kris Knauss

At Mid-Winter Meeting in Orlando, preliminary discussion was held on checking at 15o and 14U levels. There is some science that supports minimizing checking. Was a heavily discussed topic with many opinions.

The Pacific District Boys Player Development Camp is May 3-6, 2018 in San Jose. All Affiliate camps are now complete. All invites have been sent out except Washington and Nevada and they will be sent out this coming week. Oregon had 105 participants at their camp, which is outstanding growth from prior years. Great job, Lester and Oregon hockey! Thank you to our district personnel for their involvement in the Affiliate Camps. Steve Thompson will be the point person on the GDC for staff and goalies.

Nevada will be attending the May board meeting with a proposal for hosting future Player Development Camps in Las Vegas.

Western Region High Performance Camp

Flint DOUNGCHAK

Flint reported that Southeast District want to have their players participate in the 2019 WRHPC. Flint and others are looking at it.

Flint said that assistance is needed to put a MOU agreement together. He is not really comfortable with the financial reports that are being provided by the treasurer in charge of Rocky Mountain Player Development. Flint will be sending these reports to Kris and then to Darryl for review and assistance.

Girls Player Development

Steve Laing & Greg Johnson

A detailed written report was provided (see attached).

Girls 18U Select Camp is June 23-29, 2018 at the University of Nebraska. USA Hockey hand picks players from this camp. The 15U and 18U National Camp is July 7-11 and July 14-20 respectively, at St. Cloud. The Pacific District Girls Camp is June 9-13, 2018 in Colorado Springs, wherein the girls will be vying for a spot at the National Camp. We will have 280 players in participation.

We need to have an MOU in place with regard to the budget. We have asked some hardline questions, but not getting a lot of answers.

Also feel that we need to limit the Scout/Prep School contact with players and parents during the camp activities. Not sure of exactly the right way to do this.

High School Section

Steve Laing

High School Nationals are in Minnesota. Our district will be sending two pure teams and two combined teams.

For the High School Girls Showcase, 25 girls have shown interest. We are working on a budget and trying to figure out rooms. Our District ranks 7th for High School Players.

Affiliate Presidents' Report

Presidents' Chair

- We have block grant monies of \$14,675.40 of which we are allocating 50% to GDC funds; 25% to Block Grant funds and 25% to Player Development.
- President Award Selections are:
 - Andy Anderson Award – Jack Tragis
 - Dempsey Anderson Award – Mike Holmes
 - Pete Anderson Award – Eric Simmons
- Presidents' Chairman for 2018.19 will be Thomas Hancock
- Darryl Thompson - Alaska reported their affiliate is working to implement half-ice hockey. We have a non-checking level in our recreational league and are currently looking at whether a body check penalty should be more than two (2) minutes in a non-checking game.
- Lester Sparks – Oregon reported that their Player Development Camp was really good this year, and they had 105 participants. Half-ice is working well at both our 8U and 10U levels. Initially we were worried it might hurt our officiating numbers, but if anything, it has helped those numbers. Portland Winterhawks are building a new 2 sheet ice facility looking to open in 2019.
- Scott Zucker – Nevada reported they are working to get NAHA more involved in the community. Delegating responsibilities to accomplish more. The Golden Knights are reaching out to us, wanting to help market the youth program. We are anticipating a huge influx of players over the summer, with NAHA sponsoring skating clinics. We have great numbers for learn to skate. Biggest challenge has been to get the rinks to all work well within the hockey community. Nevada very much appreciates all the help from the Pacific District Board.
- Thomas Hancock – California gave accolades to both Oregon and Nevada. Oregon has done an outstanding job on the player development side and Nevada's exponential growth is great. California just completed their select camps. We were fortunate to have both Steve Thompson and Kirsten Wright there to help. The players really appreciated having people from outside California there. Steve helped us with great focus on goaltending and provided an outstanding assessment of them. California continues to grow, up 9% this year. With our professional teams doing so well, this helps bring players in to our youth programs. By the end of 2018, California will have five (5) new rinks.
- Dru Hammond – Washington (PNAHA) reported they will be hosting their first half-ice festival with twenty (20) teams participating, from fifteen (15) associations throughout the state. Event will be at Tacoma Twin Rinks. Our Girls Player Development Camp is complete. This is our final year for using Everett. Shawna Davidson and Emily West were evaluators at our camp and will come to our preparatory camp in May to assist getting our girls ready for the Multi-District camp. Washington is trying to get an NHL team in the state and will be doing a season ticket drive. We are hoping an NHL presence will bring an explosion in youth membership to our state.

Youth Council

Donna Kaufman

For National Tournaments it was determined to bring Quarterfinals back. For Tier I Youth, this has added an additional day for the tournament, with Championship day now on Tuesday. This is not the case for Girls Tier I Nationals, the quarterfinals and semifinals will be on the same day. The host association will no longer be guaranteed a spot at the national tournament. The fee for nationals will be based on the tournament budget, not a set, predetermined fee.

The NHL Grow the Game initiative is huge right now and will bring in a lot of new players, increasing our numbers.

We are carefully looking at the checking issue.

Trying to use Zoom for all of our meetings.

Junior Council

Donna Kaufman

USHL will now have a relationship with USA Hockey via a contract. Contract will be 3 to 5 years only. The USHL is the only Tier 1 junior hockey league. Junior Hockey's Tier II leagues want to go down the same path. Presently we have the NAHL, and the USPHL's NCDC. The NAHL wants the same agreement as USHL, which would exclude NCDC. At the Tier III junior hockey level, people/leagues are trying to get together. Looking to have a national tournament again. The WSHL is down to 23 teams, moving into Canada. Time will tell.

Legal Council

Steve Laing & Darryl Thompson

Much of the discussions at the Mid-Winter Meeting centered around Junior Hockey and the licensing agreement with the USHL.

A Conflict of Interest Policy update will be a part of the rule change voting at Annual Congress in June. Once adopted, the trickle down affect will be for Affiliates to also adopt one.

USA Hockey is developing a Transgender Policy. Presently there is pending legislation in the U.S. House that USA Hockey supports, but has issue with a few components of the legislation.

SafeSport Report

Steve Laing

The USOC is challenged by funding and the lack of staff for dealing with all the SafeSport complaints. Currently looking at ways to resolve this.

Locker room monitoring is an issue. We all have a responsibility to ensure our Locker Rooms are being properly monitored.

Finance Committee

Donna Kaufman

We have started with QuickBooks reports. Starting with the new year, all district director travel expenses will be through the district and we have to figure out how to make our budget work. This will likely lead to changes in our travel policy. The finance committee will make recommendations to the District Board on policies procedures, strategies and a final result.

2018 Pacific District Tournaments

Donna Kaufman

Recommended schedules for the 2018 Pacific District Tournaments were provided to the board for review and discussion. The Youth Tier I tournaments are seeded based on state tournament play. The Girls Tier I and Tier II tournaments are not seeded as no Girls state tournaments are conducted. Discussion was held that Saturday's have traditionally been "Affiliate Play Days", wherein if an Affiliate has two teams participating at the same level, they play each other on Saturday. Overall the board could see no reason to change any of the schedules presented. Chairman Knauss cautioned the board that these were still preliminary schedules, until they could be vetted for ice commitments and possible typos. He specifically stated that the schedules were not to be released by board members until the Tournament Chairperson electronically provided them to all teams.

2018 Pacific District Goaltending Development Camp

Lester Sparks & Steve Thompson

Held a GDC planning event yesterday, February 2, 2018. Moving forward with the camp on August 3-5, 2018 held here at the Red Rock Hotel & Spa. We are looking at a facility for meeting rooms and getting our camp staff set up. All Affiliate GDC's will be involved. Steve has some really good ideas for nutrition and off-site education. We will bring a budget to the Pacific District meeting in May as well as allocation numbers.

New Business

With Jim Johansson's passing, USA Hockey set up a Legacy Fund. Should the Pacific District donate \$1,000. After much discussion the board determined to go in a different direction to honor Mr. Johansson.

Two Alaska based invitational tournaments submitted waiver requests to allow their tournaments to occur at same time as the Pacific District tournament – Last Frontier Pond Hockey Classic & 2018 Mac Attack. Darryl Thompson motioned that the waivers be approved; Steve Laing seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Election of Chairperson. Thomas Hancock moved that Kris Knauss be re-elected as Chairman of the Pacific District Board. Darryl Thompson seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Next meeting – May 19, 2018 – Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska is looking forward to hosting everyone. We should have detailed information out soon.

Adjournment

Chairman Knauss called for an Executive Session. Darryl Thompson motioned to adjourn regular meeting; Lester Sparks seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Executive Session commenced.