



**2019 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ October 5, 2019

9:00 A.M. ~ 4:00 P.M. P.S.T.

“Salon C”

Courtyard by Marriott Liberty Station

Present

Dan Ellison
Wendy Goldstein
Jon Gustafson
Dru Hammond
Thomas Hancock
Chris Hays
Kris Knauss
Steve Laing
Kathy McGarrigle
Lisa McPheters
Lester Sparks
Darryl Thompson
Rick Trupp
Matt Zucker

Not Present

Jaime Campbell
Flint Douchak
John Silberstein
John Eric Simmons

USA Hockey Guests

Stephanie Jackson
Donna Kaufman
Ken Martel
Kara Minchin
Wayne Sawchuk

Minutes

Call to Order

Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll call was taken to confirm a quorum to conduct business. Introduction were made.

Persons to be Heard

Kara Minchin (Oregon) - Kara spoke with regard to her personal, work and hockey background as qualification to be considered for the open Director’s position. Originally from Vancouver BC, she moved to Oregon in 2005. In hockey, she started as a volunteer, a team manager, tournament director then member of the board. Is a multitasker, flexible, willing to listen, able to adjust to others and able to make hard decisions. Has served as the OSHA Treasurer for 4 years, coming on during the oversight committee. Provided her an insight to the inner workings of the Affiliate. Believes change is good and genuinely interested in this position.

Wayne Sawchuk (Alaska) – Also interested in the open Director’s position. Started 17 years ago as an evaluator for the Player Development Camp. Strongest asset is being a hockey person. Looks for input. Wants to grow and get better. Thinks District has done a great job on moving forward with the Concussion protocol.

Ken Martel – Technical Director – ADM, USA Hockey – The Declaration of Fair Play is a good document but like all new policies there are challenges that come with it. We need to start changing the youth sport culture. Need to have Parent Education on checking and safety. John Gustafson asked the board “What are we going to commit to? Are we going to make this a full court press or just let it happen at its own pace?” We need to provide leadership. Dan Ellison said we can send out an email on changing the culture. There is also a really good video available and we should get parents to watch it. Thomas Hancock said the next step is to make the education of the Fair Play policy a requirement for parents and players.

Ken also discussed the direction of the coaching program, that the CIC would be sharing additional information. The training is changing. It needs to be a more concise product and we need to loop in every coach. Will be a multi-year process for all the changes but very excited in the direction it is heading.

Stephanie Jackson – Director of Diversity & Inclusion, USA Hockey – Stephanie presented on the change needed, not only in USA Hockey, but across our culture, on the inclusion of diversity within our sport. There are many different cultures not currently present within our sport. Is that because of choice or because of a lack of inclusion by us as a whole. The PowerPoint presentation was very informative and thought provoking, as Stephanie drew us into the conversation.

Approval of Agenda – Kris Knauss motioned to amend the agenda, moving the Girls Section and Girls Multi-District Camp conversation to the beginning of the USA Hockey Reports. Darryl seconded the motion; motion passed with no abstentions.

Approval of June 8, 2019 Minutes

Kris Knauss called for a motion to approve the June 8, 2019 minutes as written. Jon Gustafson motioned to approve; Lester Sparks seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Reports

Chairman Report - Kris Knauss

- Kris reported that Nevada President Scott Zucker has stepped down from that position and Darren Elliott is the new Nevada President.
- In the next week, the new website will be up. Lisa will send out a link for you to preview. It is a whole rebuild. We have had no change in our website in over a year and the process has been extremely disappointing. Now at least our membership will have a better place to view District information.
- I needed to change the 2020 Boys Player Development Camp to May 7-10, 2020, as the national office and Jim Smith are hosting an International Disabled Event in Las Vegas the weekend we were planning to have the camp. While we could have continued with the original dates, we accommodated.
- Additionally, Kelleher called to advise that they are working in conjunction with the WNHL to host games in California February 7 & 8 so we will be moving our February board meeting from Las Vegas to Anaheim. In conjunction with the February 8 board meeting, February 7th will be a Girls Summit. Both Pat Kelleher and Jim Smith will be in attendance at our board meeting. My plan is to do a Zoom meeting from Nevada on May 7th to comply with our bylaws. John Gustafson motioned to move the February meeting from Las Vegas, Nevada to Anaheim, California; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions. Affiliates should require their Girls Representatives to be at the February 7th Girls Summit portion of the meeting.
- Lastly, Dave Klasnick passed away last month after a 2-year battle with lung cancer. He served as Chairman of the Youth Council for USA Hockey and his position will be filled at the January Mid-Winter meeting. There are 3 candidates running for his position. We are continuing to do youth council calls monthly with T.C. Lewis as interim Chair.

Financial Report - Chris Hays

Chris Hays provided a detailed Financial Report, hard copy to all present board members. Our fiscal year ended on August 31st. A new budget will be forthcoming.

Finance Committee Report

Kris Knauss stated that the Finance Committee Chair was not present, and no report was provided.

CIC Report, Alaska - Rick Trupp

- Rick expanded upon what Ken Martel stated, saying the Coaching Education Program is looking at the present curriculum and what we are delivering. Are we doing the best job possible? Levels 1 through 3 need to be more interactive as opposed to just a PowerPoint presentation. To date, the feedback has been positive. The new curriculum may take 3 or 4 years to roll out in its entirety.
- Just finished 4 HP clinics in Alaska with very positive feedback.
- Alaska's GDC will now be PD Melgoza, along with Wylie Rogers.

- Working to get both the University of Alaska Anchorage and University of Alaska Fairbanks more involved in the CEP process.

CIC Report, Pacific District - Flint Doungchak

- No written report was provided. Kris Knauss reported that within the district, Rob Kauffman from Washington State received the Bob O'Connor Award. This is a national award given by the CIC's in the district, basically a lifetime achievement award. Very happy for Rob, extremely well deserved. Sadly no one in the district was notified this was being given to him. Extreme lack of communication.
- Need to have a conversation with Kelleher and Smith perhaps, with what is happening within the District.

RIC Report – Dan Ellison

- Busier than anticipated but everything is going well. Presently have 1700 officials registered. A little down from prior season but think it will pick up in next couple months. Tom has been a great help with recruiting officials in CA. Increase in female officials – hopeful that we can staff the girls district with an all-female crew.
- Banging the boards seems to be the big issue. Educating the officials on this.
- Been to a few coaching clinics – been very rewarding and eye opening. If you have a CIC event and want officials there, let me know.
- Game Reports – I no longer receive them. Some of the official groups are not submitting reports in correct order/structure. Affiliates, please emphasize to your groups that game reports are to be reported immediately. The 48 hours is to notify the RIC if there's a 601(f).
- Officials seminars are going really well. Open for registration in June. Will be smoother next year.
- Steve Stevens has been a big help, especially in Washington.
- We have obtained a contact for Hawaii.

Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein – written report provided.

- All nominees who intend to run for District Director need to notify me in writing that they are running.
- The question was asked if the registrar's report includes first year disabled players who are free. Wendy will find out and confirm. It does include all registered participants for voting purposes. The report does not include referees.
- Billeting is a big issue, across the district. We need to look at implementing a billeting policy, both from a SafeSport aspect as well as Player Development.
- The District has two new Warrior Teams in Nevada.

Disabled Section – Matt Zucker

- Have trained 30 to 40 officials in California on disabled officiating.
- Kellie Hays has been outstanding with helping advise me.
- Beth Marr is new in disabled as well as an intern from the National office.
- Requested of and USA Hockey agreed to send two blind pucks to Alaska to try out.
- Irvine Disabled Event hosted by the Ducks – keep up the momentum. Constant presence at the rink will help enhance disabled.
- Communication is a perennial issue within Disabled Section. Will work to try to amend this.
- Would like to see if creating a Pacific District Disabled Hockey "Championship" is feasible. Believe it is time to offer the ultimate reward to our disabled members.

Bobby Freeland Grants – Lester Sparks

- Anchorage Hockey Association submitted for a \$2500 BF Grant. Lester Sparks motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. No abstention. Motion passed.
- The deadline for BF Grants is now passed.

Affiliate Presidents' Reports

Darryl Thompson/Alaska

- Alaska's House/Recreation scheduling meeting is today.

- Last February ASHA met on the Tier 1 programs. The full board turned over the decision on Tier 1 to ASHA's Competitive Council, which determined that ASHA will be the sole host for all USA Hockey Classified Tier 1 teams and will operate under the name of Team Alaska. We also asked Lisa McPheters to be the Administrator/Director of this program, and happily she agreed.
- Our House/Recreational Council passed 15 to 1 to bring checking back to recreation hockey. Rule changes occur in July, they presented in August so checking will not be reintroduced until the 2020/21 season.

Thomas Hancock/California

- In the process of solidifying High School hockey. Midget hockey is over, now 1A and 1B.
- After 3 years of Tier II evaluations, very successful in separating out the national bound and non-national bound players/teams. Games much more competitive. Somewhat started to create a safe-harbor, with some programs shooting for the lower division. We are working to ensure that players/teams are playing where they should be based on skill levels.

Dru Hammond/Washington

- VPs review the game reports and determine what kind of an issue we have.
- Western hockey league is having a 14U Tier 1 showcase. Same weekend as our Tier 1 state tournament. Officials don't feel that we have enough qualified officials to handle two events of this level on the same weekend. Violates the 100-mile radius rule. Has her heels dug in.

Lester Sparks/Oregon

- Happy to say that things in Oregon are business as usual for once.
- August was our scheduling meeting(s).
- Portland has been questionable as far as participation.
- 10U half-ice with midsize nets has been well received.

USA Hockey Reports

Youth Council – Kris Knauss

Given above under Chairman's Report.

Legal Council – Steve Laing & Darryl Thompson

There haven't been any meetings this fall. A couple issues at hand.

- Writing in the SafeSport Center and within the District Handbook have a few discrepancies that need to be addressed. Related to concussions and injuries. Vague with regard to injuries. SafeSport Center trumps the District Handbook because of federal regulations. Talks about inappropriate return to play without proper clearance. Responsibility will fall on the Coach and Manager. Could be liability if something happens to the player upon return without proper clearance.

SafeSport Report – Steve Laing

- A lot of changes, constantly fluid. Very backed up when it comes to investigations. Could be 2 years. Suspension list is posted for the public to see. Kicking back minor violations to the Affiliates to deal with.
- Head Ups Team Up Foundation. A good foundation but why are we paying them for this as we only get one week per year. We could promote this ourselves. Why are we paying a third company to do this?

High School Section – Steve Laing

- USA Hockey is looking to add a Prep Division to the High School National Tournament. Presently there are 4 Prep Teams committed at this time.
- High School Nationals presently have 16 Division 1 Teams; 16 Division 2 Teams; and 6 to 8 Girls Teams committed for the March 26-30, 2020 National Tournament hosted just outside of Dallas.

Player Safety Report – Steve Laing

- Please look at the written report provided by Jaime Campbell and the items it addresses.

Girls Section – Kathy McGarrigle

- Today is Try Hockey Girls Day. Trying to have as many events as possible. Have been able to grow numbers.
- Nevada has doubled their numbers this year. Oregon and Eastern Washington are getting going.
- Expanding Tier II Girls Nationals. For 2020-21 season we will expand by 8 teams.

- Our District is now 6th among the Districts for Girl Players.

Girls Multi-District Camp Report – Kathy McGarrigle

- Presently there is a lot of discussion within the district along the line of the need to have our own camp rather than the Multi-District Camp format. However, the Multi-District Camp is well run, and I was really impressed with it. Of primary concern is the timing of the Multi-District Camp. It is a conflict with many high schools' end of the year. Prior to this camp, USA Hockey already selects for their 18U Selects camp, so the Pacific District Girls are missing out on that opportunity. We may need to look at holding the 17 & 18 age camp at a different time, earlier in the year, and keep the younger players at the current camp time. Please go back to your affiliates and discuss this. Should we move the camp as a whole to an earlier time frame or split the game between the age groups.
- We will be hosting a Girls Summit on February 7, 2020 prior to our District Board meeting on February 8th. Our district committee will consist of Kathy McGarrigle, Steve Laing and Dru Hammond.
- USA Hockey looking at not allowing 13U Girls to play up to 19U. May still be able to play 16U. Work in progress and more discussion to be held on this topic.

District Goaltending Development Camp – Lester Sparks

- 2019 Camp was hosted in Irvine at the new facility, which is really nice. A Level 4 Coaching Clinic was held at the same time, which allowed for silver and bronze goaltending coaching clinics. We had a total of 44 goalies on ice. Lots of involvement from goalie coaches in CA. Jay Walters also came out for physical development. Pretty successful weekend. Only hitch was our jerseys were delivered to the wrong place, but we were able to make it work.
- Plans for 2020 – currently working on plans. Possibly hold the 2021 camp in San Jose. Great participation by Affiliate GDCs.

Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss

- 2019 National Camp Results – summary sent out last week. Shows the strength by birth years. 2002 birth year was less elite than the last 10 birth years. The 2004 birth year looked really good. NTDP already looking at 3 or 4 of the 04s. Looking forward to seeing 05s and 06s. Have already received communication from 3 or 4 college level coaches that want to return to the 2020 camp.
- 2020 Affiliate Allocations – change for Select 17 – 40-man camp. Half of the allocations to the affiliates. Pacific District Player Development staff hold the rest. Looking forward to seeing how a 40-man camp works this coming year.
- We made significant revenue on apparel sales at the 2019 camp. Thank you to Lisa and her crew for their efforts. Helps to have the right volunteers.
- We had a 400 person Opening Night Banquet, with a Magician that entertained from table to table.
- The change in format – no team leaders – parents responsible for their players and filling up the stands to watch them play was very positive. Have received positive feedback.
- Dru Hammond asked Kris if he would be able to attend Washington's camp this year. Kris assured her that someone will be there.

Western Regional High Performance Camp – no report provided.

- Continue to evaluate this Camp and how we want to move forward with this camp. Need more transparency and a new MOU has to be developed. Need to assess if we wish to change direction. Planning needs to start in February for change in 2021.

District Tournament Report – Steve Laing

Youth Tier I Tournaments

- 18U Tier I, we have 8 teams in the District - 1 Alaska, 4 California, 2 Washington, 1 Oregon. We can host a 4-team tournament wherein each Affiliate sends one team or a 6-team tournament consisting of 1 Alaska, 1 Oregon, 2 California & 2 Washington. Steve proposed we host a 4-team tournament of 1 Alaska, 1 California, 1 Washington and 1 Oregon.
- 16U Tier I, we have the following number of teams in the District – 3 Washington, 3 California. Steve proposed we host a 4-team tournament with the top 2 from Washington and top 2 from California

- 150 Tier I, we have 5 teams in the District – 1 Alaska, 1 Washington and 3 California. Steve proposed we host a 4-team tournament with 1 Alaska, 1 Washington, and 2 California.
- 14U Tier I, we have 7 teams in the District – 1 Alaska, 1 Washington, and 5 California. Steve proposed we host a 4-team tournament with 1 Alaska, 1 Washington and 2 California.
- Steve Laing motioned for the recommended 4-team tournament at each Youth Tier 1 level to be accepted. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Girls Tier I Tournaments

- 19U Tier I has an automatic bye for Nationals - Anaheim Lady Ducks (California).
- 16U Tier I, we have 3 teams in the District – 1 Alaska, 2 California. Steve Laing proposed a 2-team tournament of 1 Alaska, 1 California.
- 14U Tier I, we have 3 teams in the District – 1 Alaska, 2 California. Steve Laing proposed a 2-team tournament of 1 Alaska, 1 California.
- Steve Laing motioned for the recommended 2-team tournament at 16U and 14U Girls Tier I. Lester Sparks seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Girls Tier II Tournaments

- 19U Tier II, we have 5 teams in the District –1 Alaska, 3 California, and 1 Washington. Steve Laing proposed a 4-team tournament with 1 Alaska, 1 Washington and 2 California.
- 16U Tier II, we have 4 teams in the District – 1 Washington, 1 California, and 2 Alaska. Steve Laing proposed a 4-team tournament with the stated teams.
- 14U Tier II, we have 7 teams in the District – 3 Alaska, 2 California, and 2 Washington. Steve Laing proposed a 6-team tournament with 2 Alaska, 2 California, and 2 Washington.
- Steve Laing motioned for the proposed tournaments at the Girls Tier II level to be approved. Lester Sparks seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Women's Tournaments

- We have 2 Women's B teams in the District. We are requesting two National Tournament spots for Women's B and if approved there is no need for a Women's B tournament.
- We have 1 Women's C team in the District which will receive a direct bye to Nationals.

High School National Tournament

- 1 Girls Team from Alaska, 1 Boys Division 1 Team from Nevada, and 1 Boys Division 1 Team & 1 Boys Division 2 Team from California.

New Business

- Girls/Women's Section Representative – Kris Knauss advised the board that this position is up for election with the term ending in June 2020. The Disabled Section Representative's term ends June 2021 and the High School Section Representative ends June 2022.
- Pacific District Website Management & Maintenance – covered under the Chairman's Report. Everyone please review it and provide feedback.
- District Handbook Approval & Amendments – Kris Knauss stated that everyone received a draft handbook. Adopting the District Handbook with a tournament fee of \$2850. Jon Gustafson motioned to adopt the draft handbook for two years. Lester Sparks seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Any additional staff changes are to be submitted to Lisa by October 10, 2019. Motion is called to question. Motion passed with no abstentions.
- February 2020's Pacific District Board Meeting is being relocated to Anaheim, California to allow for the Girl's Summit to coordinate with the Women's USA vs Canada game taking place the evening of February 8, 2020.
- Regarding the Youth Tier I District Tournament and Girls Tier I & Tier II District Tournaments, Steve Laing said that he will appoint 2 Directors at each tournament. That being said, all District personnel are welcome to come and participate.
- Dinner tonight is at 7:15 pm at Coasterra.
- Executive Session commenced to review candidates for the District Director vacancy and make a selection.

Meeting Adjourned