



**2020 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ February 8, 2020
9:00 A.M. ~ 5:00 P.M. P.S.T.
Red Lion Hotel Anaheim Resort
1850 South Harbor Boulevard
Anaheim, CA 92802
Meeting Room ~ Leon I

Present

Dan Ellison
Wendy Goldstein
Darin Campbell
Jamie Campbell
Darren Eliot
Dru Hammond
Thomas Hancock
Chris Hays
Kris Knauss
Steve Laing
Lisa McPheters
Kara Minchin
Darryl Thompson
Rick Trupp
Wayne Sawchuk
John Eric Simmons
Matt Zucker

Not Present

Flint Doungchak
Jon Gustafson
Kathy McGarrigle
John Silberstein
Lester Sparks

USA Hockey Guests

Pat Kelleher

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Kris Knauss
 - Roll Call & Introductions. Would like to welcome Darren Eliot, Nevada’s new president; Darin Campbell, new District Goaltending CIC; Lester Sparks used his proxy to have Kara Minchin here representing Oregon. Welcome everyone and please introduce yourself.
 - Approval of Agenda – Darryl Thompson motioned to approve; Thomas Hancock seconded. No objection, motion passes.
- II. **Persons to be Heard** – Pat Kelleher, USA Hockey Executive Director
 - We understand that we ask a lot of all of you as volunteers for the District. Women’s seminar was a really good event. Great discussion about growing the game. Very enlightening discussion. We want everyone to have a great experience in hockey all the way through their playing career.
 - Strategic Planning Committee – what are we. As an NGB that has Olympic to Para-Olympic to Youth. How can we do it better and more effectively. Kris Knauss is part of this committee. Including our interaction and involvement with the NHL.
 - Dealing with cultural and societal issues – how do we in our sport make and impact our sport. Sure, price is an issue. But beyond price, how do we get everyone to engage in hockey. How do we encourage them to engage? Takes time. But do see improvement from 10 years ago.
 - AHL – Darren Eliot – NHL has done a good job of building the infrastructure. Huge influx of kids, just what you need. But need to have infrastructure to support this. Built City National Arena, announce AHL, building rinks in Henderson. Already have base of kids to pull to Henderson because that’s where they live.
- III. **Approval of October 5, 2019 and October 21, 2019 (Zoom Conference) Minutes.** Motion to Approve by Dru Hammond; second by Darryl Thompson. No objection, minutes approved.

IV. **District Reports**

A. **Chairman Report** - Kris Knauss

- Lots of electronic reports sent out electronically by Lisa McPheters. Thanks for reading them and preparing for this meeting.

B. **Financial Report** - Chris Hays

- Written report provided and reviewed.
 - All District Tournament fees are in and paid out to the Host Organizations.
 - Credit Card transactions are for upcoming player development travel.
 - Professional Fees are for website development. Event shown below is the Girls Showcase in April 2020.
 - Last page reflects where we stand for this year.

C. **Disabled Section** – Matt Zucker

- District events upcoming- NHL classic in Irvine in 2020. Top teams will be in Irvine. 2023 – Disabled Festival in the District. At Great Park Ice in Irvine. May 11 thru 16 – Disabled Event in Las Vegas.
- Representative for MN – whether or not teams have to register as a disabled team to participate in a disabled event. Believes it will only affect Warrior Teams. Will likely come up in June at Congress.
- Darryl Thompson asked about Referee Clinics.
- Disabled workshop – have been 2 to 3 days. Going to try and do as a webinar next year to try to save on costs.

D. **Risk Manager Report** – John Silberstein – not present

E. **CIC Report** – Rick Trupp

- Alaska has held a lot more coaching clinics this year. We started with a high performance clinic. Kenny Rausch and Bob Mancini came up for that and one other time to help.
- PD Melgoza is new Goaltending CIC for Alaska. Doing a great job.
- I was not present in Orlando, but it sounds like level 4 will be a 1 day class this coming season. Identified 20 coaching areas to focus on. Curriculum committee is working really hard to update topics and delivery. Change so that the Level 4 coaches have to come back in some capacity during a 3 year period so they stay current with changes taking place.
- Level 5 in Duluth, MN, August 20-23, 2020.
- Working more with Alaska Player Development to combine Player Development and Coaching Development, educating opportunities. Darryl Thompson said he really appreciates the leadership Rick has provided with “Coaches Corner”. All coaches within 100 miles of Anchorage are invited to attend. Start with one topic and conversation expands into other areas and has been very positive.
- Sawchuk gave update on Flint. Surgery two weeks ago. He is home now, doing good.

F. **RIC Report** – Dan Ellison

- 2,050 referees registered in district this year; 500 still have not taken a clinic. Working nationally on recruitment and retention. As the sport continues to grow, we need to do more to keep up with the growth. Development plan – should have ready for the May meeting. Trying to break through some of the “good ol’ boy” network to promote growth.
- Women’s officiating development clinic – Portland in August. Helping females to elevate their careers, get notice at the National level.
- Have already submitted list for Girls District Tournament. Will have list of officials for Youth District Tournament on Monday.

Alaska RIC – Eric Simmons

- Numbers very consistent in Alaska.
- Getting the new Level 1s to come back for a second season. Retention is the issue in Alaska. Parent driven to have their kid involved, not kid driven.
- Not always about abuse of officials. However, there is an epidemic of abuse of officials in all sports, not just hockey.
- Focus on Standard of Play, Body contact.

G. **Registrar’s Report** – Wendy Goldstein

- District up almost 6%. Nevada is up 43%; Washington up 10%.
- We still have a ton of unclaimed players District wide. Usually adult players. Possibly get some help from referees to determine what associations players are participating in.

- Credentials and simply stated, the cheaters are out there. Referees can help by counting number of players on ice and comparing it to the roster on the scoresheet and cross the players off that are not in attendance.
 - We do have a lot of out of District players playing in our District. Important for regular season games. Do we count for District and National Credentials? Affiliates make sure your coaches know the rules with regard to Tier I and Tier II requirements.
 - Registrars have asked for upgrades to the portal system. Hoping they are forthcoming.
- H. **Bobby Freeland Grants** – Lester Sparks
- There were two late submissions from Oregon Associations – pushing to next season.
- I. **Boys Player Development** – Kris Knauss
- At this point, all nominees have been invited to the Boys Player Development Camp
 - All affiliates know that the 17's it is a 40-man camp. Lots of interest from college coaches. NTDP. Assistant coaches being pushed aside for head coaches to come in.
 - Welcoming BBQ at City National, outside parking lot. USA Hockey presentation. Hosting classes. Joe Bonnet coming out to the camp.
- Western Region High Performance Camp** – Wayne Sawchuk
- June 14-19 at Colorado College. Staff coming on June 13.
 - Reaching out to coaches and team leaders. Coaching internship underutilized. Please forward any recommendations to me.
 - Colorado College is getting a new rink in the next couple years. Not sure if they will tear the old rink down. For future camps, we will have to figure out if we can continue there or find a new location.
- Pacific District Goaltending Development Camp** – Darin Campbell
- July 31 to August 2 at San Jose hosting 2006 boys and girls.
 - Reaching out to all GDC's to get list of invitees.
 - Will be tying in our Silver GDC designation again.
- Girls Player Development** – Kathy McGarrigle – not present, no report
- J. **Girls Section** – Kathy McGarrigle. Report given by Steve Laing
- Girls Multi-District Camp Future Location Discussion. June Camp is late for the older girls. Missing last week of school, SAT, ACT, etc. Looking at possibly having multi-district camp for younger girls but hold a District only camp for the older girls. Potentially in Vegas. Will present to Pacific District board at June 2020 meeting for full consideration and vote.
 - Girls Team Declaration. Thomas Hancock asked about the declaration date. Some in the District would prefer to see all Girls teams go forward, as opposed to an even number of teams. Should all Girls teams be allowed to go to Districts, or should it be limited. Needs to be looked at and determined.
- K. **High School Section** – Steve Laing
- National Tournament will be in Mansfield, TX. 2021 scheduled for Minnesota, but we have withdrawn that due to Minnesota bailing, and approved it going to Omaha, NE. Approved our new language for our section and put the language together for legislative changes. Will first go to Youth Council for approval. For the tournament we have 16 pure teams, 16 combined teams, 8 girls teams and new language for the Prep Division.
- L. **Affiliate Presidents' Reports**
- ASHA** – Darryl Thompson
- Introducing a bylaw change – 40 person board currently. Makes things difficult to manage at times. Bylaw change to appeals process for review in April. Smaller committee primarily by email. Standard of Review so that it's not a crap shoot.
 - A couple years ago we eliminated checking from our recreational level. ASHA's House (Recreation) Council wants to reintroduce checking. I need to go to work on that not happening. Player Safety is an issue. Really a lot of reasons to not have checking in place.
 - Team Alaska Tier 1 youth. Did not host a 16U team this season due to a huge attrition rate in Alaska. Effort to keep our Alaska players in place. Let's make good hockey decisions. Hope to have more retention, and eventually build the talent. Lisa McPheters took on the role of our Tier 1 Administrator this inaugural season and has done an outstanding job.
 - New VP of Player Development Matt Shasby. Wants to expand the role to more than just Player Development Camps by hosting some satellite camps, working with Trupp.

CAHA – Thomas Hancock

- Dealing with SafeSport and discipline issues.
- Discussion among our Tier programs 18's and 19G's to merge teams into Team California teams. NHL teams pushing for this.
- District Awards this year. Andy Anderson (administration) – Rosemary Voulelikas CAHA, Dempsey Anderson (coaching) - Dell Truax NAHA, Pete Anderson (referee) - Stan George ASHA.
- Affiliates to give 10% to the district, to continue to supplement the District as in previous years.

NAHA - Darren Eliot

- Growth in Vegas – 700 unclaimed. Half are adults. May be our high school team.
- Learn to skate, learn to play. Those players move straight into the house league.
- Starting the Jr. Golden Knights Hockey League. Primary emphasis the last 4 months. 400 House; 700 Tier II. LVIC at about 450. Sobe is at 100. Try to build the platform of keeping players in state and build towards AAA – about 4 years out.
- Making sure that associations are informed on voting and putting things into place.
- Working towards the creation of a west coast league or a scheduling process/alliance.
- Glad to be part of the District and look forward to reaching out to board members for information and guidance.

OSHA – Kara Minchin

- Just finished Oregon's players development camp. Great turn out with 113 players.
- A few hiccups with Portland. Tier 1 and House only. No Tier II teams. Eugene has only Tier II team. How do you find games?
- As the state is growing, trying to figure out how to grow Tier II. Also looking at smaller programs.
- Darin Campbell said the OSHA PDC was awesome.
- Wayne Sawchuk said he really appreciated Lester reaching out to him on the 14 camp numbers, what they needed, not just filling or using the allocations for the sake of using them.

PNAHA – Dru Hammond

- Thank you, Wayne, for trying to get to the PNAHA development camp. Thank you, Steve, for coming to the board of directors meeting.
- Still really excited to get the NHL team. Really want to know who the mascot is. Have had 3 meetings with the NHL personnel and they are very helpful and want to support the organization. 3 years or so institute a Tier 1 program.
- Have a player that broke his back in a Thanksgiving Tournament. Penalty called was correct. Player seems to be doing well.
- Out of Idaho, they would like to recruit players from Washington. Creates issues with our parents, need to work to educate Idaho and resolve these issues.
- Kris Knauss said the District is looking forward to Washington hosting the Youth and Girl's District Tournaments. Dru said she believe both venues will do an excellent job.

V. **USA Hockey Reports**

A. **Player Safety** – Jaime Campbell

- You are no longer fiscally responsible for my work, national office is. We have a lot to celebrate as we have been the pilot program. That is what is being adopted at the District level throughout USA Hockey. Exciting to see what we have accomplished being implemented.
- She'd like to push ahead and be innovative. Encourage affiliates of this district to take on the injury technology program. Cost is 75 cents per player. Spec committee has made no movement on this.
- Player Safety violation – player returning before cleared. Be mindful of this.
- Conversations with RIC and CIC about concussion information in the modules. What is the information being shared with the participants?
- Darren Eliot asked is we've seen our coaches utilizing the information in the correct way?
- Kris Knauss asked do we want our District personnel to be required to have SafeSport. Value vs Liability. We do host District events. What are the requirements for those participants? Locker room policy is in place.
- Matt Zucker asked if you have a SafeSport concern, what is the right process to handle this? Jaime responded that there are 4 ways to report and she would send out the link to everyone.

B. Youth Council – Kris Knauss

- Keith Barret from Vermont is completing the rest of Dave Klasnick's term as Youth Council Vice President. Will be good to work with, approachable. Also an official.
- 2021 national tournaments for youth, San Jose received 14U & 15U Youth Tier 1 National Championships. Irvine and the Anaheim Ducks received 14U, 16U & 19U Tier II Girls Nationals.
- A few issues exist in the Youth Section. Rebranding of the CEP program and how to execute the roll out of it. A lot of excitement about the new CEP program and continuing education it presents.
- Very hockey centered discussions on the Youth side on increase of Game Misconducts and Player Safety Standards have taken place and pushed forward. Discussed moving from a 5 and 15 rule to a 3 and 10 rule penalty as well as moving to 1.5 minute from a 2 minute penalty. All discussion points at this time.
- Re-examining the different age levels? Would be nice to have consistency in age levels and branding amongst the affiliates regarding who is this team exactly. Steve Laing asked if there is much conversation about going to strictly birth year classifications? SafeSport conflicts with this at the 18U level. 17U is definitely on the table. Ideally go to birth year only. Not going to happen overnight.
- Exemption request from Minnesota to allow 8 full ice games at 8U. We sent it back to the affiliate for clarification and their phase out/exit plan. Waiting for feedback on that.
- Outside of Youth Council, Diversity inclusion seminar in Minnesota and Stephanie Jackson invited Carlos Gomez (Alaska) to the event.
- Also, Strategic Planning Committee – long Zoom conference calls – looking at a lot of the objectives of USA Hockey. Where is it going in terms of direction – next 1 year, next 5 years. Recommendations will go out to all the sections and councils for their feedback, then come back to USA Hockey leadership and structure a plan for moving forward. New programs, existing programs. Building the pyramid upward in terms of development. A lot of good input and discussion within the group. Interesting to hear perspectives from around the country, what each Districts' priorities are.

C. Adult Council – Tom Hancock

- What steps can we take with official retention. Looking at Spectator ejection rules. Have had more ejections than ever this year.
- Two legislative proposals to clean up adult divisions that don't actually exist.
- Had a bit of a fire drill at pond hockey classic – lake wasn't frozen enough.

D. Legal Council – Steve Laing & Darryl Thompson

- Settlements occurring, lots of legal posture, etc. – confidential discussions.
- New background screening – Mid March (NCFI) and we are developing a white sheet on what people should expect. 2 year screening. If you are screened now, next year you don't need to. Expectation is that if any affiliate has banned someone for life, send to national office so they have that in place. Going to be some interplay for getting this to work. Unanswered piece is the civil domestic violence.

E. SafeSport Report – Steve Laing

- SafeSport is year around. Locker room monitors are a must. SafeSport handbook most recent revised edition is June 2019, is being updated. Social media and electronic communications are ugly. Should hopefully be done in next couple weeks. Trying to make SafeSport more manageable. Still ascribe to Zero tolerance.

F. Finance Committee – Appointment of Chair

- Dru Hammond stated she was interested. Thomas Hancock nominated Dru Hamond. Wayne Sawchuk seconded the motion. No objections. Motion passed.

G. 2020 Pacific District Championships – Steve Laing

- Mandatory coaches meeting on Wednesday night. A rostered coach and/or manager on the official 1T must be present.
- 2020-21 application for tournaments – will be sent out after 2020 Districts is over. Will allow associations for more time to determine ability to host.
- Coaching Representation. Alaska All Stars Issue – Steve Laing motioned that 2 qualified coaches listed on the 1T Roster be present at the District Championship Tournament. Darryl Thompson seconded. Knauss objected for discussion. Too late to make effective for 2020 District Championship. Make effective beginning with the 2021 District Championship. What happens if two coaches don't show

up? What's the repercussion? Go back to your affiliates to discuss and come up with a solution. Revisit at the June 2020 board meeting. Motion was withdrawn.

- Hotels. Teams trying to book hotels without going through proper channels. And tournament hosts want to inflict hotel fines.
- Final District Championship schedule – Thomas Hancock motioned to approve. Wayne Sawchuk points out a name discrepancy with a Girls' Tier 1 team. Team name corrected. Darren Eliot seconds the motion as amended. No objections, motion passes.
- Seeding - If affiliates have 2 or more teams in the hunt for any division, I need to hear from the affiliate as to who is seeded #1 and who is seeded #2.

VI. **New Business**

- A. Next meeting – May 7, 2020 via Zoom – Las Vegas, NV – District is incorporated in Nevada so have to hold meeting. We will have to put a quorum together for this meeting.
- B. Future Meetings. June 11, 2020 – Colorado Springs – afternoon meeting during Annual Congress. October 10, 2020 in Seattle. February 13, 2021 in Las Vegas. Dru Hammond motioned to approve these dates/locations. Steve Laing seconded the motion. No objections, motion passes.
- C. Handbook Change on Affiliate Camp Date
Motion on page 60 of the handbook – nominations deadline. Book says February 1st. As discussed via the CAHA issue we want to move to March 10th. Steve Laing motions to change the nominations deadline from February 1st to March 10th. Wayne Sawchuk seconds the motion. Thomas Hancock states that March 10th is an abundantly reasonable timeframe. No objections, motion passes.
- D. Election of Chairperson. Darryl Thompson nominates Kris Knauss; Thomas Hancock seconds the motion. No objections, motion passes.

VII. **Final Comments & Adjournment**

- In closing, Kris Knauss Just wants to thank everyone. SafeSport and Legal is a lot for all of us and believe our District people are as much on top of these items as they can be. Think Pat Kelleher took back some good notes, as good valid points were brought up by many of us. The Girls Summit was great. Those that helped, thank you. Seminars were enlightening and provides one with a completely different perspective. Feel that I have a little more depth and understanding about girls/womens hockey. Tonight's USA/Canada Women's game demonstrates that our District is at the forefront for female hockey, inclusion and diversity.
- Darryl Thompson motioned to adjourn; seconded by Wayne Sawchuk. No abstentions, motion passes.