



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

Saturday – August 15, 2020  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm (PST)  
Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center  
Ambassador C Room

**Present**

Darren Eliot  
Wendy Goldstein  
Jon Gustafson via phone  
Dru Hammond  
Thomas Hancock  
Chris Hays  
Kris Knauss  
Steve Laing  
Kathy McGarrigle  
Lisa McPheters  
Joy Pendowski via phone  
Darryl Thompson  
Wayne Sawchuk via phone

**Not Present**

Dan Ellison  
Flint DOUNGCHAK  
John Silberstein  
John Eric Simmons  
Rick Trupp  
Matt Zucker

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**Minutes**

**Call to Order** – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**Roll Call & Introductions** – Kris Knauss stated that Joy Pendowski, Oregon’s Girls Hockey Development Chair would be serving by proxy on behalf of Oregon President Lester Sparks. Thomas Hancock introduced Bridget Hopkinson, visiting from California, for the meeting.

**Persons To Be Heard** – No persons to be heard.

**Approval of Agenda** – Kris Knauss requested approval of the meeting agenda. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. No objections motioned passed.

**Approval of February 8, 2020 Minutes** – Steve Laing motioned to approve; Dru Hammond seconded the motion. No objections motioned passed.

**Reports**

**Chairman Report - Kris Knauss** – Believes it is important to have a meeting in person as we haven’t since February 2020. Zoom meetings are good but need to speak eye to eye at times. I was place on the Governance Committee for USA Hockey. Spoke on the Jim Smith investigations. One investigation is complete. USA Hockey Board meeting called for next week. We are very determined to have a national tournament this year. Athlete Directors on USA Hockey board are increasing from 20% to 33%. Candidates would be individuals who have played in the Olympics, World Jr. Tournament, etc. international play in last 10 years. Believe this is a good think for USA Hockey as a whole. Could involve quite a few changes throughout the entire USA Hockey organization.

**Bobby Freeland Grants** – Lester Sparks emailed everyone pertaining to Bobby Freeland Grants. No discussion ensued.

**Registrar’s Report – Wendy Goldstein** – No rosters submitted to date. Have received a couple tournament applications. Wendy asked for each affiliate president to approve normal hockey business in their affiliates. Darryl

Thompson yes; Thomas Hancock yes; Dru Hammond yes; Darren Eliot no because of NV Governor ruling – no officials. Need to ask Lester Sparks (OR). All Board Members need to register with USA Hockey and complete SafeSport.

### **Financial Report - Chris Hays**

Revenue Loss Discussion ensued. With member registrations down, this will be a direct hit to our District budget.

District Budget Presentation & Approval. Board agreed to reduce the Disabled Section Budget and remove both Player Safety and SafeSport amounts from the budget.

Steve Laing motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded. No objections motion passed.

### **Affiliate Presidents' Reports**

**PNAHA – Dru Hammond** – The east side of Washington State is spiking with COVID. A lot of teams are traveling because Idaho opened up early. Now Idaho has spiked. Canada's closure, really affecting Washington teams, as they won't be able to cross the border to play. Tier 1 teams have joined leagues in East to play games. We may lose a couple associations. Our new NHL team is moving forward, and has their mascot, the Krakens.

**NAHA – Darren Eliot** – NHL pulled Vegas being a host city for the revised NHL season. Youth hockey has been hit or miss. Referee situation really slowed us down. We are complying with the Governor's restriction on contact sports. City National has had 2 inspections. NAHA is working on a rewrite of our guidebook and bylaws. We met in July and our meeting was very colorful, and all about 8U travel. We are getting there slow and steady.

Henderson facility coming online at the end of December. A lot of opportunities for programs and hockey. Working to get people to try to focus on how many touches of the puck you get, as opposed to how many games, goals, etc.

**ASHA – Darryl Thompson** – With the advent of Covid, Gomez Pond hockey tournament was able to move forward and the beginning of our 16/18 House tournaments. We then had to cancel the following weekend, and city went on lockdown the following Monday. ASHA's annual meeting in April was held via Zoom, and I was reelected for two years. I want to say thank you to Lisa for the past year of cleaning up and establishing the Tier 1 program, you will be missed. We were able to have tryouts in July and are fielding 14, 15, 16 & 18 Tier 1 programs, that will be traveling in October to Fargo Force tournament. Our 14 Tier 1 team will not be playing high school hockey. Alaska's high school hockey and Tier 1 teams have a variety of rules they have to work around. Our Tier I and Tier II Scheduling meeting may or may not happen. City hasn't allocated any ice to the programs yet. Tier II tryouts moved forward as "camps". No spectators allowed. Players have to get out of skates immediately following tryouts and get out of rink, which made parents happy. August 29<sup>th</sup> ASHA board meeting will most likely be an all Zoom meeting. In Fairbanks, neither the Big Dipper nor UAF are responding on ice availability. ASHA has a new goal tending coordinator – PD Melgoza – and he is doing a great job. Going to move forward and do everything possible to have a season.

**OSHA – Joy Pendowski** – Our affiliate approved a new association, Pacific Edge Hockey Academy, which will operate out of our Sherwood rink. At our July meeting we adopted numerous updates to our guidebook. The process was a very collaborative one amongst all our associations, and the end result made play within Oregon more cohesive. As to return to play and Covid, we are working towards our facilities being open, but then there will be spikes in certain areas that close facilities back down. Our tryouts have been pushed to later dates. We hope to have in state play this season, not sure on traveling across state lines. Travel to Canada is out for the time being. Certainly, lots of questions by many as to how we are going to be able to operate. USA Hockey registrations have started, but really don't have a picture for statewide numbers. We have also pushed our scheduling meeting to September. Lester Sparks was re-elected as president and will serve for 2 more years. No one ran for Secretary, so the executive board is looking for someone to name to that position.

**CAHA – Thomas Hancock** – Tryouts pushed twice first to mid-August now October 4<sup>th</sup>. First will be Tier I, then Tier II a couple days later, then the balance of youth and high school. Our board just voted to allow Tier 1 teams to roster teams under set guidelines without a tryout process. Allows programs to protect their players. Rosters will be approved for out of state play to an area that was permitting full blown youth competitions. A, B, BB rosters won't be approved for travel. From our February 2020 board meeting we agreed to 10% to District of Block Grant money, but my concern is that with Covid, will the Affiliates be able to do provide this money? Treasurer should send the bill to each Affiliate, and the Affiliate pay only when it has the money.

## **USA Hockey Reports**

**Girls Player Development – Kathy McGarrigle** – written report provided

**Girls Multi-District Camp – Kathy McGarrigle** - written report provided, great job presenting Thomas Hancock motioned to approve changing the camp to a Pacific District camp only, in Henderson, with revised dates; Dru Hammond seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. With no objections motion passed.

Steve Laing is to follow up with Jeff from Rocky Mountain District to elicit closure of prior Girls Multi-District Camps.

**Legal Council – Steve Laing & Darryl Thompson** - Screening sub-committees. As to waivers for Covid, national office won't get involved. They are pushing that responsibility on each Affiliates. Potential for background checks to become a national system. Steve assigned to several investigative committees, due to conflicts of interests. Darryl Thompson reported that the new VP of Legal is John Tobin.

**SafeSport Report – Steve Laing** Please make sure all affiliates have everything up to date with regard to billeting, alcohol consumption. SafeSport is becoming a big challenge, lots of liability. Not sure where we are at with D&O insurance with the National office. Covid flier on the Pacific District website. Clicking on your state seal brings you to the specific guidelines for your state. National office really likes it and may be doing something similar. Jaime Campbell was a big help with it, especially on the technical side.

**High School Section – Steve Laing** – High School is set for next April and really hoping to see that happen. To be held in Omaha, NE. Steve writing 7 legislative proposals for high school. Was able to get these in front of the Youth Council and they approved them to move forward.

**District Goaltending Development Camp – Lester Sparks** – information in email. Jon Gustafson said that he would like to host the 2021 camp, as they were supposed to have the 2020 camp.

**Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss** - 2021 Boys Player Development Camp – will be at City National May 6-9, 2021 for 15s, 16s and 17s. Red Rock is working with us as well, so other than RMR \$2000 cost for refunds for 2020, we are in good shape. Probably the most disappointing part of there not being a 2020 camp is the Select 17s/2003's missed out on this opportunity. Really tough. Even the NTDP did not hold a 40 man camp this year and ended up relying on the team being picked via scouts. Really hoping that we will be able to have a 2021 camp.

Western Regional High Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk – Discussions are occurring about moving the camp to DU. Colorado College has been very accommodating. But DU is a 2 sheet facility. Believe a decision will need to be made in November.

Kris Knauss advised that Kathy McGarrigle's term as the District Girls/Womens Representative ended in June 2020. She declared she was interested in continuing in this role. No other names were put forth for the position, so congratulations to Kathy for another 3 years as our Girls/Womens Representative. I want to thank you for a complete overhaul of our Girls camps. I've been there on the Youth side, and it is a lot of work.

**2020 District Championships – Steve Laing** – We conducted a poll of the district championships. For the Girl's tournament, the poll results scored 98 out of 100 for staffing, hospitality was 50-80%. Officiating was an issue. Kathy McGarrigle opened discussion to have not just female officials but have the best officials. Certainly, would like to see as many female officials as possible, but they need to have the qualifications and capabilities. For the Youth tournament, the coaches meeting rated at 80%; Hotels at 60%; Staffing rated at 90%; Officials averaged 50%. Extremely low and something that we need to work on. Have shared this information with Dan Ellison. He agreed and said significant changes will be made. Kris Knauss concurred that the officiating was poor. Quality of the rink rated very low at 46%.

## **2021 Tournament Dates**

Youth Tier I District Tournament will be February 25-28, 2021

Girls Tier I & II District Tournaments will be February 18-21, 2021

2021 Tournament Hosts. Three organizations, all in California put in to host Youth Tier I. Jr. Ducks, San Jose and Riverside. Riverside was disqualified as they did not follow proper procedures. Darryl Thompson recommended the Jr. Ducks as host in 2021, with San Jose being the supersite for 2022. Dru Hammond seconded this motion. Jon Gustafson recused himself. With no objections motion passed.

Girls Tier I and Tier II – Applicants are Lady Ducks Anaheim Ice; North Stars Anchorage, Hockey Club Fairbanks, the District’s newest model club organization. Dru Hammond motioned to approve Hockey Club Fairbanks; motion was seconded by Wayne Sawchuk. With no objections motion passed.

Steve Laing will work with Jon Gustafson to secure dates for the 2022 District Championships in San Jose as a supersite. Minimum of 4 sheets, potential 5 sheets of ice.

Coaching attendance at Districts will be a topic of discussion for our November board meeting. Steve Laing needs to gather some information for this discussion.

Also, for November meeting, discussion on Girls declaration dates.

### **New Business**

October District Meeting

Darryl Thompson motioned to remove the October District Board Meeting in Washington and replace it with a November Zoom meeting. Darren Eliot seconded the motion. With no objections motion passed.

### **Executive Session**

Darryl Thompson motioned for the Board to adjourn to an Executive Session; Steve Laing seconded. With no objections motion passed. Non-voting members departed.