



**2021 USA Hockey  
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday – June 12, 2021  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm (PST)  
Washington Athletic Club  
Meisnest Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Present (in person)**

John Beaulieu  
Wendy Goldstein  
Thomas Hancock  
Chris Hays  
Robbie Kaufman  
Kris Knauss  
Lisa McPheters  
Kara Minchin  
Darryl Thompson  
Wayne Sawchuk

**Present (via Zoom)**

Matt Zucker  
Dan Ellison  
Darren Eliot  
Steve Laing

**Not Present**

Darin Campbell  
Flint DOUNGCHAK  
Kathy McGarrigle  
John Silberstein  
Rick Trupp

**Guest**

Donna Kaufman

---

**Minutes**

- A. **Call to Order – Kris Knauss** at 10:00 am PST.
- Roll Call & Introductions
  - Approval of Agenda. Darryl Thompson moved to approve the agenda; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. No objections, motion passed.
- B. **Persons To Be Heard** – Donna Kaufman. Thank you for including me in your meeting.
- C. **Approval of February 13, 2021 Minutes** – Thomas Hancock motioned to approve the February 13, 2021 minutes; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. No objections, motion passed.
- D. **Reports**
- A. **Chairman Report - Kris Knauss**  
Nice to see everyone and that things seem to be getting back to normal.

Significant rule changes coming from USAH Annual Congress. Based on period length, exempting HS, reduced the 10-minute misconduct down to 8 minutes; reduced penalty length varies. Will try to have a summary available soon. Tromboli was elected as USAH President with 60% of the votes. First order of business is an outside audit on the staff to determine efficiency of the staff operation and board interaction with the staff. Believe he will be a bit more cautious than what we have experienced. Directional change to take place, a new era to take place. Ron Degregorio stepped down as Chairman of the Board. TC Lewis elected as VP of Marketing. Heferon elected as executive on the executive board. Winter meeting will be in person. Dates are January 12-16. Annual Congress dates are set for June 8-11, 2022. I want to personally thank Nevada, Darren Elliott and his team for an excellent job on Player Development Camps. Thank you, Lisa McPheters, for everything she did to bring the camp together, including selling apparel. Hats off to Steve Laing for all you've done for this District. Steve was elected

today for the Chairman of the High School Section, which caused him to vacate his Director position within the Pacific District. Jon Gustafson also has stepped aside as a Director, really appreciate all he's done for the District. John Beaulieu has taken Jon Gustafson's position. The voting committee recommends that all Districts going from 4 to 3 Directors, by June 2022. If anyone has specific questions on this, Donna is on the governance committee and may be able to address them.

Darryl Thompson asked if USA Hockey will be sending out detailed rule changes. Kris said he will be following up on this, as the request was made during the annual meeting. Dan Ellison is also going to see if we can get this information in writing.

**B. Financial Report – Chris Hays** (written report provided.)

Darryl Thompson motioned that Affiliates will not be invoiced for the \$50 player development fee; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. No objections, motion passed.

Based on the District Tournament financials, Thomas Hancock motioned that a Prorate Refund should be made to all affiliates of roughly 90% of the District Tournament profit. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and the motion passed with no objections.

District meeting expenses are significantly less than prior years, which offsets that player assessment fees are 52% of the prior year.

**C. Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein** (written report provided)

Registration numbers are low compared to prior years. Great job Nevada, the only Affiliate with an increase in player numbers.

**D. Bobby Freeland Report** - Kara Minchin.

All funds for 2021 have been distributed. Applications for 2022 season will be available July 1, 2021.

**E. Affiliate Presidents' Reports**

**Darryl Thompson – Alaska.** Tough year last season. Our numbers were down overall, and Anchorage was very restrictive with play; Fairbanks as well. Valley picked up the brunt of the state tournaments, thank you. ASHA formed its covid policy in alignment with the current government. Starting to get back to normalcy. Looking forward to next year. We have a new vice president of Competition we are really excited about. ASHA will continue to host Tier 1 teams at all 4 levels. Adult numbers down but hoping to get them back to the rinks. Teamed up with a program in Anchorage that does after school skating with Title 1 school age children. Dedicating funds to help these kids get into a learn to skate program. And will be working on the acquisition of gear for these kids.

**Thomas Hancock - California.** California held state tournaments in Las Vegas due to the restrictions in California. Sending out bids for CAHA Tier 2 weekends and we are including Las Vegas in those bids. Tom said that they are having tryouts for the coming season. Believe California will be opening without restrictions by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Our hockey community and world is experiencing a tragic and devastating loss of Jamie Huntley. I would like to have a moment of silence for her. Following this moment of silence, Dan Ellison said he spent the morning with Jamie's Dad. Several high level officials came this morning and helped with tryouts for her organization. Met Jamie early on in 2006 and convinced her to become an official. She started in 2010 and grew enormously in her role. She was on the way to being chosen to referee at the Olympics. Just a wonderful person. Police Detectives for San Diego said they were hit by someone driving the wrong way, and no chance to avoid the crash. Truly heartwarming to see all the support for her and her family. She was an integral part of female official camp we started a while ago, and we are going to rename the camp in her honor.

**Kara Minchin - Oregon.** Oregon hockey was grossly restricted and effected by covid. Hoping to be at no masks by the end of June. Oregon getting things done by county. Tier II tryouts last weekend. Will be having a 16U Tier II Girls team. Our Vice President did not run for reelection.

**Robby Kaufman - Washington.** Having our annual meeting next week. Will be electing a new President. Still working to figure out Tier 1 hockey in our state. June 30<sup>th</sup> is Washington's reopening. Having tryouts already. Trying to get PNAHA back to a better place and hope to improve the girls' side of hockey in

Washington. Ready for the NHL to come in. Jody Carpenter is our ADM manager and Rob Azevedo is the Vice President on the east side of the state.

**Darren Eliot - Nevada.** Thanks for the compliments regarding the District Player Development Camps. Adult hockey continues to grow. Our 8U hockey is up 34% over the past year and is our focus. We are pushing forward through covid. We have 11 Jr. Golden Knights teams, and the Storm is talking about continuing. Knights are going Tier 1, Storm will not be Tier 1. Guidebook is approved. It was a long process to get to this point and glad to have it complete. Thanks for everyone's support this year.

**F. District Championships – Steve Laing**

We received \$42,000 from traveling teams, our hotel vendor. This amount brings the District Tournament surplus up to \$60K. Steve suggests giving the extra monies back to the affiliates. (Moted and approved under Financial Report section above.)

- a. 2021 Poll Results. Nothing but positivity from parents and coaches. Glad to have hockey back. Fantastic tournament.
- b. Steve stated that the District Tournament Hosts for 2022 will get the host spots per the board. Darryl Thompson motions for the 2021 original host sites to be named the hosts for the 2022 District Tournaments (Girls/Fairbanks & Youth/Irvine) and February 24-27, 2022 for both tournaments; Robby Kaufman seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Wayne Sawchuk stated that the proposed weekend just one week after President's Day. Kris Knauss called for a vote. With no objections the motion passed.

**G. USA Hockey Reports**

- a. **Girls Section & Girls Player Development – Kathy McGarrigle.** (written report provided). In Kathy's absence, Steve Laing said that going back to a district camp was great and Kathy did a really good job. He really thanks the Board for making the decision to go back to a District Camp from a Multi-District camp.
- b. **Youth Council – Kris Knauss.** Some restructuring will be taking place. TC Lewis' move to VP of Marketing opens a Rocky Mountain District director's seat and the national tournament coordinator. Not sure if Brianna Decker will continue in her role. Seems that everything went pretty well with National Tournaments. Rausch and McLoughlin's exit has left a lot of things undone that need to get addressed. Rausch was Alaska's ADM person, and no one reached out to Alaska either prior to or after his departure. Lots of talk about adding positions on the female side. NTDP did hold their 40-man camp last month and put a team together. The Pacific District was well represented, with 4 players at the 40-man camp.
- c. **Legal Council – Darryl Thompson.** Working on subcommittees that are dealing with long term planning, in alignment with the Annual Guide, Bylaws and the Affiliate Support. Think there will be a download of ideas soon. Discussion about lawsuits we are involved in, looking for coverage. Discussion about a merger of councils and not sure how that will play out. I appreciate the diversity of the legal council, brings a lot of different perspectives. Also, discussion about creation of an arbitration panel to handle the arbitrations. We have been meeting every couple of months which has been helpful.
- d. **SafeSport Report – Steve Laing.** Going to be significant changes because of liability and the responsibilities placed on coordinators. Federal law. Providing more comprehensive forms on suspensions. Once all is finalized in writing, he will get it out to the board. Coordinators are walking away from the job because of these changes.
- e. **High School Section – Steve Laing.** Championships will be held in Dallas, Texas. We will have a prep division in 2022. Committee to review applications and place in appropriate divisions. Expecting some girls' teams to be applying as well. Alaska will be sending a girls' team.
- f. **Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss**
  1. **District Goaltending Development Camp.** Our GDC's fall under the CIC, but this seems to be lacking on the player development side. Not really happy with what was sent to the Pacific District Development Camp from the GDC's. Would like to see better.
  2. **Western Regional High-Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk.** Wayne said the GDC's need more structure. Wayne doing a site visit with Bruce Urban in Dallas. Camp will be July 19-24, 2021 in Dallas. Hope to be able to be back in the district next year for this camp.

3. **2021 Boys Player Development Camp – Kris Knauss.** The Boys’ Player Development Camp was held May 6-9, 2021 at City National Arena, across the street from the Red Rock Hotel & Spa. City National arena’s staff, in particular Andrew Stewart, were exceptional. Really appreciate the attention to detail and overall level of support of the camp. Thank you to Lisa McPheters for all she does to make sure the camp is a success. Great turn out of collegiate coaches to aid in evaluations.
- g. **Referee In Chief Report – Dan Ellison.** Have communicated with all the Affiliate CIC’s. Trying to get officials who did not register this past season back in the loop. Hoping to be able to have classes as early as late June. Still communicating with Josh Ellis in Alaska to keep him in the loop. Recruiting going on for officials to get their numbers up. Working on a 2-day seminar in Nevada to help grow the officials. If you have Tier 1 weekends, please let me know and we will try to develop a curriculum to help train our younger officials to help improve the officiating quality. Hosting the Women’s camp in September, in the Portland area.
- h. **Disabled Section – Matt Zucker.** Amy Lapoe is the new chairperson for the Disabled Section. Very down to earth. View this as a positive step forward. Movement to make the Disabled Section more acceptable, perhaps change to Adaptive Section. Very politically charged conversation. Matt has heard a negative reaction to the use of the word “disabled” during his work within the District and believes updating the name is appropriate as he agrees with the assessment that the use of the term “disabled” could be considered offensive. Just contacted by some people in Palm Springs who would like to start a disabled program, working to assist with that. With my new job, I thought I would not have the time to be able to continue in this position, however, I believe that I can. Darryl Thompson motioned for a new 3-year term for Matt Zucker as the Disabled Section representative for the District; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. With no objections, motion passed. New term ends June 2024.

#### H. **District Handbook Changes and/or Revisions**

Thomas Hancock motions to approve Official HB Change 1 (attached); Darryl Thompson seconds the motion. Kris Knauss objects for discussion. Dan Ellison said he wants to clean up the language and try to clarify information for the coaches and for the hosts.

Thomas Hancock amends original motion to approve with the locker room portion of the handbook change removed; Darryl Thompson seconds this as amended. With no further discussion on the amendment, motion passes unanimously as amended.

Darryl Thompson wants to discuss the requirement of a 4-man system. Thomas Hancock states he is good with 4-man system for 16s and 18s. Dan’s proposal has a 4-man at 15’s as well and he stated that he is trying to use the same officiating structure that is in place for National Tournaments. Motion passes with no objections.

#### I. **New Business**

- A. October 16, 2021 - District Meeting in San Jose
- B. February 5, 2022 - District Meeting in Las Vegas  
Wayne Sawchuk motioned to set these dates; Robby Kaufman seconded the motion. With no objections, motion passed.
- C. Disabled Section Representative Term Expires 2021 – Matt Zucker reappointed to June 2024 (above in Disabled Section Report.)

#### J. **Final Comments & Adjournment**

Tom Hancock – thanks everyone for being there.

Darren Eliot – Appreciate everyone’s time. Not sure about the 4-man system. Concerned about availability of officials.

Wayne Sawchuk – Feedback on national tournaments - better format with live scoring. Interested in seeing how the committee on number of teams for national tournaments is going.

Darryl Thompson – Alaska’s been really blessed with the GDC program.

Dan Ellison – Thank you guys for everything.

Thomas Hancock motioned to adjourn; Darryl Thompson seconded. Meeting adjourned.