



**2022 USA Hockey  
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday – October 15, 2022  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm (PST)  
Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina  
Shorebreak Room

**Present**

Rob Azevedo  
Dan Ellison  
Ben Frank  
Wendy Goldstein  
Thomas Hancock  
Kris Knauss  
Kathy McGarrigle  
Lisa McPheters  
Wayne Sawchuk  
Lester Sparks  
Rick Trupp  
Darryl Thompson  
Rosemary Voulelikas  
Matthew Zucker

**Absent**

Flint Doungchak  
Darren Eliot  
Chris Hayes  
John Beaulieu  
John Silberstein  
Josh Ellis  
**Guests**  
Donna Kaufman  
Ken Martel  
Kathleen Smith

**Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order** – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll Call commenced.
- II. **Persons To Be Heard** – 5-minute limit. No persons to be heard.
- III. **Approval of Agenda** – Lester Sparks motioned to approve the agenda. Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes, June 11, 2022 Board Meeting** – Thomas Hancock motioned to approve the June 11, 2022 board meeting minutes. Rob Azevedo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Reports**

**A. Chairman Report**

- A. - Kris Knauss. Talked about compliance with new changes to National structure. Issues being raised is referees showing up for the 10U half ice compliance. Need to bring the referees into the reality. 2024 National Championship sites. Pacific District will play a role. To be announced in November. 13U Natl Championship to happen in 2025. Discussing moving the national tournaments to begin a day earlier so teams are done on Sunday. First player development committee meeting this next Monday. National Camp, looking to change 17s to a tournament format. Still addressing full ice waiver from Michigan.
- B. **Financial Report** - Chris Hays. Written Report received.
- C. **Bobby Freeland Grants** – Lester Sparks & Thomas Hancock – Lester sent out via email the 4 applications. Lester recommends approving all 4. Rogue Valley Hockey Association request. Lester Sparks motioned to approve; Thomas Hancock seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously. Bend Rapid Youth Hockey Association. Lester Sparks motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded. No discussion. Passed unanimously. Spokane Americans Youth Hockey Association. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve; Rob Azevedo seconded. Motion passed but need to find out the specific intended use of the grant. Klamath Ice Sports. Lester Sparks motioned to approve; Thomas Hancock seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued on are we the board doing a good job getting the availability of the grant out to all affiliate associations. We can likely do better.

- D. **Registrar's Report** – Wendy Goldstein. Written Report Attached. 539,000 registered participants. Up 1.5%. Affiliate numbers may surprise you. New district registrar in New York and Massachusetts. Wendy has rule books for anyone who needs them. SafeSport is now a date to date, i.e. register in February, expires the next February. Flex rosters are being considered to use for 8U, 6U. Lots of discussion around tournament sanctioning. Out of district players coming together and being an all-star team, then playing high school, then released. Discussion to be continued at mid-winter meetings. Kris and Wayne's director terms are up in June. If anyone is running need those by December 31.
- E. **District RIC Report** – Dan Ellison. Written Report Attached. As of October 3, 2022, there are 1,964 individuals registered for the 2022-2023 season. 90 officiating seminars have been held for the season and 11 are currently scheduled. Additionally, USA Hockey hosted an Advanced Officiating Symposium in San Diego in July with more than 300 officials from across the nation in attendance. USA Hockey recently hired a Youth Officiating Coordinator, Billy Hancock. His roles and duties are still being defined.
- F. **Alaska RIC Report** – Josh Ellis – written report attached.
- G. **District CIC Report** – Flint Dounghak. No report submitted.
- H. **Alaska CIC Report** – Rick Trupp. Written report attached. Alaska plans to hold 4 virtual clinics and 10 in person clinics to fulfill their coaching numbers in level 1-3 for this season. USA Hockey is rolling out the new rules and requirements for coaches. Lots of changes being implemented. Kristen Wright, Alaska's ADM Manager, will be visiting Alaska in the fall, working with the various programs.
- I. **Disabled Section** – Matt Zucker. Working on rebuilding Disabled. JJ is out. Smith is out. November 17-20 NHL disabled event. Matt will be responsible for the officials. Bringing in 6 officials from out of state. Have several groups reaching out in need of sleds. No longer any national funding. Looking to bring a plan to next meeting with regard to purchasing the sleds. Promote the Bobby Freeland Grant to all the sled programs and look at the possibility of using some of the Bobby Freeland Grant money for sled purchases.
- J. **Risk Management** – John Silberstein. No report received.
- K. **Affiliate Presidents' Reports**  
**Alaska - Darryl Thompson.** Working with Challenge Alaska. Did a super draft, Warrior only. Airfare made it a challenge for folks to attend. Alaska's warrior program through Challenge Alaska. Going to do some combined events with the Wolverines (NAHL) program in Alaska. Tier 1 hockey program is happening. But likely shut down for high school hockey. Had our House scheduling meeting last weekend. Dealing with city and homelessness issues, trying to keep ice facilities from getting taken over as shelters. Large disruption at first tournament we had. We as administrators spend 95% of our time on 5%. We cannot let that define us.  
**California – Thomas Hancock.** Same struggles in California as other areas of the District. Parent issues seem to prevail. Couple clubs filed legal demand letters to be Tier 1. We told them we were not backing down from our standards and to review Bylaw 10. Agreed to play by the rules. High school applications are submitted, timely. First in the country.  
**Oregon – Lester Sparks.** Issues with registrations and number. Challenges with the Winterhawk program. Girls side lost some to a Seattle area team. Issues with the Homelessness challenges. Majority of issues are at the adult level.  
**Nevada – Darren Eliot.** Written Report submitted and attached.  
**Washington – Rob Azevedo.** Development camp to be January 22, 2023 in Wenatchee. Separated out the 13 & 14 will be in Tacoma March 25 & 26. The Kraken has asked us to pursue allowing them to oversee the Tier 1 program for 2023/24. Helps unify our programs. Should help grow our Tier II. Have a non-USA Hockey program out of Vancouver. We are looking at limiting player movement between our sanctioned players and this "rebel" program. HPL Vancouver.
- L. **USA Hockey Reports**  
a. **Girls Player Development** – Kathy McGarrigle. Nevada Washington really exploding this year. Alaska bringing in a state championship at every level. The rivalry series incoming to Seattle as well as Las Vegas. USA Hockey is hosting our women's leadership summit, USA Hockey pushing for an affiliate representative to attend. Official GW council for USA Hockey. Industry Girls Fun will help your girls program. Affiliate reps. Had good feedback from our Girls Player

Development Camp. VGK purchased a ticket for every girl in their program for the rivalry gift. Two girls from CA selected for the womens roster. NCAA showcase 4 collegiate teams in Vegas as well.

Wayne Sawchuk questioned about the players – were the players of quality all the way through? Kathy McGarrigle responded that the Coaches thought the quality was good.

Thomas Hancock inquired if an affiliate wants to send more than 1 to the girls summit is that possible? Kathy McGarrigle; said to contact Kristen Wright directly.

Wayne Sawchuk introduced Kathleen Smith, Director from the Rocky Mountain District. She is interested in doing a multi-district camp for the 14-age group of girls, much like the Boys 14 Multi-District Camp. To include Rocky Mountain, Northern Plains, Pacific District, 4-to-5-day camp. Strictly about development. What players opportunities are. Training, Nutrition, playing with female players from other states. 128 to 136 players total. Kathy McGarrigle said she met with the affiliate representatives, and they really want to keep the 14s with our current group. Could we get to 70 girls for a high-performance camp for the 14s? June or July time frame. Wayne recommends a conference call with the affiliate representatives, Kathy McGarrigle, Wayne Sawchuk, Kathleen Smith to see about moving forward.

b. **Youth Council** – Kris Knauss

As discussed, the Pacific District will play a role in the 2024 National Championship sites. Sites to be announced in November. 13U National Championship to happen in 2025. A lot of discussions on a lot of topics for youth hockey right now.

c. **Legal Council** – Darryl Thompson. Task force on player movement and recruiting. A draft has circulated on reenforcing the coaching code of ethics, a player card where player and parents sign to not switch teams mid-season.

d. **SafeSport Report** – John Beaulieu. No report provided.

e. **High School Section** – Rosemary Voulelikas next meeting is Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and then Dec 6. Steve Laing retired. New chair elected on August 9<sup>th</sup> – John Rice. Darryl Thompson thanked her for sending out reminders on the high school tournaments.

f. Youth Player Development – Kris Knauss

1. **2023 Boys Player Development Camp** (May 2023) – Kris Knauss

Affiliate Player Allocations. Going to be same as 2022. 40-man camp at 17s was better. More positive feedback from college scouts. More discussion on national blackout dates to ensure that the high-end players have no excuse for not coming to District Camps.

2. **Western Regional High-Performance Camp** – Wayne Sawchuk

Proposed budget for this year. Room and Board was a lot higher. Dates June 12-17. Ken Martel commented that the WRHPC is a model camp. Pacific District camp is outstanding as well. Really sets the bar high for the other districts around the country.

3. **2022 District Goaltending Development Camp** – Lester Sparks & Darin Campbell.

Registrations were lower. Facility was great. On ice, off ice components. Wayne joined us. Financially in the hole.

Discussion ensued on selection of affiliate GDCs. Affiliates make those selections not the District GDC.

II. District Tournament – Teams & Allocations – Wayne Sawchuk

**Youth Tier 1 18U** – 1 Alaska, 2 + Host California, 1 Nevada, 1 Washington. 6 teams

Thomas Hancock motioned to approve this format; Darryl Thompson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Tier 1 16U** – 1 Alaska, 2 + Host California, 1 Nevada, 1 Washington. 6 teams. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve this format; Ben Frank seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Tier 1 15O** – 2 + Host California, 1 Nevada. 4 teams. Lester Sparks motioned to approve this format; Ben Frank seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Tier 1 14U** – 1 Alaska, 2 + Host California, 2 Washington. 6 teams. Ben Frank motioned to approve this format; Thomas Hancock seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Girls 14U Tier 1** – 2 + Host California, plus 1 Washington. 4 teams. Lester Sparks motioned to approve this format; Rob Azevedo seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Girls 16U Tier 1** – 1 Alaska, 1 plus Host California, 1 Washington. 4 teams. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve this format; Rob Azevedo seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Girls 19U Tier 1** – 1 Alaska, 1 California. 2 teams. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve this format; Lester Sparks seconded. Open for discussion. Thomas Hancock stated that while 3 teams is awkward, he feels that eliminating 1 California team is a disservice to that team. Wayne Sawchuk said it could be set up so each team plays each day, no byes. Thomas Hancock objected to the original motion, and it was defeated via vote. Thomas Hancock motioned that the tournament be set up as a 3-team tournament, with random draws and Wayne Sawchuk's proposed scheduling. Motion was seconded by Ben Frank. Motion passed with two objections, Wayne Sawchuk and Kris Knauss.

**Girls 14U Tier II** – 3 Alaska, 1 + Host California, 1 Washington. 6 Teams. Lester Sparks motioned to approve this format; Ben Frank seconded; motion passed with one objection, Darryl Thompson

**Girls 16U Tier II** – 3 Alaska, 1 Washington. 4 Teams. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve this format; Rob Azevedo seconds, motion passes with no objections.

**Girls 19U Tier II** – 2 Alaska, 1 + Host California, 1 Oregon, 1 Washington. 6 teams. Lester Sparks motioned to approve this format; Ben Frank seconded. Motion passes with one objection, Darryl Thompson, and one abstention, Thomas Hancock.

Wayne Sawchuk stated that the coaches meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm AST.

2024 District Tournament Application will be worked on and distributed to Affiliate Presidents by early January 2023.

#### **VI. New Business**

- A. USA Hockey Update – Ken Martel
- B. Girls Symposium – Seattle – Kraken facility, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Would like a strong presence from the Pacific District.
- C. USA Hockey Hall of Fame Letter. Don't have a lot of say, but do a lot of the administration. But feel that Scott Gomez should be part of this. Would like our board to push a resolution through to have Scott be nominated. Thomas Hancock motioned for Scott Gomez to be nominated; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion; motion passed.
- D. Dan Ellison – Officiating Camp. Will accommodate at the 17 level. Not 15 & 16.
- E. February 4, 2023 Board Meeting – Las Vegas – Park MGM Grand

#### **VII. Adjournment – Dinner at Coasterra @ 6:00 pm (880 Harbor Island Drive)**

Lester Sparks – nothing

Matthew Zucker – nothing

Dan Ellison – have been a few Safesport issues. Been resolved. Have a couple officiating suspensions

Donna Kaufman – appreciate everyone for supporting our family in the last year

Rob Azevedo - nothing

Kathy McGarrigle - nothing

Ben Frank - nothing

Ken Martel – thanks for having me.

Rick Trupp - nothing

Darryl Thompson – IT seems to be a problem. Hope it gets addressed. Improve relationship between officials and coaches. How we deal with spectators is important. Communication is a huge part about how to improve relations.

Rosemary Voulelikas – nothing

Thomas Hancock – nothing

Wendy Goldstein – Concerns about coaching waivers, as last year USA Hockey seemed to grant any and everything, to go to the national tournament committee. Should be vetted by the Affiliate. Affiliate should see formal documentation back. Needs to be transparency.

Wayne Sawchuk – was invited to Northern Plains District Meeting.

Lisa McPheters - nothing

Wayne Sawchuk motioned to adjourn; Rob Azevedo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.