



**2024 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Saturday ~ February 3, 2024

9:00 am P.S.T.

Kraken Community Iceplex

10601 5th Avenue NE

Seattle, WA 98125

Anchor Room

Minutes

Present

Jody Carpenter
Josh Ellis
Dan Ellison
Ben Frank
Wendy Goldstein
Thomas Hancock
Chris Hays
Rick Hutchison
Kris Knauss
Lisa McPheters
Wayne Sawchuk
Lester Sparks
Darryl Thompson
Rick Trupp

Absent

Darin Campbell
Flint DOUNGCHAK
Darren Eliot
Alex Morrison
John Silberstein
Matthew Zucker
Rosemary Voulelikas

Guests

Debbie Diezerkis
Donna Kaufman

- I. Call to Order – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 9:04 am PST. No persons to be heard. Agenda was approved.
- II. October 22, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes motion to approve by Darryl Thompson; seconded by Ben Frank. No discussion. Motion passes.
December 9, 2023 Zoom Board Meeting Minutes motion to approve by Thomas Hancock; seconded by Lester Sparks. No discussion. Darryl Thompson abstains. Motion passes.
- III. District Reports
 - A. Chairman Report - Kris Knauss – A lot happening. Big discussions at Mid-winter meeting. Neck laceration protection passed for next year. Adults are exempt if playing in an adult classification. Officials also must wear. Darryl Thompson said that Doc Stewart came to the townhall meeting and did a good job pushing this. Mike Trimboli is up for re-election in June. VP youth council is open, also to be voted on in June. Tier 1 – where does it go? Affiliate presidents worked very hard. Passed the one season, one team rule. No movement allowed mid-season. Goes into effect August 1, 2024. Removed early signing dates verbiage. Ongoing discussion going on. USA Hockey hired a full-time female scout. Looking to add another team at Girls. Had a really good international year for Boys. Looking to add a second team for the 17U, give an early look at what the Hlinka team would look like. Staff made decision to eliminate the sled team, without full board knowledge. Savings of \$130,000 to \$150,000. Not positively received overall. Very good select 17 camp at nationals. Will be adding a 3rd coach to the roster. Working on the IT portion of USA Hockey.
 - B. Financial Report - Chris Hays – written report provided and reviewed.
 - C. Disabled Section – Matt Zucker not present, no report.
 - D. Risk Manager Report – John Silberstein not present, no report.
 - E. CIC Report – Flint DOUNGCHAK and Rick Trupp. Both provided written reports. See attached.
 - F. RIC Report – Dan Ellison and Josh Ellis. Josh Ellis said Alaska has 30 more officials than last year. Recruiting has paid off. ASHA has been a big supporter of referees. Discipline has been relatively quiet.

Hosting 18U and 16U for youth. Dan said that both he and Josh have been working on ensuring the Pacific District Championships are covered with the best officials available. Coordinating this with both San Jose and the Kraken Community Iceplex. Josh will be overseeing officials in Seattle, and he will be in San Jose.

- G. Registrar's Report – Wendy Goldstein. John Beaulieu resigned. Alex Morrison was appointed by Mike Tromboli, and will be fulfilling next term that ends in 2027. Appointed by acclimation. Registration numbers are up. Hawaii is up 1300+ percent. District is up 106%. Injuries are an online form now. Not K&K. In the midst of credentials right now for playoffs.
- H. Membership Report – Rick Hutchinson. Thanks for including me on the island. Trying to do a grass roots approach. Looking at what NHL has been doing. Try Hockey for free model is great but it's one and done. Needs to be multiple weeks. What's the next step. What works in Boston, doesn't necessarily work in California. Working to develop and implement a plan.
- I. Bobby Freeland Grants – Lester Sparks or Tom Hancock 11 applications this year. Eliminated 3 of them, leaves us 4 remaining applications. \$2,500 Ken Sled and Seattle Womens. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve; Darryl Thompson seconded. No discussion, motion approved.
- J. Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss. Got good interest from college coaches. Best Practices for affiliates and districts. Looking to streamline. Joe Jones, Kristen Taggart, are going to work to put together. Working with Steve Thompson, and the IHF, Sweden to implement medium size nets for cross ice and half ice games. Jorgenson addressed the committee. Expecting Center for SafeSport to show up at a district PDC or affiliate. Just a heads up. If you are notified this is going to happen, reach out to Jorgenson to make sure you are good. They want the college coaches to have SafeSport screening. Thomas Hancock said you can get waivers for that.
- K. Girls Section – Alex Morrison. Not present, written report provided.
- L. High School Section – Rosemary Voulelikas. Not present, written report provided.
- M. Affiliate Presidents' Reports

Thomas Hancock reported on behalf of the Affiliate Presidents. 10% = \$17,558. Voted to split that between program expense requests between girls/womens hockey and goaltending. Andy Anderson Award to Bridget Hopkinson; Dempsey Anderson Award to Brian Gross; Pete Anderson Award to Toby Wolf.

Alaska/Darryl Thompson – ASHA absorbed the Girls Tier 1 for Team Alaska. Girls have shown some good success so far. ASAA (High School Hockey Governing Board) did away with the dual participation rule and its significantly affected the 15 and 16 teams. On task force for Tier 1. Worked extremely hard to put in rule to prevent mid-season tampering. And now there is also enforcement to support the rule.

Oregon/Lester Sparks – Season progressed well. Development Camp went well. Are seeing some improvement from years past. Anyone can come, no restrictions. More competitive kids. One association has gone rogue and is doing their own thing. Didn't have any of their players come to development camp. Having our first state championships at 14s and 16s. Pretty cool.

Washington/Jody Carpenter – experienced my first meeting this year. Interesting, and learning what my role is. Had some great dinners. Had our development camp. Kaitlyn is a hell of a talent. Put on a great camp, very well received. Rob Kaufman was fantastic. Ken Martel did presentations for all the players. Navare did a mental presentation for the kids and Flint ran the evaluators for the camp. Greg Larsen from Aberdeen was there and Koffs USHL. Two goals. Selecting kids to go to the District Camp AND kids have a great experience and feel that they have a solid experience in the camp. Debbie was at the camp operating in an administrative role. Thank you. Tier 1 stuff going on. Prior to JC, Kraken and Wenatchee do Tier 1. Now we have a third group wanting to enter the game. Kent Valley. HCL Elite from 8U up. Really? Looking for guidance. February 22-25 hosting 13O, 14U, 15O District Championships here. Forgot to nominate a 19U Tier 1(?) girls team at last meeting. CAHA helped us out, thank you, and we are good to go.

California/Thomas Hancock – Tier 1 is a challenge. Spend so much time on it. CAHA has changed the process of what clubs can be Tier 1 and those that cannot. 2025/26 season will be down to 3 Tier 1 programs, Ducks, Kings, Sharks, North can no longer take players from the South. "Mason Dixon Line". And when San Diego comes online, they are in agreement on this. We are requiring they sign in writing

that they will abide by our rules or their entire organization will be Not in Good Standing. We are hopeful that CAHA kids will stay home.

Nevada/Darren Eliot – not present, written report provided.

IV. USA Hockey Reports

- A. Youth Council – Kris Knauss – Bill Daly Deputy Commissioner USHL in support of his western partners. Looking at a couple regional teams out west. NAHL has somewhat diluted itself by too many teams. USHL wants to expand but keep integrity. Couple national tournaments in Las Vegas this year. Anaheim received high school nationals for 2025. Only 1 national tournament west of Mississippi for 2025. Made a stink, so setting us up for 2026. Joint meeting with the Girls Council. Found it to be productive.
- B. Adult Council – Tom Hancock – Rick H. filled in for Tom. Neck Guard was the big topic. Suggested that when Adult players register for USA Hockey they receive message about appropriate behavior. Perhaps IT can make that happen.
- C. Legal Council –Darryl Thompson – In order to be compliant, there needs to be term limits. 10 years with start of 2024 season. People on legal council who are not members of congress.
- D. SafeSport Report – Darryl Thompson – nothing to report.
- E. Player Development Committee – Kris Knauss – covered above.
- F. 2024 Pacific District Tournaments – Wayne Sawchuk
Thank you for paying for dinner for the Youth Olympic Team. San Jose was a great host. Winning the Gold Medal as amazing for these kids. Joe Bonnet worked really hard on this. Became a press advisor.
- Schedule – Youth Tier I Tournament – Approval Needed
 - Schedule – Girls Tier I & Tier II Tournament – Approval Needed
- Teams will be seeded. Wayne Sawchuk Motion to accept Youth Tier 1 tournament schedule; Thomas Hancock seconded under tournament directors' guidance in ranking teams. Motion passes unanimously. Teams will be seeded. Ben Frank Motion to accept Girls Tier I and Tier II tournament schedule; Jody Carpenter seconded under tournament directors' guidance in ranking teams. Motion passes unanimously.
2025 dates and locations.
Wayne Sawchuk recommends Las Vegas for Girls Tier 1 and Tier II, to be held February 20-23, 2025. Confirmed 4 sheets of ice all day long. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve; Lester Sparks seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
Wayne Sawchuk recommends All Youth Tier 1 at Anaheim Great Park February 26-March 2, 2025. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve; Jody Carpenter seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

V. New Business

- A. Election of Chairperson. Wayne Sawchuk nominates Kris Knauss; Darryl Thompson seconds. Passes unanimously.
- B. 2024 District Championship Host Arena – 18U & 16U Youth Tier 1 – Anchorage, Alaska. Running track will not be accessible for utilization at all. Making Host enforce this.
- C. 4th Annual Game On Leadership Summit – Alex Morrison attendance/expense coverage (\$2800)
Darryl Thompson motions to approve attendance and expense; Thomas Hancock seconds. Need to have district representation. Pay for one person. Motion passes unanimously.
- D. 2024 & 2025 Pacific District Board of Director Meeting Dates
February 2, 2025 in Los Angeles
October 12, 2024 in Las Vegas
Thomas Hancock motions to approve the board meeting dates/locations reflected above; Darryl Thompson seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
June 5-8, 2024 Annual Meeting – Denver, CO
November 7-9, 2024 Fall BOD Meeting – Nashville, TN.
Jan 15-19, 2025, Mid-winter meeting in Nashville at the Renaissance

VI. Jody Carpenter motioned to adjourn; Darryl Thompson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.