



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

Saturday – June 8, 2024
11:00 am – 2:00 pm (MST)
Denver Marriott Tech Center
Meeting Room – Bluebell

Present

Jody Carpenter
Darren Eliot
Dan Ellison
Wendy Goldstein
Thomas Hancock
Kris Knauss
Lisa McPheters
Alex Morrison
Andy Potter
Wayne Sawchuk
John Silberstein
Darryl Thompson
Rosemary Voulelikas
Matthew Zucker

Absent

Flint Doungchak
Josh Ellis
Rick Trupp
Chris Hays

Guests

Gordon Hancock
Jason Villacourt
Charlie Feurtsch
BJ Ringrose
Jeremy McCann
Teresa Attebury
Anna Culley

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
- II. **Roll Call & Introductions** – Kris Knauss
- III. **Persons To Be Heard** – 5 minute limit. No persons to be heard.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** – Kris Knauss requested approval of the agenda. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve the agenda. Alex Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Approval of February 3, 2024 Minutes** – Kris Knauss asked for approval of the February 3, 2024 minutes. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve the minutes. Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Reports**
 - A. **Chairman Report** – Kris Knauss
It's been a long week for a lot of folks. Significant financial review for the Pacific District. Needed to update our P&L with Chris Hays. Minutes updated on website. Asked Andy Potter to Chair the Finance committee. Chris Hays has a new role for the State of California, a leadership role, which will absorb a significant amount of his time. We will keep his firm to do accounting. Lisa will be taking on a bookkeeping role. Utilization of District Credit Card better in place. No significant audit issues. Want to thank everyone for their season this year. We need to try to get more volunteers involved at all levels. We won't be here forever. Need new people. Welcome Andy Potter as the new Oregon State President. Andy will also be taking on the role of Player Safety person for the District.
 - B. **Financial Report** – Chris Hays.
 - C. **Registrar Report** – Wendy Goldstein – written report provided.
Nancy Hodge has resigned. Will be a local disabled registrar and will continue as a CEP administrator. Jodi Sabatano is our new registrar for Oregon and Nevada. I will be covering So-Cal with Justin Slaten. 25% growth in 9 years. Lots of discussion of Tier 1 proposal. Suppose to stop the taxi squads, but it won't. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine students will have a new visa. Disabled section concerned that players aren't getting claimed. Trying to get that fixed. 2026 nationals, Tier 1 will have 24 teams. At least what registrars were told. Renewed focus on high school hockey. Remedied in Youth Council per Kris Knauss.
 - D. **Bobby Freeland Report** - Thomas Hancock.
Opens July 1. Application needs to go on website. Website needs to be updated. Tom to send to Lisa. Conflict of Interest form needs to be put on the website.

- E. Risk Manager Report – John Silberstein.
 Changed administrator for player accident coverage. AG Specialty Insurance. No longer K&K. All reporting is done electronically now. Link on USAH website. Streamlines the process. Since Jan 1, 1200 claims, only 13 outstanding. Likely to see an increase in the expense. Sex coverage is very limited. We do have Crime coverage. We currently have 5 catastrophic claims. Only 2 in the US. None in the Pacific District.
- F. RIC Reports – Dan Ellison.
 Welcome BJ Ringrose. Liaison for our district to the national office. We held 2 officiating camps already. Girls with the Girls Select Camp and then also with the NAPHL. Holding High School Nationals in Irvine next year, so we were able to work on training with numerous referees from that area. 60% of Game Misconduct penalties happen in last 5 minutes of game. Looking to change the punishment to 2 games served as opposed to one. Wayne said that he appreciates both Dan and Josh with the staffing of the officials for District Tournaments.
- G. CIC Reports – Flint Doughtchak / Rick Trupp. Both Absent. Written Reports Distributed.
- H. Disabled Report – Matthew Zucker
Key Dates for Disabled Hockey.
 Warrior Classic Oct 10-13 Tampa FL
 Sled Classic Nov 7-10 Dallas TX
 Blind/Special Classic Nov15-17 Blaine MN
 Warrior Nationals April 24-27 Fort Lauderdale FL
 Sled Nationals May 1-4 Fort Lauderdale FL
 US will host worlds (date TBD, likely in NY)
Key Points for Disabled Hockey
 Membership survey, ~10% response rate (industry standard). Split on Disabled vs Adaptive, drill down is veterans say Disabled, pretty much everyone else says adaptive. Prime value provided is “vacation”. Closing naming topic, keeping section name, focusing on segmenting the “disciplines”. Board participation – there are folks on our board that Maureen hasn’t seen in 2 Years. Maureen was re-elected to a 3-year term (her first full term). Redoing rules and guidebooks to align more closely to traditional hockey, goal is to get rules into next rulebook and update language. Reviewing/revising waiver rules that no longer make sense in a mature organization.
- I. Affiliate Presidents’ Reports
Darren Eliot – NAHA. June 15 NAHA board of directors’ election. Working on bylaws and language for our affiliate book. Won Nationals. Kudos to the coach, he came back to coach after 16 years away. Hosting Pacific District Girls February 2025. Hosted 16U and 18U Tier 1 Nationals this year. Was great. Took over management of old Fiesta rinks.
Andy Potter – OSHA. Seated a new board on April 20th. Reestablished all our working committees. Will send updated list to Lisa. Want to reestablish our brand with all our local associations. Explain our role and establish the trust. Working committee meets biweekly.
Darryl Thompson – ASHA. Elections in April. Elected for 2 more years. Held a seeding tournament. Get parity within our league. Get rule book changes in July 2024. We had a girls coach at national have an unqualified person on the bench. She was suspended for 9 months. Coach appealed. Thomas Hancock is going to oversee the appeal. HCF 19U Tier II girls won Nationals. Koni and Luther. Super proud of the story and the accomplishment. We host 16 & 18 Tier I Youth Districts. One of the team Alaska Player’s mom passed during the tournament. The player comes to the game and gets the game winning goal. Such an amazing feat. San Jose team got on their knees and said a prayer for the family.
Jody Carpenter – PNAHA. Youth Tier 1 13, 14 & 15 hosted by Kraken. Staff learning curve. Not a lot of spectator area. Non-hockey Canada trickling down into Seattle area. Deb D. was outstanding. Tier 1 for 2024/25, we will have 3 programs, Kraken, Wenatchee, and STAR Academy.
Thomas Hancock – CAHA. Tier 1 adopted new format. Will have 3. 4th with San Diego. Norcal players can’t go to Socal to play and vice versa. Overwhelmingly voted in by our board. Decided it was best for California as an affiliate. Believe we will see a legal challenge on this. Been working with our attorney on this. Kris Knauss recommended they send their Tier 1 policy to youth council for review and approval. Implemented mandatory anti-bullying last year. Fairly successful. Thank you to

Teresa Attebury for her help. Looking at Player Development. California is eliminating their Norcal and Socal camps and having one selection camp.

- J. District Championships – Wayne Sawchuk
 - a. 2024 Results & Poll – one of the issues is hotels and hotel quality. Can we vet the hotels to be used. One price for using hotels; another price for no hotels. Championship games in Anchorage extremely well attended.
- K. USA Hockey Reports
 - a. Youth Council – Kris Knauss. PDC constructive meetings. BIO (Biology) Banding? Rolling out as a pilot in Michigan this next week. Really good briefing from Dr. Rick Murray and the intermediate net size. Lots of hip injuries in younger players. College Hockey Inc gave a good presentation on how the game has changed. How strong the USHL has gotten. NTDP said this is the most skilled players they've ever seen. ADM seems to be showing results. Continue to grow the game, develop the players. Subcommittee – Joe Jones chairing. Wayne Sawchuk on committee. More alignment with Player Development camps. Have been working with the national staff over the last 3 or so months to better define volunteer roles. National tournament alignment between youth and girls. Good national tournament season. PWHL seat on the international council. US participating in last 6 of 8 gold medal games. David Carle coaching the World Jr. Team again. Discussion in the fee structure committee. Looking to adjust it along with inflation.
 - b. Girls Council – Alex Morrison. Written Report provided. 19U makes sense as colleges are asking girls to take a gap year. Checking in girls' hockey – female athletes on board much more in favor of it than anyone else in the room.
 - c. Adult Council – Tom Hancock. Adult numbers are on the increase. 6,000 from last season. USAH pond hockey event in Wisconsin had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. Teams were allowed to roll their registration to next year, so the event will be pretty much full when it opens up for registration.
 - d. Legal Council & Safesport Issues – Darryl Thompson. Affiliate presidents presented to legal council on safesport. Suggesting that affiliates hire someone to manage these issues for them. A lot going on with Legal Council and congress. Rules and procedures. Other thing is a billet player cannot be in same room with a billet parent by himself. USA Hockey is a hard no on this.
 - e. High School Section – Rosemary Voulelikas – written report provided.
 - f. Player Development – Kris Knauss
 - 1. District Goaltending Development Camp & Budget – Wayne Sawchuk. \$550. Invited every youth and girls goalie that attended their affiliate camp.
 - 2. Western Regional High Performance Camp & Budget – Wayne Sawchuk. Starts tomorrow. Looking forward to it. Having our own coaches come in there and do some coaching development as well. Only 7 interns.
 - 3. 2024 Boys Player Development Camp – Kris Knauss – went really well. For most part, 15's looked really good this year. 16's not great. Turned back a D spot. 17's coaching staff, feeling better than last year.
 - 4. 2024 Girls Player Development Camps – Alex Morrison. Written report provided. 178 girls at Camp. 14's will have a multi-district camp at end of June. 2010 birth year. 5 players selected to 18U camp. Really cool.
- L. 2024/25 USA Hockey Pacific District Dates of Interest
 - a. June 10-15, 2024 Western Region High Performance Camp – Colorado Springs, CO
 - b. June 27-30, 2024 Girls 14U Multi-District Development Camp – Henderson, NV
 - c. August 2-4, 2024 Pacific District Goaltending Camp – Seattle, WA
 - d. October 12, 2024 USA Hockey Pacific District Board Meeting – Las Vegas, NV
 - e. November 7-9, 2024 Fall Board Meeting, USA Hockey – Nashville, TN
 - f. January 15-19, 2025 USA Hockey Mid-Winter Meeting – Nashville, TN
 - g. February 1, 2025 USA Hockey Pacific District Board Meeting – Irvine, CA
 - h. February 20-23, 2025 USA Hockey Pacific District Championships (Girls TI & TII) – Las Vegas, NV
 - i. February 26-March 2, 2025 USA Hockey Pacific District Championships (Youth TI) – Anaheim, CA

- j. March 26-30 High School Nationals Irvine.
- k. April TBD, 2025 USA Hockey Pacific District Girls Player Dev Camp – Las Vegas, Nevada
- l. May 15-18, 2025 USA Hockey Pacific District Boys Player Dev Camp – Las Vegas, Nevada
- m. June 4-7, 2025 Pacific District Board Meeting – Denver, CO

VII. District Handbook Changes and/or Revisions

- a. Affiliate Presidents – send personnel/staff updates to Lisa as soon as they are known for handbook updates

VIII. New Business

- a. District Player Safety Coordinator. Thomas Hancock motions for Andy Potter to be the District Player Safety Coordinator for a 3 year term.. Jody Carpenter seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. USA Hockey Financial Audit Recommendations
 - i. Appointment of Finance Committee & Annual Review. Andy Potter to chair, with Rosemary Voulelikas, Wendy Goldstein, and Jody Carpenter. Kris Knauss will send audit to them.
 - ii. Removal of Registrar from 990 – replace with Officer.
 - iii. District Credit Card Policy
 - iv. Block Grants treated as contributions rather than income
 - v. Seasonal Fiscal Year or Calendar Year
 - vi. Establishment of One Drive Software for key financial documents
 - vii. COI & Financial Disclosures Annually for Officers
 - viii. Criminal Insurance Policy
- c. Disabled Section Representative Election – 3-year term to June 2027. Matthew Zucker would like to remain in this position. Wayne Sawchuk motions for Matthew Zucker to be approved for 3 years. Jody Carpenter seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

IX. Final Comments & Adjournment

Wayne Sawchuk – good seeing everyone, thanks for all your work on behalf of the District.
 Charlie Feurtsch – good to be back at a Pacific District meeting.
 Thomas Hancock – Keep marching on
 Andy Potter – Goaltending intermediate nets will be interesting.
 Rosemary Voulelikas – Inquired when her term was up.
 John Silberstein – Likes what he does and likes to be involved.
 Alex Morrison – travel safe and good luck with WRHPC

Wayne Sawchuk motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Thomas Hancock seconded. Meeting adjourned.