



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

Saturday – October 12, 2024

9:00 am (PST)

Park MGM – Madison #10

Present

Jody Carpenter
Flint Doungchak
Darren Eliot
Josh Ellis
Dan Ellison
Wendy Goldstein
Thomas Hancock
Rick Hutchinson
Kris Knauss
Lisa McPheters
Alex Morrison
Andy Potter
Wayne Sawchuk
Darryl Thompson

Absent

Chris Hays
John Silberstein
Rick Trupp
Rosemary Voulelikas
Matthew Zucker

Guests

Ken Martel, Sr. Director
Player/Coach Development
BJ Ringrose, Manager
Youth Officiating Development

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 8:55 am
- II. **Roll Call & Introductions** – Roll call and introductions followed.
- III. **Persons To Be Heard** – no persons to be heard.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** – Kris Knauss asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve; Alex Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Approval of Minutes, June 8, 2024 Board Meeting** – Kris Knauss called for approval of these minutes. Jody Carpenter motioned to approve; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Reports**
 - A. Chairman Report - Kris Knauss
USA Hockey is dealing with some tough budget issues nationally. Some what in part stemming from the world championships, as well as some of the IT changes. Looking at a \$300,000 to 600,000 deficit. Amount is reducing some, with some increased input from the NHL. 4 Nations tournament will be covered by the NHL for insurance purposes. As a member of the fee structure committee, we sent a resolution to the finance committee to move away from a fee increase every couple of years and doing a CPI index for rate increases. Been working on National tournaments, new guidebook and trying to get alignment on Tier 1 policies. Big issues are billeting, movement, residency, super challenging for alignment. Are we going to pick winners and losers or are we going to try to be inclusive? Challenges on the registrar side as not consistent with how they handle all situations. We are in the process of moving some of the financial controls within the District. Lisa McPheters will be doing the bookkeeping, Chris Hays' firm will audit, etc. International standpoint. IIHF. Meeting in Greece. Becoming a larger challenge between the eastern block and the western. There has been a big push to reduce the female presence internationally. Minnesota will be hosting the World Juniors this coming year.

- B. Financial Report - Chris Hays – not present and no report provided.
- C. Bobby Freeland Grants – Thomas Hancock
Only received one application on the deadline date. Can we extend the deadline to the end of October 31, 2024. Darryl Thompson motion to extend the deadline; Jody Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Thomas Hancock to get with Chris Hays and Lisa McPheters to audit last two award cycles to ensure grants have been issued to awarded entities.
- D. Registrar’s Report – Wendy Goldstein – written report provided.
Rick Hutchison’s Director appointment ends June 2025. He needs to notify Wendy Goldstein and Kris Knauss by December 31 if he wishes to seek re-election. Any person wishing to run for the District Representative 3-year term needs to notify Wendy Goldstein and Kris Knauss by December 31. Tier 1 players need to be flagged to prevent them from being rostered on more than one team. Thomas Hancock plans to bring this up at the upcoming Presidents’ meeting.
- E. District RIC Report – Dan Ellison – written report provided
2860 people registered as officials. 2486 registered as of October 8. Registration dates have changed. Putting a push on to get people registered by October 31st to be eligible to referee in this season. Registration will move to April 1 to align with player registration. LA Kings sponsored a weekend for women to learn about hockey. 1 day playing; 1 day officiating. 44 women showed up and 29 registered as referees. Discussed at CAHA meeting. Going to set up with the SJ Sharks to do something similar. Reaching out to the Kraken and VGK as well. Working with Wayne on District Tournaments already. Moving referee clinic from Girls PDC to Girls 14 Multi District Camp.
- F. Alaska RIC Report – Josh Ellis – written report.
305 officials to date this year. Last year 431. Making a push, from national office as well as locally. Conducted some seminars. All are via Zoom this year. Somewhat streamlines the process. Some new young officials are getting some great experience and development. Implementing a mentorship program for our Level 1 officials to learn. Hoping this helps with retention.
Andy Potter asked about the breakdown between youth and adult officials. Dan Ellison said he can get him the breakdown. Trying to get the 18U’s into officiating. They tend to be some of our better officials. A national issue.
- G. District CIC Report – Flint DOUNGCHAK – written report
Please remind your coaches to not wait until December 31st to get their education taken care of. They can take a coaching clinic anywhere, doesn’t have to be in our District. Looking for hosts for clinics. A classroom and 1 hour of ice time.
- H. Alaska CIC Report – Rick Trupp – not present, no report provided.
- I. Disabled Section – Matt Zucker – not present, written report provided.
- J. Risk Management – John Silberstein – not present, no report provided.
- K. Affiliate Presidents’ Reports
Darren Eliot – Nevada – written report provided. Board schedule set. Done a lot of work with our house league programs. Fiesta facility – still an ice shortage. NAHA’s Player Development Camp will be December 21st and 23rd.
Andy Potter – Oregon – written report provided. Numbers down a little bit. Pushing some growth goals this year, working with organizations. Targeting female coaches and players. Piggyback on that we have 19U girls team this year. A mix of age players. Trying to keep it a sustainable team age. Financial audit with national office. Very confusing and complex. Had to fly our treasurer out to the mid-winter meeting. Held our first statewide safesport coordinator meeting. Have already changed some of our financial controls.
Jody Carpenter – Washington. Thank you to Kris Knauss for helping us with our issues with CDA Hockey Club from Idaho affiliate. Youth council meeting to set Tier 1 in our state.

Voted on 3 Tier 1 programs. Need to form committee to put rules together to have Tier 1 and enforce it. Player Development camp is moving to end of March. Will be held in Tacoma. Welcome to attend our meetings. Moving them around to be inclusive of all our associations.

Darryl Thompson – Alaska. Player Development camps coming up in December, both Boys and Girls. 13s will be in April. Two waiver requests. USA Hockey reviewed and approved. Not everyone happy about it, but that is the process. New Eagle River program, board initially denied, program appealed. We set up independent committee to review, and they overturned the board's decision. Vote was 38-2 to accept independent decision. Seeding for 10 and 12s and we are working on it. Think it has been real positive. Board fully supports the referee mentorship program. Remind everyone that the Scotty Gomez Foundation has an outdoor tournament in Feb/March every year, and it'd be great to have teams from the district come and participate. Bylaw changes are back on the agenda and to be reviewed Dec. 7. Hall of Fame event again this year. Extremely great event for us. Junior program is back at the Sullivan Arena. On a task force from Presidents' committee on Tier 1 programs, communication needs to be better.

Thomas Hancock – California. Wayne Sawchuk attended our last meeting. Inquiring if we can move February meeting from 1st to 7th. USA Hockey to send communication to every registered player in USA Hockey on our Tier 1 requirements. Still working on the revisions to our guidebook. Districts set up for San Jose, San Diego, and let the marketplace decide for LA and Ducks. Moved select camp weekend to April 11-13. Minimum of 4 teams per division. Invite only. Changes the impact of the out of district players and selection process. Players out of state can come back and participate at camp. Feel it is very much a win win.

L. USA Hockey Reports

- a. Bio-Banding Data USA Hockey Presentation – Ken Martel. Interesting and well received.
- b. Girls Council – Alex Morrison
Going over rule change proposals. IIHF girls and women hockey weekend right now. Our District has 11 events taking place. Double a lot of the other Districts. We are doing a great job with our events. Girls Council is trying not to do things differently from Youth Council.
- c. Youth Council – Kris Knauss
Tier 1 discussions. Really strong push from USA Hockey to do their own ranking system. Challenges with My Hockey Rankings – heavily commercialized. At Large selections for National Tournament – Richard Hanson does a great job for USA Hockey. Job posting for player development manager, along with membership growth in South America. \$50,000 from USAH, matched with \$50,000 from IIHF. I questioned on how that works within USA Hockey in some of our affiliates. Ideally a Spanish speaking individual. New National Championship handbook out and see increased discussion from youth council as National tournaments grow closer.
- d. Legal Council – Darryl Thompson
Have a meeting coming up in Colorado. A bylaw change needs to happen. Affiliate leadership needs addressing. Subcommittees and oversight.
- e. SafeSport Report – Darryl Thompson – nothing to report.
- f. High School Section – Rosemary Voulelikas – written report provided. Declarations due by November 15th.
- g. Adult Council – Thomas Hancock. 7% increase from last year. Trying to get adults more involved with the Adult National event. Kris Knauss brought up the question of what the reaction is going to be from adults for the CPI increase.
- h. Membership Report – Rick Hutchison – written report provided.

Been on the council for the last year. Building the bridge between NHL teams and USA Hockey membership. Think there is a pathway forward. Three week try hockey for free program to work on growing the game. Get commitment from the rinks that they are really interested in growing the game. Will do whatever I can within the District to assist on this.

- i. Player Safety Report – Andy Potter – written report.
Have had a couple of meetings. Based on classification of play, not really age. Student coaches need proper gear and full facemasks. Officials came up as well. Concussions – working to modify the return to play form so each affiliate can monitor. Request from national office for Districts to help in the tracking of concussions and return to play.
- j. Player Development – Kris Knauss
A lot going on nationally. Subcommittee to try and align the process. Have had a decrease in waiver requests. A handful have been approved. Mostly full ice 8U games after Martin Luther King weekend.
 - 1. Boys Player Development Camp – Kris Knauss
 - a. 2025 Camp Dates & Location – City National Arena, Red Rock Resort Casino & Spa, May 8-11, 2025.
 - b. Affiliate Player Allocations – information provided to all affiliate presidents and requested that the information remain confidential.
 - 2. Western Regional High-Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk
Coaches from our District – 8 out of 20, 2 of 3 goalie coaches from District. Lost about \$6K on the camp. Took a hit from Northern Plains on our camp. Did not charge the \$50 player fee this year, but will be in 2025. Would be nice to get more representation from CAHA. Interns were down this year. Dates for next year are June 9-14, 2025.
 - 3. Girls Player Development – Alex Morrison
2 players made the USA Select team. Within the District, clubs aren't doing a great job of getting the girls to want to stay and play in the District. Need to do a better job of incentivizing girls to stay here. PCHL league, sanctioned by CAHA seems to help. May 1-4, 2025 for Player Development Camp. Waiting to hear back from a couple of Affiliates and then will send out allocations.
 - a. June 2024 14's Camp Recap. First year for this camp. A bit of a challenge. Trying to delegate responsibilities. Surprise SafeSport audit with 5 USAH staff members. We got through with a perfect score, which was really nice. Wally, manager at Henderson rink was fantastic. 2025's multi district camp dates are not yet set.
 - 4. 2024 Goaltending Development Camp – Darin Campbell. Update provided by Wayne Sawchuk. Appointing Andy Potter the camp director for 2025. Need to do a better job of promoting the camp. Need a better ratio of goalie coaches to goalie. Rethink our shooters for some of the stations. Not all coaches are great shots. Want higher level youth players to shoot on the goalies. Challenge to not have classroom space at the facility.

M. District Tournament – Teams & Allocations – Wayne Sawchuk

Youth – 130 Ducks Host, 2 CAHA, 1 NAHA.

Thomas Hancock motioned for a 4-team tournament; Alex Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth 14U – 1 Alaska, Host +2 from CAHA, 2 PNAHA.

Darryl Thompson motioned for a 6-team tournament; Jody Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth 150 – 1 Alaska, Host +2 CAHA, 1 NAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Thomas Hancock motioned for a 6-team tournament; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth 16U – 1 Alaska, Host +2 CAHA, 1 NAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Thomas Hancock motioned for a 6-team tournament; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Youth 18U – 1 Alaska, Host + 1 CAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Thomas Hancock motioned for a 4-team tournament; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Girls 14U T1 – 1 Alaska, 2 CAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Darryl Thompson motioned for a 4-team tournament; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Girls 14U TII – 3 Alaska, 2 CAHA, Host +1 NAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Darryl Thompson motioned for a 8-team tournament; Andy Potter seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Girls 16U T1 – 1 Alaska, 2 CAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Thomas Hancock motioned for a 4-team tournament; Jody Carpenter seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Girls 16U TII – 3 Alaska, 3 CAHA

Darryl Thompson motioned for a 6-team tournament; Andy Potter seconded the motion. Open to discussion. Alex Morrison asked if it made more sense to go with 2 Alaska and 2 CAHA. Discussion ensued. Existing motion for a 6-team tournament passed unanimously.

Girls 19U T1 – CAHA 3.

Darryl Thompson motions for a 3-team tournament; Thomas Hancock seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Girls 19U TII – 2 AK, 2 CAHA, 1 NAHA, 1 PNAHA.

Jody Carpenter motions for a 6-team tournament; Thomas Hancock seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

VII. Executive Session – no items to discuss.

VIII. New Business

- A. Player Development Policy Changes – need to have evaluators from Tier 1 programs, not Tier II. Additionally, if an affiliate chooses to hold a Player Development Camp after March 15th of the current year, they will be financially liable for their affiliate 's player development allocations regardless of player registrations. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve these changes; Darryl Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Set the February 2025 board meeting to February 7, 2025 – LAX Airport Marriott. 1:00 pm start time.
- C. Updated District Tournament Policy provided by Wayne Sawchuk in Handbook. Jody Carpenter motioned to approve this update; Andy Potter seconded to motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Meeting adjourned.