



**2025 USA Hockey
Pacific District Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday ~ February 7, 2025

1:00 pm PST

Los Angeles Airport Marriott
5855 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
Meeting Room – Pacific Coast 6

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
Rick Trupp
Rosemary Voulelikas
Matthew Zucker

Absent

Chris Hays
John Silberstein

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – Kris Knauss called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
 - Roll Call & Introductions
 - Persons to be Heard – no persons to be heard.
 - Approval of Agenda. Thomas Hancock moved to approve the agenda; Alex Morrison seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.
- II. Approval of October 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Darryl Thompson moved to approve the October 12, 2024 board meeting minutes; Andy Potter seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.
- III. District Reports
 - A. Chairman Report - Kris Knauss
Rule changes passed in January, age specific pieces. Fee increase, significant and tie it annually to the CPI, so it provides guidance as to where the fee should be set. Looking at 50+ lifetime membership fee. USHL stay strong as our Tier 1 partner. Two USHL teams, Youngstown and Muskeogeon, requested permission to move to CHL. Their request was denied. Considerable uptick in transfers back to CHL. Mainly from Prep Schools. NAHL motioned to increase imports to 8 players. Approved. Increasing 6 NAHL teams in 25-26. Will NAHL remain a good program for Tier II? We also rolled out the National Development League concept. Knauss appointed chairperson. John Coleman, Bob Mancini, Pollock, Hefferen, Jack Flynn and Chris Clark are part of this. Have twice weekly meetings. Put a structure in place to present to full board by April. Beginning Fall 2026. Currently considering 15U and 17U. Vertical integration to happen. Make recommendations back to affiliate presidents. Very much still a work in progress. Very good discussions from a development standpoint. Looking at every angle. 20 to 35 teams. To put a strong program on the ice. Offensive strategy. Martel and his team have done a lot of work looking at

this. Get overall framework in place and start dialing in. Look for an FAQ in several weeks as we progress. USA Hockey operated league.

- B. Financial Report - Chris Hays. Not present. Written report provided. Lisa presented.
- C. Disabled Section – Matt Zucker. October went to blind and special classic. Trying to get the players in our district registered. USAH for assisted hockey do not allow devices for assistance. Learned a lot and hope to be able to work and apply it within the district. Have dates for national events. Disabled section rules will now be in the rule book. Distance Waiver for playing in programs outside 150 miles.
- D. Risk Manager Report – John Silberstein. Not present, no report.
- E. CIC Report – Flint Doughtchak and Rick Trupp. Written reports provided. Want to grow continuing ed at the district level.
- F. RIC Report – Dan Ellison and Josh Ellis, Josh Ellis provided a written report. 36 invites to officiate at nationals. 28 Officials coming in to work district tournaments. Significant changes to rules. 15U and above being able to ice the puck. Most significant. Several others. Take affect August 1, 2025.
- G. Registrar’s Report – Wendy Goldstein
Up 104%, continuous. Rick Hutchinson has put his name in for a District Director and has received the position through acclimation. Congratulations to Rick. Term is until June 2028. Temp cards in Nashville were a nightmare. When we sanction a tournament, promoters are not necessarily following USAH rules. What can we do? Affiliates, please provide Wendy a calendar for the 2025.26 season.
- H. Membership Report – Rick Hutchinson. Written report provided.
Working on learn to play model. Kicking it off. Revamping the try hockey for free platform.
- I. Bobby Freeland Grants –Tom Hancock
Copper River HC, Klamath Falls Ice Hawks. Each \$2500 for grant. Andy Potter motioned to approve these two grants; Rick Hutchinson seconded. Motion passes with no abstentions.
- J. Boys Player Development – Kris Knauss. Camp will be May 8-11, 2025. Two affiliates camps are done. Bob Mancini will be joining us this year. Lots of interest from collegiate and junior coaches. Going to have Ken Martel present on a project. Ken Martel talked about BIO Banding, a project with Sweden. \$25,000 grant from the IHF on this. LA Kings have allowed us to work with some of their players on this. Focus on 14 and 15s. Have experimented a little with 12s. USAH and IHF are doing joint partnership. Tim Seratore to work Central South America and New Zealand/Australia. Help them develop their own abilities to promote learn to play.
We have our coaches for the Pacific District 17U team at Nationals. Head Coach will be Scott Gomez, Aaron McPheters will be Assistant Coach, David Min will be the District Youth Assistant Coach and Carlos Gomez will be team leader.
Western Region High Performance Camp – Wayne Sawchuk. Working on putting staff together and team leaders. Transition Flint’s role to Andy Potter. Looking to do same with Bruce to Kenny McGinley. Intern application sent out to board and will be posted on the website. Northern Plains will be financially responsible if they don’t fill all their allocations.
Pacific District Goaltending Camp – Andy Potter. 2011 for goaltending camp. Will be in Seattle once again. Working with Darin Campbell again. Early August.
Girls Player Development – Alex Morrison. 172 players for the development camp at City National Arena. Alaska already done. 10 D3 head coaches, 2 D3 asst. coaches. Would like it to be 1 week earlier to avoid the dark period. Nationals in 2026 will be a week earlier. Girls WRHPC 59 spots out of 126. Look to send out invitations out in early March. Officiating component to be at this camp instead of Girls District Camp. Alleviates the pressure to both players and officials. Big shout out to both Darren Elliot and Andrew Stewart for their help on this.
- K. Girls Section – Alex Morrison – more registered girls than ever before within the Pacific District. More female coaches than in year’s past. Players moving back to their District and wanting to coach. Seems the female associations in District are struggling. Need to work on retention of players within the District.
- L. High School Section – Rosemary Voulelikas. 3A – 8 team division, CA 2 teams. 2A – 6 team division, CA 1 team. 1A – 6 team division, 1 NV and 1 WA. In girls 12 teams – AK 2 teams and CA 1 team. Once all teams are identified, Head Coach has to sign off on them and send it to Wendy, and keep a copy in their team credential book. Girls HS Hockey Nationals in California. Too bad we don’t have more teams involved. Requested to be on committee to determine Post Graduate role.

M. Affiliate Presidents' Reports

Darren Elliot – Nevada. Girls District Championship, Girls and Boys Player Development Camps coming up. 18U Nationals? Synthetic ice, demo 2 weeks ago. Testing it through summer. New facility keeps changing. HS hockey for the summer in the valley. Bauer and power program again. Kate Glover from Harvard has joined our group.

Darryl Thompson – Alaska. Girls and Boys Affiliate camps in December. Well received and run. Lost Sully to homeless shelter. The O'Malley group is now managing it. Dividers for the Sully to have a lot of small ice games. Exciting to see. Alaska is grateful that Fairbanks has a spot in the girls tournaments.

Jody Carpenter – Washington. Three Tier 1 teams. Committee to develop criteria. 7 items. Rob Kaufman promoted to senior player development person. Hell of a volunteer. Marty Rubin will be Player Development person moving forward. Discussed at Mid-Winter Meeting. Affiliate player development camps will be March 21-23, 2025 for 15, 16, 17, & March 29-30 for 14 & 13.

Andy Potter – Oregon. Written Report provided. Would like to receive contacts for affiliates discipline chairs. To reach out and bounce ideas off. Player safety coordinators. Do affiliates have someone to collect information.

Thomas Hancock – California. Development camp is 2nd week of April. Out of District players need to be present. If CAHA players advance over out of district it shows there's no need to leave California to play hockey. Tier 1 States will be held in San Jose. March 23 is Tier II states. Geographical distance of California so moving to districted hockey. Have a waiver process in place to play out of district. New ADM coordinator. Have regrouped on the 10U half ice concept. Testing the waters to see if there's interest. Sept. 2023 Tier 1 Contraction, and we now have attorneys contacting Thomas Hancock with potential legal challenges to the contraction.

IV. USA Hockey Reports

A. Youth Council – Kris Knauss. Joint with girls council. Mesh everything and work with each other. National Tournaments selected. Continue work on the national handbook. Joe Baudo oversees that at this point.

B. Adult Council – Tom Hancock. Pond Nationals going on in Eagle River, WI. Mens April 3-6, Womens one week later in Florida. March 21-23, Vegas, April 23-27 – Anchorage.

C. Legal Council –Darryl Thompson. A lot going on with regard to Colorado. Legal counsel is working on and eventually it will be public. Effected person can be present at hearing for match penalty. USAH requires it. Really should be up to affiliates best judgement. Discipline regarding a referee or coach, RIC or CIC needs to be part of the hearing. Make it advisable, not a requirement.

D. SafeSport Report – Darryl Thompson. Not much. New handbook came out. Billet families new to book.

E. Player Development Committee – Kris Knauss taking a more prominent role over national tournaments.

F. 2024 Pacific District Tournaments – Wayne Sawchuk

- Schedule – Youth Tier I Tournament – Schedule reviewed. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve; Andy Potter seconded. Motion approved with no abstentions.

V. Schedule – Girls Tier I & Tier II Tournament – Schedule reviewed. Thomas Hancock motioned to approve; Jody Carpenter seconded. Motion approved with no abstentions.

VI. New Business

A. Election of Chairperson. Wayne Sawchuk motioned for Kris Knauss to continue as chairperson; Alex Morrison seconded the motion. Motion passed with no abstentions.

B. 2026 Pacific District Championships Dates & Locations

Wayne Sawchuk motioned for the 2026 Girls Tier I and Tier II District Tournament to be held in Anchorage, Alaska hosted by Team Alaska, Feb 19-22, 2026; Thomas Hancock seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Wayne Sawchuk motioned for the 2026 Youth Tier 1 (All levels) in San Jose, CA hosted by the San Jose Jr. Sharks, February 26-March 1, 2026; Thomas Hancock seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Wayne wants to work on the hotel portion of district tournaments. Host needs to better understand what the responsibilities are.

C. 2025 & 2026 Pacific District Board of Director Meeting Dates. Darryl Thompson motioned to approve the following dates; Thomas Hancock seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions.

October 18, 2025 – Las Vegas

February 6, 2026 – LAX Marriott

June 2026 - Denver

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 4:04 pm.