

**MAHA Board Meeting for:
Saturday, July 11, 2009
Butte Ice Arena**

General Membership:

Call meeting to order.

Attendee signup sheet circulated. Thanks to Dexter retiring treasurer. Picture purchased as gift for 14 years of service. Number of votes for Billings based on # of teams represented 14 for Billings.

Director at Large Nominations:

Motion made to close nominations, seconded.

Player Development Director at Large:

- Larry Urban was only nominee for director at Large/Player development. Since Larry was running unopposed no vote taken. Will fill in the remainder of Randy's term (2 years)

Referee Director at Large:

- Nominated:
 - Doug Strong - Billings
 - Trader McLeod - Missoula.
- Ballets collected.
 - Traver McLeod elected for a 3 year term.
- Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded and approved 10:27.

MAHA Regular Meeting:

- Regular Meeting called to order at 10:28 am
 - It was established that we have a quorum. All but 3 associations represented, all 3 directors at large present.

Approval of agenda with addition of one item:

- Motioned seconded and approved for agenda.

Approval of last meeting minutes:

- JV program item that says there is no JV schedule approved for MAHA, there is a schedule so it needs to be struck from minutes. Motion made seconded and carried so this item needs to be struck from the minutes. Motion made moved and carried to approve amended minutes.

Introduction of new MAHA President:

- Ray Tillman and handover from Bruce Bekkendahl.

Review of Financials with new Treasurer.

- Cleanup items - need \$ from Steve for girls who went to Presidents cup. 1 V team still needs \$\$.
- Missoula JV team received bond \$\$ back twice. Mark Carter boy's development has not cashed his check. Randy will follow-up. Peewee bond check from Bozeman not cashed from March.
- Keeper of forms (Glynis) need more relevant information on forms, not just names.
- Reimbursement forms in annual guide needs additional information/fields. Bruce will work with treasurer to get forms up to speed.

Treasurer's report reviewed:

- Why is net income negative \$3400? Losses appear to be related to development camps. Exceptional year generally operates at a positive margin. Tim questioned whether or not we need to change anything. No parameters about how much \$ we need to operate, no benchmarks or requirements. Possibly need to develop these in the future. Need to generally make sure projects have positive outcomes budgeted. Player development should be self sustaining. Motion made, seconded and carried to approve treasurer's report.

Travel costs:

- MAHA used to have to pay for local presidents to attend USA Hockey meetings. The last few years, USA Hockey has reimbursed affiliate president's costs are covered. We still budget these costs on MAHA books. Bruce thinks we should use these funds to send the VP to the USA Hockey meetings. Travel costs for board member representative covered by their associations (if each association chooses to pay for it), but officers have been on their own dime. MAHA needs to reimburse these costs (for officers and directors at large). Needs to be considered in budget for future years. Also, individual representatives need to talk to their associations about getting reimbursed, a lot of associations are not reimbursing and these individuals are taking it on their taxes as a charitable deduction. Discussion on mileage rates. Can we use different rates for development camps vs. board travel? Which rates do we use? Want to attract good coaches, but don't want to break programs.

Ray suggested that the development camps produce budgets this year (this has not been done in the past).

Membership fees –

- Current fees are now \$7 per player and \$3 for adults. Needs to be reported to USA Hockey.
- USA Hockey has changed their year. Bruce already told them that for this year the fees are the same. But by early next year (right after the first of the year) we will need to know what these are going to be for next year. As of next year, the New Year will begin May 1. This could affect select teams and special leagues.

Grants –

- Cross ice grants - 2 associations have used. Equipment grants still available (Traver and Amanda will handle) - USA Hockey still has one goal numbers. Discussion of older equipment availability can buy older equipment and submit receipts under grant program.
- Referee grant - one coach from Havre used.

Presidents Report –

- Bruce - USA Hockey playing rules change year. Hundreds of proposed changes, but nothing of significance. 2 things of significance to MT - USA Hockey negotiated deal with NHL, NHL to grant \$\$ to USAH. \$\$ used for development model and \$\$ for grow the game initiatives (hired someone @ national to coordinated growth at state and local level - they can be contacted for support and coordination). Also there is the American development model (ADM). They will be coming out with a lot of material to help develop players (not just elite). Suggest that each association set up an ADM contact person.
- Change in format of national tournaments. Change to one team per state instead of a district team rep. Next year MT will be allowed to send a rep team to the national tournament. There will be 4 levels (AAAA, AAA, AA, A) at the national tournament. MT team will play AA. This is Tier 2 U14, U16, and U18. Have to roster Tier 2 team, play other tier 2 teams in playoff, minimum 20 games; players have to be at least 10 of 20 games. Each individual state can decide how to qualify team. Tournament locations announced. Ray has - also in USA Hockey magazine.
- Bruce is the risk manager for the Northern Plains District. Todd is adult rep at Northern Plains.

Northern Plains update –

- 4 voting members (ea state president). Greg Evenson (ND) is chairman. Newsletter handed out. Next meeting Aug 23, 2009 in Bismarck.

Annual Guide Rule Changes –

Tournament Formats/rules –

- Tim H. reviewing - Revised tournament version handed out. Clearly define responsibilities of directors, outline bidding responsibilities and host responsibilities. Try to bring our rules in line with USAH guidelines.
 - Gives local tournament directors more guidance.
 - Team credential requirements - birth certificate requirements reinstated - getting a certified roster.
 - Credentials meeting announcement required to set date and time. Hospitality rooms.
 - Nailing down tournament schedules.
 - Removing Host bias.
 - Tournament scheduling.
 - Adoption of actual trophies (for pee-wees, bantam and high school) - traveling trophies.
 - Voicing of complaints.
 - EMT on staff - may bring in liability to local association?
 - Tournament rules consolidated (not segregated by squirts, pee-wees, bantams, etc..... Shootouts put in.

A lot of changes, the right people aren't in the room (need tournament directors to review). We should table. Each association should review for feedback. Keep it simple - consult info here. Not interested in adding a lot of additional language. If problems with changes let them know, but not add a lot of additional complications.

League format –

- Clarification of format when less than 8 teams –
- Motion to approve, seconded and approved.

Jamboree Format –

- Peewees - trial year. Pros and Cons. Hybrid format maybe - allow certain outlying rinks to host jamborees but don't mandate it. Motion to discontinue jamboree format from last year, seconded and carried. Maybe allow certain rinks to schedule jamboree type formats at their leisure.

All Divisions –

- Need to figure out how many teams we have registered at each level and how many are tier 2; we can make a better decision on what to do.
- We can make decision at scheduling conference. Give numbers at prescheduling meeting with commissioner. Need to make designation as tier 2 at that time.
- Scheduling meeting - September 26th in Butte at the Butte Community Ice Center.
 - Premeeting will be Friday the 25th at the rink.

Registrar & Registration Report –

- Grow the game sanctioned event - need date and time, coach on ice, kids don't have to registered with USAH, just need to fill out an IMR and waiver. Need to wear Helmet and gloves. This will qualify for program. USAH provides liability. Ask Todd for details.
- Membership development, direct contact with each association (Kevin Ehrlenbach is the rep for our side of the country). Tournaments - no fees for state tournaments. Still need to fill out form

before tournaments (well before). Any information for registrar changes needs to be given to Todd. Almost everything available on line.

Sled Hockey –

- Kalispell is trying to get a team together.

Coaching Education & ACE –

- USA Hockey congress info - you don't need to have a separate ACE director; your ACE director is your local coaching director. Mike Voller is the new ACE coordinator for MT. May need a new coaching director for the state. Age specific coaching education may be required in the future. Opportunities for intern coaches to go to national development camp. Maybe travel budget in MAHA budget, right now have to pay their own way.

Referees –

- We need more referees. Level 4 seminar in Billings October 10 - registration on Northern Plains District Website. npdistrict.com - free league registration software available for registering league with USAH.

Website –

- mthockey.com - Bruce brought up on Glynis's question on whether or not to continue mthockey website along with USAHockey website. Executive decision was made to let this go.

Risk Management –

- New insurance limits if you don't have your own insurance.
- STAR Program - info on USAH website, Bruce recommends that rinks use this program.
- National Screening Program - trying to go national so we won't have to do at state level. Maybe a lot more expensive if they make the states to pay for it.

Player Development –

- State camp - 130 players - 35 fewer than previous years. 1700 worth of Jerseys still available for next year expensed this year. Evaluation process went well. District in Minot - 10 players and 2 goalies in each age group - total of 68 players per group. Coach's choice - MT fairly represented. Camp may be a hockey festival in the future (vendors more speakers).
- Looking for select programmer coordinator to take over for Diana Blom.

Girls –

- Girl's development camp in Glasgow. Positive feedback on coaches. Only 32 girls (likely due to location). Need help running camp. Either take on this position or become an assistant director.

Sled Hockey –

- Clinics in Great Falls 11/6-8 (through Eagle Mount) and Jan 29-30 Kalispell.

League Issues:

- Age Group Commissioners: Dexter needs to talk to current commissioners to see if they want to stay on.
- High school tournament March 24-28 in Illinois. Not tier 2 - this if first year, but were promoting pure high school teams (every kid in same school) Will allow non-pure teams if none available in the state. Cannot roster on 2 teams normally if national bound, but exception for high school, so can play on a high school team and a U18.

- U18 tournament (Tier 2) - Woodbridge III April 7-11. Games can't count for both. Need to have more than 3 teams to have a league (at least 4).

Cross ice jamboree –

- Bid when you bid for state tournaments.

Tournament Dates and Schedules:

- Festival Feb 19, 20 & 21.
- High school - March 5,6,7
- Bantam - March 12,13,14
- Peewee- Feb 26, 27, 28
- Squirts- Feb 19, 20, 21
- Mite Jamboree - Feb 12,13,14
- U16 - Feb 26, 27, 28
- JV - Feb 12, 13, 14
- Motion to have a state JV tournament made, seconded and carried (5 to 3). Pending numbers to see if we have enough teams to see if we have a league.

Presidents Cup –

- Rapid City, March 19, 20 & 21. Great tournament. 1 of the girl's teams didn't go (2nd year in a row).
- Motion that we only commit one girl's team, seconded and carried.

Other business -

- Bozeman behavior at state tournament. Now Bozeman parents are going to be on the lookout for any other parents or behavior issues. Also player and coach suspended at one of the Festival weekends. Tournament discipline committee being formed. It will take the host tournament director off the hook. Behavior modifications need to start with home associations. Everyone needs to clean up act.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and carried. 4pm

Next MAHA Board Meeting:

Location: Butte

Time: TBA (MDT)

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:00pm (MDT)

Seconded

Motion Carried

Meeting minutes taken by: JJ Carmody

gg – 8/19/2009