



April 20, 2011

To: Minnesota Hockey Board Members

Subject: MN Junior Hockey Spring Report

### **USAH Junior Tier IIIA Nationals**

The tournament was hosted by the MNJHL and the Rochester Sports Commission over a 5 day weekend at the beginning of this month. There were 12 teams in the competition, three of which were from the MNJHL. In parallel with that tournament, we held a Best of the Rest Tournament with teams made up from the top players of the teams not making it to the Nationals. More than 100 scouts were in attendance.

### **MNJHL President Steps Down**

Ken Gaber, president of the MNJHL for 12 years, submitted his resignation, due to personal reasons. We are more than pleased to announce he will stay on as a member-at-large, helping us transition new faces into the Junior Council.

I have accepted the position of president until further notice.

### **MNJHL Announces a New Commissioner**

Rich Rakness, MN Hockey District 8 Director, has accepted the position of commissioner. We're excited to have his years of hockey management experience helping us as we re-create our league due to the next subject.

### **MNJHL Loses 3 Teams**

Three of our teams failed to submit their annual 'intent to play' documentation by April 1. Our P&P requires that we terminate their membership. Although they have yet to officially identify their respective specific intentions, we believe they have intentions of joining the NA3HL league following a presentation of that league by the president of the North American league, Mark Frankenfeld. Mr. Frankenfeld was hoping to get the entire league to join his league and if not, those that came with him would leave behind a faltering junior hockey league. The 3 defectors have yet to be approved to attach themselves to the NA3HL by the junior council. We are asking your support to help prevent that.

MNJHL has 3 new teams ready to set up to become new members. I submitted the application of the first new team approved by us, the 'Dells Ducks' from WI Dells, to the junior council today. The application is on their agenda for their next meeting. Two more teams will be submitted over the next 2 weeks.

### **MNJHL Position Paper**

A position paper was prepared and submitted to the junior council, strongly objecting to the NA League putting their footprint in MN. I have attached that paper to this report.

### **Motion**

My intention at the spring meeting is to make a motion to have MN Hockey support our league by sending USAH and the junior council a letter opposing the NA3HL from being in Minnesota. The NA has had several Tier II teams over the years here and have never become a participatory affiliate with MN Hockey. I predict this will not change with their new NA3HL program. MN does not need another junior league.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Hayne  
President

Attachment