

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING
MINUTES**

Saturday and Sunday, January 10-11, 2004
Double Tree Guest Suites, Phoenix, AZ

In attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assoc.</u>	<u>Position</u>
Callaway, Charles	District	Director
TenEyck, Mike	District	Director
Bryant, Kathy	District	Director
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
Grover, Kelly	District	High School Committee & Risk Manager
Bloomer, Al	District	Coach-in-Chief
	District	ACE Coordinator
Lewis, TC	TX	President
VanWagoner, Jill	District	Secretary
Benedetto, Joe	USA Hockey	
Jerome, DonnaLee	AZ	Registrar
Irey, Bryan	CO	President
Cole, John	CO	Vice President
Sullivan, Dennis	CO	Registrar
Lehto, Wayne	ID	President
Lampl, Tom	ID	Registrar & Coach-in- Chief
Bekkedahl, Bruce	MT	President
Nolen, Bob	NM	President
Cardasis, Susan	NM	Registrar
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Lundquist, Jim	WY	President

Absent: Bridgette Bertagnoli, Utah President. Kelly Grover is the official designee for Utah at this meeting.
Bob McMann, District Coach-in-Chief. Represented by Gene Baska.

Bryan Irey, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. at the Double Tree Guest Suites, Phoenix, Arizona. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 7-8, 2003 meeting were reviewed. Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with the correction of Rae Briggie from USA Hockey and not RMD and K Martinez to Karen Martinez. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Director Reports

Mike TenEyck reported that there is a problem with written suspensions not being served. Other districts have told him that they must be dealt with harshly to avoid the problem continuing. His research on Tier I, II policies in other districts show that they make it an affiliate issue rather than a district issue. Many are still struggling with the blue puck at squirt level issue and the new offside rule is not being called consistently.

Charles Callaway attended the youth council meeting and worked with the governance committee to present an updated policy and procedure manual. They had a meeting in Salt Lake City.

Kathy Bryant has focused on Player Development for the girls and long term goals for the legal council.

District Registrar

Bruce Karinen reported team count is better than expected and we will not fall below 2000 teams this year.

Affiliate President Reports

Utah – Kelly Grover, representing Bridgette Bertagnolli, reports that hockey is good in Utah.

New Mexico – Bob Nolen reported that membership continues to grow about 6% per year, without growth in available ice. Three on Three programs are helping growth to full leagues. The High School program has the same problems reported by Montana.

Arizona - Joe Benedetto introduced Warner Lewis as the new President. Receivership has been tough but beneficial. They still have a lot of work to do.

Texas - TC Lewis reports that they are revising their bylaws. Their Block Grant money was used on developing sports esteem programs. They are looking forward to hosting the regional tournament. Recruiting problems are extreme in Texas. They need to resolve the issue of Junior programs taking kids out of the associations. There was much discussion about financial contracts.

Oklahoma – Ann Hetrick reported that membership numbers are down again, but a new association has been formed. Still working on getting men's teams registered. Oklahoma University will be a Division 1 Club Hockey Team next year. Please visit us in Tulsa!

Wyoming – Jim reports “the cows are coming home” - every association is now playing at home. 53 teams now, 9 divisions, 7 associations. Now has parity. There are 10 sheets of ice. There was a construction accident in Pinedale while pouring ice but is now operating.

Montana - Bruce reported that HS program is HUGE. Billings program working on pure teams instead of community teams. Conflict between Tier II and HS teams. Working to resolve. HS stats on web site.

Idaho - Wayne reports new bylaws and affiliate review. Boise City purchased the rink and will be run as community. Preparing to Host regionals. HS program working toward sending representative to HS District tournament. Tom Lample reported on cross-ice programs in ID. Sun Valley cross-ice festivals are well-attended and teaching good skills. It is a great success story that has taken 6 years.

Colorado - Bryan appeal to USA Hockey for HPHL suspension of HS team for fighting. Players permanently suspended and team suspended for 1 year instead of 2. Three new rinks opened this year. Operating procedures for affiliates are being revised. Tier I has 4 Midget-Major teams. Miners and Outlaws say they are ranked in the top 25 of the nation. Tier II teams have suffered because of Tier I program. Girls programs are continually growing. Coaching education is a continuous struggle. Never seems to be enough to avoid temp applications. Cross-Ice is being successful in CO.

Annual Volunteer Award

Mike TenEyck reported that he has had no nominations and would like to push for participation. After much discussion about whether to expand the eligible participants, it was decided the program guidelines would remain the same. New Mexico received an apology for being passed up last year due to the application getting lost in Charles' in-box.

Arizona Debt

Charles reported that there was an error regarding the AZ Peewee District Tournament fees and that the issue has been resolved.

District Governance

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the revised Policy and Procedure Manual as presented by email. TC Lewis seconded the motion. With the following changes, the motion passed unanimously. The committee put in much work, and Charles thanked the committee for taking the time and effort to create this document. The objective was to remove micro-management that was necessary when it was originally produced with general guidelines for the management team. Bruce Bekkedahl made a friendly amendment to the Motion for an additional procedure to be established for special meetings. The motion was seconded by Bob Nolen and passed unanimously. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** for the new section 16 to read “Waivers or exceptions to any of the policies and procedures can be addressed to the District council and approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting members”. The motion was seconded by Bruce Bekkedahl and passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for all changes noted today to be included in the approved Policy and Procedure Manual. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bruce Bekkedahl reported that these items were left out of the mark up copy:

Old Section 5 Item 4 replace Chairman with Director

Old Section 16 Item 2 add sentence as in new section

Old Section 6 WGHL deleted because it is no longer a district responsibility

Old Section 20 deleted because it was not being followed and the annual guide addresses it.

Corrections to the new manual:

Section 2 Item 2 change Coaching Program Director to Coach-in-Chief, add Associate Coach-in-Chief-IP, and Associate Coach-in-Chief-ACE.

Section 3 Item 2 delete or District Director on the first line.

Section 4 Item 2B delete The credentials committee shall verifyfor eligibility. This was removed from the mark up but not carried over to this copy. It was also approved to add verifying associate level coaching credentials for all coaches.

Section 12 Add the following sentence to the end of the section "It shall be the responsibility of the association to notify their Affiliate President of any added players from another affiliate".

Section 13 Item 2 It was felt that a 2nd affiliate president should be on the committee. Second line "and an at-large affiliate president representative to be appointed by the Youth Council representative, unless the Youth Council representative is not a District Director then other members may be added or removed as needed by the committee. Item 4 Much discussion about whether the council or the committee has final approval of the location of the camp. Verbiage will remain the same.

Section 14 Item 3 change the date from March 1st to March 15th.

Tom Lampl expressed concern that Section 1 does not allow team with members from two affiliates to appeal the requirement to be Tier I, crossing affiliate boundaries (cross over state line, ID-WA). According to the annual guide the district registrar can make a ruling.

Mike TenEyck brought up three issues.

1. If the number of district directors drops due to change in team count for the district, he feels years of service should determine remaining tenure. Mike noted that he will resign voluntarily if this happens during his tenure.
2. Only the Pacific district has a district director as Chairman. He feels the Chairman of the Council of Presidents must be an Affiliate President.
3. District Director responsibility is to represent us to the National board. With voting rights, a director is open to lobbying by affiliates. He feels directors would be less biased without voting rights. Seven of 11 Multi-affiliate districts have voting directors.

Major discussion regarding these items.

The following correction to the minutes was requested by Mike TenEyck: *Under the section, Governance, my point number 3 identified two (Rocky Mountain and Pacific) of the six multi-affiliate districts allowed their directors to vote on district matters. My report also identified that the single affiliate districts allowed their directors to vote. My report that I provided identified specifically by name the two multi-affiliate districts that allowed directors to vote and also specifically those that did not. If you believe these statistics are significant for the record, it is appropriate that the numerical number reflect what my study showed and what I provided at the meeting as it was a key point supporting the consideration I gave to the council to ponder for a multi-affiliate district.*

Bryan Irey made a **MOTION** to include Al's comments on verifying associate level coaching certificates at credential meetings, changing Coaching Program Director to Coach-in-Chief and adding Associate Coach-in-Chief – IP and Associate Coach-in-Chief – ACE to the policy manual. The motion was seconded by Tom Lampl and passed unanimously. These are included in the changes noted above.

(Additional changes were made in the Sunday session. Please note them below.)

COACHING EDUCATION

Al Bloomer needs the name and contact information for all Tier I and Tier II teams in the affiliates.

2004 DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

- A. Tier I 4-7 March, 2004, Dallas TX, Mike TenEyck is the Chairman, Dennis Johnson will handle credentials, and Gary Perizo will handle the referees.
- B. Girls/Women 4-7 March, 2004, Salt Lake City, UT Bruce Karinen is the Chairman and will handle credentials, and Matt Brickley will handle referees.
- C. Tier II 10-14 March, 2004, Boise, ID Charles Callaway is the Chairman, Tom Lampl will handle credentials, and Bob McMann will handle referees.
- D. High School 17-21 March, 2004, Arvada, CO Kathy Bryant is the Chairman, Dennis Sullivan will handle credentials, and Dan Hohenstein will handle referees.

E. Declaration of Affiliate Participation in District Tournaments

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to accept the proposed budget for the 2004 camp. Kelly Grover seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles noted that two items were not included: staff clothing \$1100, Girls Showcase \$3300. This reduces the surplus to \$1340. It is going to be held May 5-8 at the Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City. This allows for dry land and ice at the same location. Overflow ice will be at Acord Arena. The affiliate will be required to collect from the player and submit one check to the District.

Al Bloomer reported that he would spend more time in administration of the program now that it is working as planned. NHL and National Women's Team representatives will be in attendance this year. He needs affiliate contact information immediately. He also wants the date and location of affiliate camps. A camp manual was prepared and distributed last year. This is a great source of answers to questions. A straw vote taken on written evaluations, three voted in favor of them. The objective is to identify the best players in the district. Whatever is decided, make sure participants and parents know what to expect in the form of an evaluation, either written or verbal.

1991 birth year girls cannot go to the 14 festival but can go to the district festival. Allocations were distributed by handout.

ELECTIONS

Charles Callaway's term expires this year. Bruce Karinen noted that District Director Nominations need to be to him in February. Ballots will be out by the end of April.

2003-04 GRANT REQUEST

Kelly Grover requested a grant to attend the District High School Tournament. He is the USA Hockey High School Section representative. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the requested grant. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT DEPOSIT

Bruce Karinen made a proposal to increase the non-refundable deposit for the district tournament from \$200 to \$300 dollars for the 2004-5 season. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to accept the proposal. Warner Lewis seconded the motion and it passed with a negative vote from Mike TenEyck.

GIRLS HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP

Kathy Bryant reported that she is more comfortable hosting the camp in Colorado. Both Montana and New Mexico had expressed interest in hosting the camp. Kathy needs to know that changing the location will not compromise the quality. Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** for the committee to make the decision for an equitable solution to the location for this year. Warner Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COACHING EDUCATION REPORT

Al Bloomer gratitude for the help he receives from the associate Coaches-In-Chief. Al wants criteria set for a minimum clinic timeline for coaching education. Tom Lampl feels like this is something that needs to be changed at the national level and change their directive to set a time limit. Al reiterates that this is a decision that national has left to the affiliate. The coaching education handbook that is given to each coach was emailed to each Affiliate President. A curriculum for the HS coach was prepared by Al and approved by USA Hockey as a pilot program to be tried in Utah. The advance clinic lost \$7,000 due to the video taping. He has not been reimbursed yet. The video can now be used.

TC Lewis reported on the ACE Coordinator Program. The district was not getting support from National. National now has a new representative who is holding conference calls to bring the program up to speed. A clinic was taped for use in all districts. TC will distribute the tapes to the affiliates. He will also start conference calls with the affiliate representatives to bring them up to speed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Peggy Thiesen has resigned as web master. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Bob Nolen to be the Rocky Mountain District web master. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Bryan Irely reconvened the meeting Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS PROCEDURE

Bruce Bekkedahl proposed an additional section to the policy manual regarding special meetings. It would be Section 3 and all other sections would be renumbered accordingly. Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** to approve with the amendment that it is a majority of the voting members of the Council instead of affiliate presidents. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to include in Item 3 the item(s) and business to be discussed at the special meeting. Bruce Bekkedahl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SECTION 4 CHANGE

John Cole proposed language to Item 2B to replace form numbers with reference to the current annual guide and include coach as well as player and team. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to incorporate the language proposed by John as Section 4 Item 2B. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bruce Karinen asked that all affiliates take responsibility to inform the associations of the requirement to aid credential checks by registrars.

INDEPENDENT TEAMS

Bryan Irely asked how independent teams (not part of an association) are handled in the affiliates. The feeling is that USA Hockey would require an affiliate to allow a team to register. Legitimate independent teams, such as sledge hockey teams, need a procedure to register. Affiliates are concerned that associations could be damaged if rouge groups are allowed to register teams independently because they are unhappy with the local association. If they are properly registered with USA Hockey they are responsible to the Affiliate. USA Hockey is addressing the issue while reviewing the Affiliate agreement. It was suggested that this topic be brought up at the affiliate president meeting at the National meeting in Florida.

GOALS & STRATEGIC PLANNING

Bob Nolen reminded all about the questionnaire that has been around for over a year. Al Bloomer has reviewed them and they seem to have the same forecast. Many feel that coaching education still needs major focus. Elitism, adult roadblocks, and personal agendas are experienced everywhere and should be eliminated. Al Bloomer will have the summary updated and Bob will publish the results on the web page. It was suggested that a committee be established to help Bob. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to form a committee for strategic planning. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bob Nolen and Brian Irely will present the proposed committee to the Council members attending in the National meeting Miami.

Council Members

Charles Callaway requested that a distinction between council members and voting council members be determined. Can non-voting council members make motions?

MONTANA

Bruce Bekkedahl reported that their district repositioning status has not changed.

NEXT MEETING

The summer meeting will be August 27-29, 2004 at Embassy Suites, Denver, Colorado.

ODE

Kelly Grover read his Ode to the Winter Meeting.

TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. The motion was seconded by Charles Callaway and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill VanWagoner
RMD Secretary

Action Items

Set a minimum clinic timeline for coaching education

Independent Team discussion at National meeting

Set up pre-meeting with affiliate presidents to address items for goal focus