

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING
MINUTES**

Saturday and Sunday, January 8-9, 2005
Sheraton Old Town, Albuquerque, NM

In attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assoc.</u>	<u>Position</u>
Bryant, Kathy (Absent)	District	Director
Callaway, Charles	District	Director
TenEyck, Mike	District	Director
Bloomer, Al	District	Coach-in-Chief
Day, Jill	District	Secretary
Grover, Kelly	District	High School Section Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
Lewis, TC	District TX	ACE Coordinator President/Registrar
McMann, Bob	District	Referee-in-Chief
Nolen, Bob (Absent)	District	Webmaster
Brooks, John	AZ	President
Irey, Bryan	CO	President
Lehto, Wayne	ID	President
Bekkedahl, Bruce	MT	President
Pope, Bob	NM	President
Martinez, Karen	NM	Vice President
Cardasis, Susan	NM	Registrar
Hodgson, Neil	NM	Assoc Registrar
Morgan, Scott	OK	President
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Bertagnolli, Brigette	UT	President
Lundquist, Jim (Absent)	WY	President

Absent: Jim Lundquist, WY President, Kathy Bryant, District Director (Resigned)

Bryan Irey, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Old Town in Albuquerque, NM. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 28-29, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with the following corrections: correct spelling from John to Jon Brooks throughout the document, Page 8 Elections-1st Vice President is Bruce Bekkedahl and his nomination was seconded by Kathy Bryant instead of the other way around, page 2 Mike TenEyck director report-change 9 affiliates to 8 affiliates, Page 6 Tier II Playoff Format Youth-delete "as used in National rules". Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Director Reports

Charles Callaway reported he attended Youth Council meeting in Chicago and the biggest issue dealt with was changing the player development program for 16 and 17-year-old boys from festivals to camps. The Redistricting Committee has posted a questionnaire on the web requesting input and will have more information at the USA Winter meeting.

Mike TenEyck distributed a written report and added that preparing the District Doings is very difficult without support from affiliates. He noted that Wyoming's 3-day hockey convention was very successful. Mike encouraged all to utilize USA Hockey and District representatives to answer questions they may have.

Kathy Bryant has tendered her resignation and was absent from the meeting.

District Registrar

Bruce Karinen reported that there are only 1700 teams registered to date. Policy states that 2000 teams must be registered to qualify for 3 District Directors. Bruce requested that the Affiliate Presidents get their registrars to complete all registrations ASAP. Bruce expressed appreciation to all the affiliate registrars for their hard work. The Billings pilot program for online registration has only had about 10% participation. The Michigan adult and referees online registration is going very well.

District Risk Manager

Kelly Grover reported USA Hockey provided the cost of D & O insurance to the Rocky Mountain District.

District Referee-in-Chief

Bob McMann reported that referee screening is not part of their requirements, but they are to cooperate with affiliates if affiliates require officials to be screened.

Affiliate President Reports

UT Brigitte Bertagnoli reported that their waiver issue is mute because the player is not going coming to Utah. The program overall is running smoothly. Registration is flat. They denied a request for a new affiliate because they were too close to an existing association. They did register their teams with the existing association.

TX TC Lewis reported the affiliate is running very smoothly. They have fewer player release issues this year. He encourages all affiliates to get their D&O insurance in order. The Tier I program has grown to 8 teams and now has playoffs.

AZ Jon Brooks reported a flat team count, lack and cost of ice is main problem. A new single sheet for a CHL team is scheduled to open in Prescott Valley in Jan 2006. Two more new rinks are being proposed in the Phoenix area. Due to the NHL strike, the Coyote's have not opened their ice for use and has helped create a general lack of interest. Regional tournament hosting preparations are progressing nicely. The web page information will be available soon. Competing associations are pulling together to make the tournaments flow smoothly.

ID Wayne Lehto reported that the affiliate is using Intelicorp for registration and screening which has made the program easier and less expensive to administer. The rink in Salmon is now artificially cooled. The rink in Coeur d Lane reopened after becoming handicap accessible. Wayne attended the Affiliate President workshop in Colorado Springs and it was very helpful and informative. He encourages all to go. They have 4 teams participating in the district tournaments this year. The recreation league will have a state tournament this year. Registration is down.

MT Bruce Bekkedahl reported that they are charging player fees instead of team fees and it has been working well. With online registration, this fee is sent to the affiliate by USA Hockey. For the first time, there are over 400 adult and 300 youth registrations in Missoula. Overall player count is up. They are working on an adult tournament for registered adult teams to help motivate registration. The D&O policy change has benefited the affiliate associations. The Player Development Camp is splitting boys and girls on different weekends because of the large numbers of participants. The camp is open to all players, held Mid-February, and the select team members for post-season play are chosen. They include one age group younger than district to broaden the base. They are now using Intelicorp for their screening program for a \$1.75 per screening fee.

OK Scott Morgan reported that they are down from 3 to 2 associations now. The loss of the association hurt hockey in Oklahoma City but the situation has stabilized. The Learn to Skate is growing and they are also aggressively seeking adult registration. After discussions with USA Hockey, seeking affiliate status with USA Hockey has been tabled. USA Hockey suggests they seek affiliate status with the Rocky Mountain District instead. They are reviewing that option and will report more in the August meeting.

NM Bob Pope attended the Affiliate President workshop in Colorado Springs. The CEP program is growing and they have an ACE Coordinator in every association. They have a new risk manager and a new referee-in-chief. New people are giving new energy to the affiliate. Voting on the state board changed to one association-one vote from one team-one vote. There is now a JR A team in Santa Fe. They have a 100% screening program including referees which the state pays for. D&O insurance is in place. It is a violation of state law for travel teams to hold birth certificates so they are using notarized lists instead. USA Hockey has been very responsive to all questions. New Mexico is only a step away from doing great things.

CO Bryan Irey reported that Pikes Peak will host the Tier I district tournament. CO has required all to use Otter Play for registration. Otter Play automatically forwards every registration to the screening entity. They will probably switch to Intelicorp next year for cost savings. CEP has had no complaints this year. They have had schedule evaluation camp a week after nationals due to ice restrictions. Please let CO know if other affiliates

have players that will need to be evaluated in CO. Tier I is growing so much that they will probably not dominate Tier I this year.

Al Bloomer suggested a District calendar be created to help alleviate conflicting events in all affiliates. It was noted that there is a calendar on the web page, but information must be submitted to the web by the affiliate.

District Volunteer Award

Mike TenEyck is encouraging nominations for the award by March 1st. Information about the award is on the web site.

Sled Hockey

Kelly Grover reported on the grant for sled hockey. Colorado Springs is starting a sled hockey association and \$500 of the \$1000 grant has been earmarked for them. There is another \$500 available for a group who becomes affiliated with USA Hockey. AZ reported they have a group that has applied for association status and might be interested in the grant.

2005 District Player Development Camp

Charles Callaway reported on the committee meeting. The committee members are Al Bloomer, Kelly Grover, Bruce Karinen, Bruce Bekkedahl and Charles Callaway. Ad hoc members are Jon Brooks, Wayne Lehto and Brigette Bertagnolli. The camp will be May 4-8, 2005 at the Olympic Ovals in Salt Lake City. Registration and opening meeting will be Wednesday night, May 4th. Instead of two days of development and two days of evaluation, development will be the focus in the first session of the day and evaluations will be in the 2nd session of each day. During the evaluation sessions, 3 on 3 and 4 on 4 will be utilized on the ice, using 5 on 5 only on the final session on Sunday. Team sizes will be reduced about 5 players to provide more ice time to each player and under allocate a few players to accommodate at-large situations. Allocations will still be based on registered bantam player count, but each state will be allocated at least one slot for each position in each age group including a goalie. Written player evaluations will be provided to every player. The referee camp will be discontinued. There will be other administrative changes that affect meetings and information distribution, and the picnic is being changed to an ice cream social.

Al Bloomer reiterated that it is very important that an affiliate return any player allocations that will not be filled by a viable player. He needs a list of coaching volunteers, camp dates, and contacts from each affiliate. Camps will be posted on the web page. Timeline, registration and other forms will be sent in the next month. Send info back in one packet with one check to Charles. Hold alternate packets until allotment is confirmed. Residency and good standing in the affiliate will be verified.

Bob McMann put on record that he feels the comment of the referees becoming more demanding and using camp ice time is out of line. The ice time used was at 10 p.m. and didn't take away from the camp. The referees have benefited and don't feel they were "demanding". He feels it is a step backward to eliminate the referees. He takes exception to the verbiage in the report. If the camp has gone beyond utilizing referees that is a different issue than stated in the report. Al's rebuttal is that they are trying to pull back from the many extras that have been added to the camp and focus on player development. TX and CO both reported positive feedback from their referees that have attended the camp. Al will work on a schedule and run it by Bob McMann to see if it will work.

Invitational Tournament Registration

Bruce Karinen presented an incentive program. As an incentive for Rocky Mountain District affiliates and associations to submit for sanctioning and posting on the USA Hockey net site for their 2005/06 Invitational Tournaments in a timely manor the following rules will apply:

1. The District will pay up to \$25 per tournament.
2. The tournaments must be submitted between July 15 and October 15, 2005.
3. The tournaments must be submitted on USA Hockey form 3-T with tournament rules and procedures that include a committee to review all team and players credentials to insure registration of players and teams with USA Hockey.
4. Excluded from this offer are For Profit Invitational and International tournaments.
5. Tournaments should be submitted through the normal Association/Affiliate procedure.
6. Tournament forms and rules must be received by the Rocky Mountain District Registrar by October 15, 2005 to be eligible for the "early tournament incentive".

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the incentive as presented. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It is a training program for one year for people to get their tournaments in early. The success of the program is in the affiliate presidents' hands. Bruce will email the hand out to the affiliate presidents

Girls Grant

Bruce Karinen requested \$3,300.00 from the player development budget be to fund the Girls Chicago Showcase team for 2005. This is the same amount that was approved last year. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve this request. Wayne Lehto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Special Presentation

Bruce Bekkedahl reported that during the Montana review of their original bylaws and articles of incorporation, it came to light how much Al Bloomer contributed as an original organizer of Montana hockey in Billings in the late 70's. He has been extremely instrumental in the growth of hockey in this country and has been recognized by USA Hockey by being nominated as director for the coaching section. Montana expressed their appreciation to Al Bloomer and presented gifts including a pen, leather organizer, and the book "1000 Places To See Before You Die".

District Logo

Kelly Grover presented a proposal to develop and establish a District Logo to be used for all District events and slightly modified for incorporation into the Player Development Camp and Coaching Education Program. Logoworks.com will design the logo. They give you 10-12 concepts with unlimited revisions for \$549. At the conclusion of the process, we own the logo. It is also kept at their website for a year and can be downloaded by authorized password users only. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to approve the \$549 expense for Logoworks.com to create a logo. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Kelly Grover to email three logos to all members and use the one that gets to most votes. Bryan Irey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kelly suggested the District have banners and a tournament kit including radios for use at each tournament site. Charles suggested that the banner remain at the venue after the tournament. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to allocate \$1,000 this year for banners for district events. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Kelly Grover will implement this. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to allocate \$500 for two tournament kits including logo pucks and radios. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. More extensive kit contents will be discussed in the next meeting

Coaching Education

Al Bloomer presented last year's statistics. We will exceed last year's number of coach's attending clinics. Fewer temporary cards are being issued. TC Lewis and Tom Lampl have been a great help to Al. CO under Paul Davern and UT under Don Korth have made major improvements in their affiliate programs. One training session in CO had 55 attendees. Everyone is using a standard curriculum in the coaching education program. Resource material is available online at USA Hockey. Online clinic registration is being utilized. NM has a new ACE coordinator, Michael Schwartz, who is making a big difference in their program. The ACE position is an affiliate aid to enforce coaching certification. Al has sent each affiliate coaching coordinator a power point presentation on a Parent Awareness Program. When using outside instructors in your affiliate, please make sure local people are notified before hand. Coaching Institute in Lake Placid May 12-15, 2005. Please find out if there are any interested participants in your affiliate.

2005 District Tournaments

Charles Callaway reviewed affiliate declarations and the previous hosts of the District Tournaments.

High School – OK, CO, NM, AZ, TX, UT

Tier I – CO, TX, CO, TX

Tier II – AZ, ID, WY (in UT), UT, TX, CO, CO, NM

Girls – AZ, UT, CO, TX, NM

Tier I 9-13 March 2005. Pikes Peak Thunderbirds will host in Colorado Springs, CO. Mary Davern is the Tournament Chairman, Al Bloomer is the Tournament Director, and Rae Briggie is in charge of credentials.

Mg Maj - 4 teams, round-robin w/ championship

Mg Min - 4 teams, round-robin w/ championship

Bantam - 3 teams, round-robin w/ championship
PW - 1 team, no tournament

Girls/Women 3-6 March 2005 will be in Scottsdale and Phoenix, AZ. Rick Van Fleet is the Tournament Chairman, Bruce Karinen is the Tournament Director, and DonnaLee Jerome is in charge of credentials.

Girls - Women's "A" - no tournament

Girls - Women's "B" - no tournament

Girls - Women's "C" - 3 teams, double round robin w/ top 2 teams advancing to nationals

Girls - 19U - 4 teams, round-robin w/ championship

Girls - 16U - 2 teams, best of 3

Girls - 14U - 3 teams, round-robin w/ championship

Girls - 12U - 4 teams, round-robin w/ championship

Tier II 9-13 March 2005 will be in Chandler and Peoria, AZ. Doug Fry is the Tournament Chairman. Mike TenEyck is the Tournament Director for the Midgets; Charles Callaway is the Tournament Director for the Bantams and Peewees. Credentials are to be determined.

Tier II - Mg Maj - 10 teams, 3 division round-robin w/ top 4 teams playing semi's and championship

Tier II - Mg Min - 6 teams, 2 division round-robin w/ top 4 teams playing semi's and championship

Tier II - Bantam - 10 teams, 3 division round-robin w/ top 4 teams playing semi's and championship

Tier II - PW - 10 teams, 3 division round-robin w/ top 4 teams playing semi's and championship

Mid Maj wild card spot will go to TX and the Peewee wild card spot will go to CO.

High School 17-21 March 2005 will be held in Tulsa OK. Scott Morgan and Dave Pimm are the Tournament Chairmen, Kelly Grover is the Tournament Director, and Ann Hetrick is responsible for credentials.

HS - Pure - 10 teams, 3 division round-robin w/ top 4 teams playing semi's and championship

The wild card spot will go to AZ. OK requested an increase in the tournament fee. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to increase the High School tournament fee to \$700.00 per team. Bruce Bekkedahl seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn and OK was requested to submit their budget for the tournament.

OK reported they have a \$9,500 budget. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to increase the tournament fee to \$700 for the 2005 High School Tournament. Bruce Bekkedahl seconded the motion and it passed with negative votes from New Mexico and Arizona.

Elections

Kathy Bryan resigned as a Director at Large. Her term expires in June 2006. Bruce Karinen proposed the following schedule for elections to fill her Director at Large position. Nominations to open immediately and close on January 30th. Ballots based on last year's team count will be mailed by February 7, 2005. Ballots will be due February 21, 2005. Results will be announced by Feb 28, 2005.

Mike TenEyck's term expires June 2005. Nominations will close on March 15, 2005. Ballots based on this year's team count will be mailed by April 30, 2005.

Excess Funds

In addition to using the district excess funds for a logo, banners, tournament kits, and tournament registration incentives, it was suggested that registrars, or ACE coordinators, or risk managers, etc. receive funding to attend the district annual meeting. Bruce Bekkedahl made a **MOTION** to pay up to \$400 per affiliate for registrars to attend the August 2005 meeting. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A training session will be prepared for them.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m.

Bryan Irely reconvened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Change to Aug 2004 Minutes

Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to remove comments about an ongoing lawsuit in the Arizona affiliate report in the Aug 2004 minutes. Mike TenEyck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6 Team Tournament Format Proposal

The format below will be used this year, but it will be voted on for approval in the August meeting.

1. Have an "A" pool and a "B" pool with 3 teams each.
2. The teams will be distributed by random draw to the pools, by pairs. The pairs will be Colorado and Texas, Arizona & Utah, Idaho & Montana, New Mexico & Wyoming, and Oklahoma & the host. One team of each pair will be in the "A" pool and the other team of the pair will be in the "B" pool. Unpaired teams will be paired with another unpaired team that has the closest population base.
3. The "A" pool teams will play the "B" pool teams with the top 4 high point teams advancing to the semi-finals.
4. At the semi-finals, the team with the most points will play the team with the least points and the 2nd and 3rd place teams will play each other. If after all of the tiebreakers two or more of the 4 top point teams are tied, then a drawing of lots will be the final determination as to breaking of the tie.
5. The winners of the semi-final games will play for the championship.
6. The tournament and all games will be played in accordance with the USAH District/National Championship rules as published in the USAH Annual Guide.

Policy & Procedure Section 1 and Youth Council Response to Utah Affiliate Tier II Issue

The letter from John Dotte to the Utah Affiliate regarding tier status of team was discussed. Since the Youth Council declined to support the RMD Tier I definition, Wayne Lehto proposed a change to Section 1 of the Policies & Procedures manual. Bruce Bekkedahl made a **MOTION** to change Section 1 as follows: change the title of Section 1 to Tier Teams (removing I), delete items 1.A.-C. and replace with "1. The RMD Council recognizes the rights of each affiliate to have exclusive power over its leagues, teams and players according to the USAH bylaws and the Affiliate Agreement". Charles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Policy & Procedure Section 16 and High School Tournament Eligibility

Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to delete last 2 sentences in Paragraph 5 "...Waivers for inclusion in the tournament...returned to the Tournament Director." Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was noted that waivers are covered in Section 17, which was adopted in January 2004, and this item was inadvertently omitted from deleting other references to waivers.

Policy & Procedure Manual

Bruce Bekkedahl made a **MOTION** for the Policy & Procedure Manual to be updated, printed, and distributed annually. TC seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** that changes made in the August meeting are made effective the next January meeting and have the Policy & Procedure Manual printed for distribution each January meeting. Bruce Bekkedahl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** for Wayne Lehto be the responsible party for the manual updates and distribution. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

It was decided that the Strategic Planning item be removed from the meeting agenda until Bob Nolen is ready to bring the results to the board.

ODE

Kelly Grover read his Ode to the Winter Meeting.

Charles Callaway noted the next meeting is August 19-21, 2005 in Idaho and made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day
RMD Secretary

Action Items

Oklahoma Affiliate Status
Tournament kit contents
6 Team Tournament Format Proposal Approval