

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING
MINUTES**

Saturday and Sunday, January 7-8, 2006
Marriott Hotel, Houston TX

In attendance:

Callaway, Charles	District	Director
	District	Director
Irey, Bryan	CO	President
	District	Director
Lehto, Wayne	ID	President
Kenney, Chris (Absent)	District	Director
	USA Hockey	Coaches Director
Bloomer, Al	District	Coach-in-Chief
Day, Jill	District	Secretary
		High School Section
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
	District	Asst Coach-in Chief
Lewis, TC	TX	President
McMann, Bob (Absent)	District	Referee-in-Chief
Nolen, Bob (Absent)	District	Webmaster
	District	ACE Director
Schwarz, Michael	NM	ACE Director
Brooks, Jon	AZ	President
Cole, John	CO	Vice President
Power, Tom	ID	Vice President
Bekkedahl, Bruce	MT	President
Pope, Bob (Absent)	NM	President
Pimm, David	OK	Treasurer
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Lewis, Debra	TX	Registrar
Skinner, Ted	TX	Vice President
Worden, Darin	UT	President
Lundquist, Jim (Absent)	WY	President

Absent: Chris Kenney, Bob McMann, Bob Nolen, Jim Lundquist, and Bob Pope (represented by Michael Schwarz, Ace Coordinator).

Bryan Irey, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel in Houston, TX. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Minutes

The minutes of the August 20-21, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written. T C Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Director Reports

Charles Callaway player development committee was opened up to the youth council for input Youth council talked about Tier definition. Each district submitted their rules and they are all different. RMD is the only district that currently has no rule. 2005 national camps were reviewed and reported successful. The draft team format (players from each district on every team) was not welcomed by coaches but worked well and teams were competitive. Online registration for national camps will be used this year. The House Recreational Hockey Committee needs a report from each affiliate about their recreational hockey programs.

Chris Kenney was absent.

Wayne Lehto reported on legislative change issues being proposed by the legal committee. One of them is changing any reference of teams to participant members in documents. The proposed changes can be viewed online and Wayne would appreciate all input from the district. It will be discussed at the next USA Hockey meeting.

Bryan Irey continues to work on the district tournament. Change has been the only constant. Rule Change Committee has been quiet.

District Registrar

Bruce Karinen reported that there are two steps to online registration. Once you have done the online registration with USA Hockey and received a bar code, you must submit your registration to a local association to be put on a roster and be claimed. Rocky Mountain District is currently second in USA Hockey for online registration participation. As USA Hockey migrates to individual from team registration, there are issues to be resolved including insurance. He reported on the results of the Invitational Tournament promotion of a \$25 rebate for early submission. The affiliates did well and took advantage of the program. But USA Hockey was not prepared for the early submission of paperwork. Bruce does not recommend using it again in 2007 because USA Hockey is reprogramming their web page, but would like to try again in 2008. The consensus of the board was to continue with the program next year, pressuring USA Hockey to be prepared.

District Director Elections

District Director Elections will be held for the term expiring in June currently filled by Bryan Irey. It must be done in writing.

Funds for Referee Travel to District Tournaments

Bob McMann requested subsidy for referees at district tournaments at the last meeting. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to allocate up to \$400 per tournament for out of town referee travel. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Girl's/Women's Invitational Tournament

Bruce Karinen proposed a tournament in 2007 for the house/recreational level girl's/women's program to motivate more participation and build the program.

Rules and Regulations

A. Teams

1. All teams must have been registered as a House/Rec team for the entire season prior to the District tournament.
2. A team must have played 14 games prior to the start of the District Tournament.

B. Players

1. All players must have been registered as House/Rec players for the entire season prior to the District Tournament. Any player registered on a Tier team (youth or girls) will NOT be eligible for tournament play.
2. Each player must have played 10 games on the subject team to be eligible for tournament play.

General

1. Any Association/team that wins their Division/Age Group two consecutive years MUST move up to Tier Team status and will not be eligible for the tournament for two years. This rule may be appealed to the Tournament Director who will chair a committee to hear the appeal.

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to accept Bruce's proposal with the amendment of "Any player that has been registered" in B.2.). John Cole seconded the motion and after discussion the motion did not pass. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to approve Bruce's proposal as written. Tom Power seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Risk Manager

Kelly Grover reported effective Jan 1, 2006 D & O insurance is automatically in place for USA Hockey registered groups. USA Hockey wants to know the status of netting at each affiliate's rinks. USA Hockey is looking at providing netting for rinks.

District Coach-in-Chief

Al Bloomer reported that the RMD will be the model for multi-affiliate member development camps for USA Hockey.

Affiliate President Reports

AZ Jon Brooks going really well. Polar Ice is still on board with USA Hockey. Only Tucson facility is not under the USA Hockey umbrella, but says it will be next year. Flagstaff has rejuvenated and has added a high school team. The old law suit was settled through mediation. Prescott and Gilbert are building new rinks. Ice costs are high and availability is low. They are planning an Olympic Festival on Feb 12th to show support for the USA Olympic hockey teams. They are holding the first adult state championships this spring and working with LaBatt.

CO John will be taking over for Bryan Irey as the Colorado President. The Discipline Committee has been working overtime in Colorado this year. The kicking rule change has been a big part of this increase. Colorado adds additional game suspensions to the mandatory USA Hockey game suspension for fighting. Fighting penalties have been minimal since this was implemented. They will mandate online registration next year.

ID Tom Power reported that registration is even this year. It has been a challenging year with rink closures. Fair play points program used in Minnesota (found on the North Dakota Hockey web site) was used in their Thanksgiving tournament. They had the least amount of penalties ever seen. It did affect standings for those teams who did not get their fair play points

MT Bruce Bekkedahl reported that they are having a difficult time with referee certification. They are still working on getting a coaching education representative. The redistricting of Montana is on the agenda for the USA Hockey June meeting. South Dakota will be making a presentation on MT/WY/ND/SD redistricting at the affiliate president section in Miami.

NM Michael Schwarz reported for Bob Pope that registration is level. There is an Ace coordinator in every association, and has 100% mite cross-ice games in the affiliate.

OK David Pimm reported that the loss of the ice rink in Tulsa has created some challenges. They hosted the High School tournament in March and with the \$700 entry fee they broke even. Oklahoma City registration is down. The University of Oklahoma club team is doing well and helps increase the participation in youth hockey. Larry Donovan will be the new Oklahoma President.

TX TC Lewis reported that registration is even. El Paso has become its own association. Dallas Stars will be USA Hockey registered next year. There is still an active lawsuit with a high school team. Screening is going well.

UT Darin Worden A new Park City facility is opening in February and the program will grow rapidly. They are working on a Utah Hockey marketing program with web site, banners, and advertising to grow the program. Women's program is growing with seven teams. ECHL team is being supportive.

WY Jim Lundquist was absent.

District Restructuring

Wayne Lehto reported that only Al Bloomer responded to his email on district restructuring. Al submitted suggested sections based on statistics of coaching education, competitive balance, and economics including and excluding Montana and Wyoming. The redistricting committee at USA Hockey has asked if each RMD affiliate would be interested in giving up affiliate status to make the District just one affiliate. It would give the affiliate a bigger voice at USA Hockey and create the ability to have districts without state boundaries. Each affiliate is to discuss it and come with info to the June meeting. Discussion will continue and will be revisited at the August meeting after USA Hockey has addressed the MT/WY redistricting issue.

Player Development Camp Committee

Charles Callaway reported on the committee meeting. Allocations will change from 23 to 21 allocations per affiliate with 2 slots given to the committee for at large selections. Currently, based on last year's bantam age registration, the affiliate percentage allocation is:

	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
Arizona	11%	9%	Montana	5%	8%	Texas	25%	16%
Colorado	35%	33%	New Mexico	3%	6%	Utah	9%	9%
Idaho	6%	9%	Oklahoma	2%	1%	Wyoming	4%	9%

Other format changes have been implemented to improve performance of the camp. Buses will not be provided due to lack of use. Girls' high performance district camp will be discontinued this year and will be replaced with a skills development camp for 14 and 15-year-old boys and girls selected from player development alternate lists. The suggested date is Aug 4-7 and Charles would like proposals from small affiliates to host. A 13-year-old male camp is in a discussion stage. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to amend Bylaws Section 14-2 to add the District

Ace Director as a permanent member of the Player Development Committee. Jon Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

The USA Hockey National Camp is looking for more coaches. The target audience is up and coming affiliate level three coaches to get involved in the camp as an intern and earn their level four coaching credential. Each affiliate should make a recommendation to Al Bloomer by Jan 15th. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** for the RMD to pay the \$200 camp fee out of player development funds and \$400 travel expense from district funds for 7 coaches (one for each boy's age group and girls) to participate in this intern/mentor program. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Al and Jeff Bloomer are hosting a high performance camp Feb 17-18. Watch the web site for detail.

Special Recognition Award

Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to present an award at the June meeting. John Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

High School Section

Kelly Grover has submitted a new high school team definition to USA Hockey stating that a team is made of all players attending one high school or are eligible to play a varsity sport at that high school.

Coaching Education

Al Bloomer reviewed the District and Affiliate personnel currently in place, clinics that are scheduled, and agenda formats. Al Bloomer requested that the affiliates help pay for their coaches travel to participate in these programs. Texas, Colorado and Arizona pledged funding for their participants. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to allocate up to \$5,000 of district funds to supplement transportation costs for attendees. Michael Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Al Bloomer has authored legislative proposal #17 to USA Hockey to make helmets for coaches mandatory. There have been 5 deaths and 4 major injuries from coaches falling on the ice hitting their heads. He recommends that affiliates implement the policy with or without USA Hockey mandate.

Ace Program

Michael Schwarz made a presentation on Association Coaching Education. This program communicates and ensures coaching education certification, communicates USA Hockey's policies, protocols and procedure requirements, delivers parent education, and encourages coaching education. The affiliates need Ace coordinators in all associations. Please submit names to Michael Schwarz.

2006 District Tournaments

Tier I 2-5 March 2006 Peoria, Arizona at Polar Ice
Midget Major 6-Team format
Midget Minor 6-Team format
Bantam 4-Team format
Peewee 2 teams, best 2 out of 3 games

Girls/Women 2-5 March 2006 Denver, Colorado

A – None
B – 1 team-direct to Nationals
C – 2 teams, best 2 out of 3 games
U19 – 4-Team format
U16 – 2 teams, best 2 out of 3 games
U14 – 5-Team format
U12 – 4-Team format

Tier II 9-12 March 2006 Denver, Colorado

Midget Major – 10-Team format with at large team
Midget Minor – 8-Team format
Bantam – 10-Team format
Peewee - 10-Team format with at large team

High School 15-19 March 2006 Boise, Idaho
10-Team format with at large team

Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to set the district tournament fee at \$700 for Tier II Boys, Women/Girls and High School and \$800 for Tier I Boys and that required approvals will be requested as needed. Charles Callaway seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tournament Kits

Kelly Grover recommended 1st Place team banner, 2nd place team plaque, 1st and 2nd place individual awards, and a banner for each tournament facility. Each game gets three logo pucks to start each period.

Girls' Showcase

Jon Brooks presented a proposal for the affiliates to sponsor a girls' team to participate in the Chicago Showcase. Assistant coaches, manager and treasurer would be appointed. Jon Brooks made a **MOTION** to accept the proposal as presented with the exception of utilizing Marnie Hill as the head coach. Darin Worden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is in Wyoming August 18-20, 2006.

Other Business

New Mexico has gone 100% cross-ice in all Mite programs. USA Hockey suggests a net size for mite cross ice hockey nets. This size net is not commercially available. They have found a company that would produce the nets at \$225 a pair. The suggested net insets have been tried but not successfully. They are using chairs and fire hoses. New Mexico is requesting a grant to purchase 5 sets of nets. There was no support for the issue.

The agenda completed and tomorrow will not be needed for meetings. Wayne Lehto made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. John Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day
RMD Secretary

Action Items

District sanctioned tournaments on RMD Website
District Sectioning Committee
Changing the date of the winter meeting to be in conjunction with the Miami meeting