

Alaska State Hockey Association  
Board Meeting  
January 7, 2012

Members present: Carol Hammingh, Rich Brister, Chad Jones, Pat Mc Donald, Wayne Sawchuk, Jack Tragis, Mike LaFlamme, Vilma Shuttleworth, Gregg Bembenek, Pete Sloan, Sally Wright, Matt Shasby (alt.), Brian Gross (alt.), Joan Hancock (alt.) and Diane Firmani (alt.).

Officers present: Darryl Thompson, Brenda Luthi, Joe Newhouse, Keith Berrian, Kim Rupp, Anna Yates-Culley, Dennis Sorenson and Lisa McPheters.

USA Hockey officials present: Connie Hardwick, Rick Trupp, Chris Milles and Joe Barth.

Visitors present: Christy Hickel and Dave McCarey.

Members excused: Kim Griffith, Ted Barton, Lynn Thompson, Dan Massie, Kathy Merrick, Corey Millen, Tim Stage, Scott Hulse, Annetta Powell, Keith Morris and John Jolly.

The meeting was called to order by Darryl Thompson, President. Introductions were made of all present.

Seating of Members:

Gregg Bembenek                      PAHA

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

There was no correspondence.

Persons to be heard:

Christy Hickel, an All Stars coach for girls' teams, spoke to the ASHA board regarding an issue involving ASAA and a traveling house team.

Dave McCarey, an All Stars coach, spoke about the girls' development and offered himself as a resource.

President's Report: Darryl Thompson spoke to the ASAA/girls' team issue. We need to open up opportunities for both girls and boys.

Finance Report: Joe Newhouse went over the finance report and will work with Lisa McPheters on the state tournament costs.

VP Tournaments: Lisa McPheters went over the comp state tournament schedules. They are still a work in progress. In the comp state championship games, the home team will be decided by a coin toss, as it is in the USA Hockey book. She is looking into guidebook changes about the home/visitor issue. The home team is the team with the highest seed. She is finalizing the recreation state tournament schedules. The ASHA guidebook states the each association gets one guaranteed slot for each recreational level. There may be some associations that desire to send additional teams to the state recreational tournaments, but the ability to do so may depend on over-all number and the logistics of the host for ice availability, referees, etc. Lisa reported that it is her desire to run state recreational tournaments' with even number teams. The board looked to the language contained in the Annual Guide, and it clearly vests in the VP Tournaments the discretion to make the decision to allow additional teams into the state recreational tournaments and to do so after consultation of the host association and the House Council. Darryl Thompson expressed his philosophical objects to changing the Annual Guide mid season, and no motion to do so was made. Lisa indicated that she was just getting the final pieces of information as to which teams, and the number of teams each associations is seeking to be admitted into the various state tournaments' and as such that she was not yet ready to weigh in on the specifics at each level, but would be following up with the host associations and the House Council soon regarding the structure and format of each level of the state recreational tournament. A big thank you was given to Lisa for all of the work done to get ready for tournaments.

It was recognized that because of December 31 deadline for associations and teams to submit the request and payments to be in recreational tournaments, there is little time to pull it all together before the January ASHA meeting and makes it difficult for ice allocation purposes because the rinks are already wanting to sell their late February and March ice. For this and other reasons, another discussion was held to consider changing the recreational due date to make it earlier for easier planning. This issue is marked in these minutes so that it may be revisited by the board at a meeting in the near future.

VP Comp Council: Wayne Sawchuk said that during their meeting prior to this meeting, they discussed the comp state tournaments. The recommendation for the Pee Wee level is attached. They will discuss Pee Wees playing up at their next meeting.

VP House Council: Anna Culley said they discussed the ASAA issue at their November meeting and discussed the house state tournaments.

VP Girls/Women: Kim Rupp reported that 75 girls tried out for Selects. She reminded everyone that every Saturday evening there are free clinics for girls and women players through February. Check the website for details. They are thinking of doing a Jamboree instead of a state tournament this year. Possibly having an earlier date for declaration of teams would be helpful.

VP Adult: Keith Berrian reported that all is going well, just some discipline issues. He reminded everyone that no more than two games played against adult teams will count for state tournaments.

VP Player Development: Dennis Sorenson reported that 155 player tried out for Selects in four age groups. They were able to advance 93 players. The evaluators did a great job. Check the website for all information. The dates for Selects for next year are set for December 22 and 23, 2012. Dennis does need some team leaders, so if you have someone interested in your association, please let Dennis know.

Dennis also reported that we need to look into changing the length of games. We need them longer for the older levels to match up with teams across the nation.

Discipline Committee: Darryl Thompson read John Jolly's report (see attached)..

Associate Risk Manager: Brenda Luthi read Suzy Coronel's report. If associations need something, like a certificate of insurance, from the Risk Manager, please contact Suzy directly!!

Associate Registrar: Connie Hardwick presented her report (see attached). She gave a reminder to everyone to get their travel permits in early so she can process them. Also, please remember to submit tournament rules so she can issue the tournament sanctions in a timely manner.

Referee-in-Chief: Chris Milles reported that there are approximately 300 officials. The seminars are completed. USA Hockey has an online evaluation program for referees. Kent Petty in the Alaska evaluation coordinator. He is working with Lisa with the state tournaments. \$6000.00 was raised for a local Fairbanks cancer victim at a tournament where referees donated their time.

Coach-in-Chief: Rick Trupp reported that they held 14 clinics during the fall of 2011 with corresponding total numbers in parentheses serving 277 registrants (28 less than 2010).

Level 1 = 6; (151) +24 from 2010  
Level 2 = 5; (42) -55 from 2010  
Level 3 = 3; (49) -32 from 2010  
Level 4 = 1; (35) +35 from 2010

He reminded associations to make sure that their coaches were certified!! Surveys have been sent out to all coaches regarding the new modules. The quality of the program is representative of the coaches that have taken time to come out and share their coaching experiences with others. He would like to thank the many speakers that volunteered their time in the state to present the coaching education program to certify coaches. They were numerous. The coaches that volunteered at

more that two clinics deserving mention include: Louis Mass, Mark Brooks, Christy Hickel, (ANC), Tom Ainsworth (JNU), Stacy Griffith, Mike McDonald (FAI), and Jayson Kempf, Aaron Swanson (KEN). The following organizations also provided speakers to the Coaching Education Program – UAA, Alaska Aces, Fairbanks Ice Dogs and UAF. We greatly appreciate this support.

Jr. Hockey: Jack Tragis reported that the Prospects Tournament is February 16-20 in Michigan. The Top Prospects Tournament for Junior players is coming up too.

Old Business:

The Try-Out Proposal is being tabled until the next meeting, so please discuss with your associations.

The House Team Travel Restriction will be tabled until later.

The Whistleblower Policy is attached. This counts as a first reading. Please discuss with your associations.

New Business:

Attached is the Tier I and II online registration guidebook change. This is the first reading.

Attached is the Match Penalty proposal. This is the first reading.

The Pee Wee policy is attached and will count as the first reading. Please get comments from your associations.

Board Member Comments:

Joe Newhouse commented that the Rocky Mountain Register for Selects is working well.

Keith Berrian gave a thank you to Lisa for her work on state tournaments.

Rich Brister reminded everyone that when you are planning invitational tournament, keep the referees in mind.

Wayne Sawchuk reminded everyone that January 30, 2012 is the due date for the PeeWee issue.

Darryl Thompson commented that Su Flanders is the USA Hockey volunteer of the month.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be February 4, 2012, at 10:00 at the Coast Inn in Anchorage.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Luthi  
ASHA Secretary