

Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2008 7:30 p.m.

The September board meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. Board members present were Mike Goergen, Kris Harnett, Mark Gauer, Derek Olson, Joanna Rooney, Tom Keller, Larry Gonrowski, Matt Deterding, Carolyn Soper, Mike Terres, Greg Erickson, Todd Pannek, Jim Siede, Jon Piazza, Ed Kirchoff, Troy Loken and Paul Wood. Rob Odell and Tracee deNeui were also present, representing Charitable Gambling and the HDC, respectively. Laurie Ahrens was absent from the meeting.

Tracee deNeui reported for the **Charitable Gambling** committee. The profit for August was \$12,661, which brings our checkbook balance to \$26,219.99. The committee needs a volunteer for approximately 5-8 hours per month to audit pull tabs at Champps. It was mentioned that perhaps we could get a fee-assistance recipient to help out in this manner. Gina Johnson has asked Tracee if we would like to advertise our gaming sites and times in the high school program this hockey season. Mike Goergen stated that he was aware of the request. Jere Bartz will conduct our annual audit during the month of October; Tracee should be able to report back to us on that during the November meeting. The annual Gambling Convention is in Duluth this year; Tracee would like to attend again this year.

Todd Pannek made the motion to approve the following four (4) items in regard to Charitable Gambling:

- 1) Monthly report to the board
- 2) Expenses for October 2008 in the amount of \$27,750
- 3) Pay July taxes to the City of Maple Grove in the amount of \$239.60
- 4) Provide \$185 for Tracee deNeui to attend Gambling Convention in November

Mike Terres seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve.

Dave Jensen reported to the board in regard to the **Wreath Fundraiser**. He will be chairing this event. The only rise in price is the small wreath, which has gone up by \$1.00. The Christmas Cane has been added to the offerings as well. Dave proposed that families be required to sell \$50 worth of product if they have one skater, \$80 if they have two, and \$100 if they have three or more kids skating. He has garnered prizes from All-Star, Davannis and other local businesses to offer as prizes. After discussion with the board, it was decided that each family will be asked to sell at least 10 (ten) items; we will not use the tiered system. If they want to opt out of the fundraiser, we can cash their \$50 check. Dave will be mailing the information and order sheets to families as soon as he can; Joanna said she'd get labels for him. November 2nd will be the cut off for orders and pick up date will be November 22nd.

Mike Goergen and Carolyn Soper brought us up to speed on the situation with the **Concession** stand. The City Council of New Hope had originally challenged us on the overages and shortages in the bookkeeping/inventory. Carolyn agreed that cashiers should have better training. The City ended up signing the Concession Agreement after all, and also agreed to pay for half of the new \$2500 refrigerator we need. The old checking account is still in existence as they are waiting for one more check to be cashed.

Derek Olson made the motion to acknowledge the dissolution of the District 281 Youth Hockey Concession Committee. Jim Siede seconded, and all were in favor. Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey will now handle the concessions.

Rob Odell from the **HDC** then addressed the board with the changes to the Guidelines. The tryout process is now outlined and explained in the Guidelines document. The Board then asked Rob if he could also add to the guidelines the “purpose of the camps” Rob will write up more on the process and theory behind the camps and get it to Kris for posting on the website.

Rob also asked for funds to pay for outside evaluators. He wants to offer \$100 per session to the evaluators who will have to commit to five or six nights, three hours per night. Derek Olson made the motion, and Larry Gonrowski seconded, to provide \$3,600 to pay for outside evaluators for the traveling levels. Motion passed.

The topic of “**Grade Age Waivers**” came up. We have a traveling skater this year with a July birthday that would like to move up with his classmates. The parents need to know that this type of waiver is a permanent one. Rob Odell agreed to speak with the parents to make sure this was the best type of waiver for their child. As it stands, the HDC may need the child to move up for “numbers purposes” anyway; the child would then not be locked into this move.

That being said, a situation was brought to light where a traveling player received a grade-age waiver two years ago but was now registered for the third year at that traveling level. Once again Rob was asked to speak to the parents and the former coach to see what best served the skater. Both of these waivers will be handled electronically once Rob has talked to the families.

Once again the **ACYHA Waiver Policy** was discussed. The majority of the board is not interested in changing our policy to be more lenient in open-enrollment situations. Mike Goergen specifically asked about the Meuwissen waiver. This skater lives in District 281 but has been skating at Hopkins since he was six years old. The board opted to leave it up to District 3 to grant that waiver. Derek Olson made the motion to approve the Waiver Policy as it stands. Mike Terres 2nd the motion. The motion received a majority vote of approval.

The **Fee Assistance Committee** has been created to help families in need pay hockey fees while giving back to the Association. To best keep families' financial situations confidential, the committee consists only of Troy Loken and Mike Goergen. These gentlemen will be in charge of meeting with families, looking over their situations, and working with them on what they can offer (volunteer back) to the Association in return for financial help. The document will be posted on the website; families will need to fill it out and provide financial statements in order to be eligible for assistance. Last year CYHA spent about \$2,000 on fee assistance and AYHA spent about \$5,000. Derek Olson made the motion for ACYHA to use up to \$7,000 for financial assistance to members. Jon Piazza seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The **ACYHA Logo** was discussed. Derek Olson and John Gautsche had contacted the Board electronically before the meeting with samples of logos. It was their intention that the Board choose a logo from that offering. The choices all involved different variations of the "Crest" that had previously been shown to the board. Board members discussed the fact that they weren't sold on the concept of the crest and that there should be other logo samples to look at. Mike Terres brought out a few things he had come up with. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed that the best way to choose a new logo would be to survey the membership. The Crest, a "crossed sticks with A/C" logo (from a Jamboree a few years' back) and the Air Force Academy logo will serve as the three options. Derek will set up the survey on the website; families will have one vote per skater in the Association. The option with the most votes from the membership will serve as our new logo.

The following updates were provided by Board members:

Mike Goergen, Youth Director: The waivers for the six U14 girls waiving out to Osseo Maple Grove are ready to go.

Kris Harnett, Secretary: With apologies, due to a computer disc glitch, no minutes are available for the August meeting.

Mark Gauer, Treasurer: We've taken in \$15,000 of our outstanding receivables and are down to about \$10,000. Families that owe money from last year should not have children on the ice.

Derek Olson, Ice Scheduler: Game scheduling is starting; there's a meeting September 18th. Troy Loken has offered to help Derek with scheduling. Derek has the final tournament schedule from the Bantams and has ice scheduled for that level for one month after tryouts. He also announced that there would be a mandatory coaches and managers meeting in Brooklyn Park on November 5th.

Jim Siede, Parent Volunteer Coordinator: Jim asked for help defining exactly who can work for a family to fulfill their volunteer hours. The Board recommended we include older siblings, parents, and grandparents. In general, the problem this season is going to be getting non-participants to participate. We need people to fill hours more than we need to be cashing volunteer checks.

Paul Wood, Travel Coordinator: Paul reported that the Bantams are short goalies this season. He's checked with other Associations to see about waiving goalies in to ACYHA but Wayzata, Hopkins and North Metro are all in the same boat. We have ten goalies for four teams at the PeeWee level so we may look at moving a couple of them up to the Bantam level. Paul will keep the board apprised of the situation.

Joanna Rooney, Registrar: Joanna handed out background forms for all members to fill out. All coaches and board members are re-checked each year. She reported that we have 360 skaters registered at this time. She has 12 new mites that have not yet been entered into the system. We have another Mite clinic coming up and hopefully we'll get some more skaters then. She has over 50 coaches that she's running background checks on. Coaches should not be on the ice until they've turned in their paperwork.

Greg Erickson, Tournament Director: ACYHA is hosting a Bantam/PeeWee/U12 "A" level tournament in February. The Bantam and PeeWee levels are full already and could probably be filled twice over. We only have three teams at the U12 level, however; ACYHA, Buffalo and Chanhassen have registered. Tom Keller will make some calls and try to fill up those last spots. An ad in "Let's Play Hockey" will be running; it was \$400 for a ¼ page advertisement.

Greg is interested in pulling together a committee of ten (10) volunteers to help with tournaments and the State PeeWee "A" Banquet.

Carolyn Soper, Concessions: Carolyn is still looking for one more shift manager. A couple of the Board Members will look to see if we can find someone to take a spot. If that doesn't work out, we'll post the job opening on the website. Also, our Certificate of Exempt status has been denied by the State of Minnesota. Mark Gauer will help Carolyn out with the paperwork on that.

Mike Terres, Equipment Coordinator: All traveling levels have the necessary jerseys for camps and tryouts. Pinneys will have numbers added to the front for evaluation purposes. Theresa Deterding and Kate Harber have offered to run another equipment swap which should take place some time early in the season. The new ACYHA jerseys will be in soon at All-Star Sports. The patches will be sewn on and then they'll be ready to wear.

Troy Loken asked for clarification on the Bantam jerseys. Did we order them with the rest of the jerseys? The merger proposal originally stated that we would not order the new ACYHA Bantam jerseys until after the 2008-2009 season. The reason for this was two fold: only three former CYHA kids were expected back at the Bantam level and the AYHA board wanted the majority of the skaters to finish their time in Youth Hockey wearing the colors they'd worn since they'd started hockey. The other reason was that at the time, the Board was under the impression that we'd save money by not ordering all the jerseys at once. When it came time to order the jerseys, it was apparent that splitting the order would actually be more costly. We agreed to order the Bantam jerseys but shelve them for one year. Reasons given reiterated the latter issue stated above as well as saving a year of wear and tear on the new jerseys.

Troy suggested that if we were interested in saving on the wear and tear, that the PeeWee level could shelve the new ACYHA jerseys as well. The PeeWees could use the old A/C jerseys for a year as there were enough to outfit all four teams at that level.

Discussion ensued on the topic. Troy Loken then made the formal motion that we use four (4) sets of A/C jerseys at the PeeWee level for the 2008-2009 season. Mark Gauer seconded the motion. More discussion took place before Mike Goergen called for a vote. The motion did not pass.

Matt Deterding, Mite Coordinator: Matt stated that there would be another Mite clinic held later this month and that we'd probably add one in late October as well. He's looking at the 27th. We have 150 Mites at this time; we thought our numbers would be higher. New and returning numbers are both down; the Ice Arena issue as well as the economy are probably hurting us. Hopefully the clinics will bring in more kids.

The Mite coaches meeting is set; we will be using the old curriculum as well as some new stuff. Matt and Derek have been asked to be the District 3 Mite Coordinator Reps, which speaks a lot to the success of our organization. They will once again be working on getting a Pond Hockey league going within the District to start out the hockey season for the Mite 3's.

Derek Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. Mike Terres seconded and the motion passed.

Between the dates of September 15, 2008 and October 13, 2008, the following electronic votes were presented to the ACYHA Board:

- 1) On September 17, 2008, in regard to the Grade Age Waiver granted to Jack McDonough in August, 2006, the following message was sent to the Board:

“Given Mike's [Goergen] discussions with Dave McDonough and Kevin Gray, I support the board rescinding Jack's play-with-grade waive-up. The board should follow appropriate rules of order and have a motion put out with a second and majority approval.

I make a motion to rescind Jack McDonough's waive-up and allow him to remain with his age group at Squirts.

Regards,
Todd” [Pannek]

Greg Erickson seconded the motion; the motion passed.

- 2) On September 24, 2008, in regard to a waiver requested by Jakob Johnson’s parents for him to play up at the Squirt level, the following message and motion was sent to the Board:

“Board Members,

The HDC met last night and discussed waiving Jakob Johnson up to Squirts for the coming season. They recommend that we, as a board, do move Jakob up for the year, but that we do not make this a permanent grade-age waiver. This protects both Jakob and the Association in coming years in case of any changes to his development or the needs of the Association.

I make the motion to move Jakob Johnson up to the Squirt level for the hockey season of 2008-2009.

Thanks,
Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA”

Troy Loken seconded the motion; the motion passed.

- 3) On September 26, in regard to the new logos, the following email and motion was sent to the Board:

“Board Members,

I move that we open the logo survey to the membership. An email will be sent to said membership asking them to have each player in the association vote on their favorite design. Voting will be slated to end October 1st.

First respondent, please reply with a 2nd. You can then either discuss or vote.

Thanks,
Kris [Harnett]”

Derek Olson seconded the motion; the motion passed.

- 4) On September 26, the following email was sent to the Board:

“Board Members,

We have an abundance of goalies at our PeeWee level. The Hopkins Youth Hockey Association has communicated with Gary Gilbert and the HDC that they need an additional goalie at their PeeWee level. The HDC has recommended that we waive out Cullen Benkofske to the Hopkins Association. This is a fit as the Benkofske's have requested such a waiver in the past, as Cullen open-enrolls to the Hopkins schools.

While our waiver policy dictates that waivers are not granted until after the ACHYA tryout process is complete, the HDC also requests that we waive Cullen out immediately so that he can start the tryout process at Hopkins.

I move that we immediately consider and grant a one year waiver request to Cullen Benkofske and allow him to skate at the PeeWee level at the Hopkins Youth Hockey Association.

First respondent, please reply with a second. We can then discuss within the email process. If you are comfortable voting yes or no immediately, please do so.

Thanks,
Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA”

Derek Olson seconded the motion; the motion passed.

5) On October 2nd, the following communication went out to the Board:

“Board Members,

As previously mentioned, we have an abundance of goalies at the PeeWee level. We are also short goalies at the Bantam level. The HDC and Bruce Lundberg (ACYHA Goalie Coordinator) have had several conversations with John Froom in regard to his son Ryan. Ryan is the lone 8th grade goalie at the PeeWee level and would love to play up at Bantam. Upon our approval, Ryan would begin the camp & tryout process with the Bantams, but it has been agreed upon that he would be the Bantam B2 Goalie for the 2008-2009 season. The Frooms, the HDC, the Bantam Coordinator and the Goalie Coordinator are all in favor of this and have asked for our immediate approval.

Therefore:

I make the motion to move Ryan Froom up to the Bantam level for the 2008-2009 hockey season to play goalie for the Bantam B2 team at ACYHA.

Thanks,

Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA”

Jim Siede seconded the motion. There was discussion after the second in regard to the reasoning of placing Ryan immediately on the B2 team. Rod Odell explained that Frooms understood the process and that this was an opportunity for Ryan to be the lone goalie on a Bantam team. Voting resumed; motion passed.

6) On October 6, 2008, the following communication went out to the Board:

“Board Members,

The HDC has reviewed the situation and recommends the following:

In light of the fact that there is no U10 A team being offered this season, Jessica Halverson and Molly Kasper should be moved up to U12 and be allowed to play on a PAC team at that level. However, it should be understood that the ACYHA Girls’ Coordinator and coaches have agreed that Jessica and Molly are NOT eligible for the U12 A team unless they finish in the top 5 during the evaluation process. While the U12 A team is sponsored by St. Louis Park, ACYHA reserves the right to put forth this stipulation.

(Continued)

Therefore:

I make a motion to waive Jessica Halverson and Molly Kasper up to the U12 level for the 2008-2009 hockey season. In order for either girl, individually, to be eligible for the U 12 A team, she must place in the top five skaters during evaluations.

First respondent, please 2nd the motion.

Thanks,

Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA”

Troy Loken seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7) Also on October 6th, the Board received another electronic request:

“Board Members,

In the matters of Ellie Bahr and Emily Daughenbaugh, both of which have previously been presented to you, the HDC recommends the following:

Ellie Bahr: We recommend allowing her to be evaluated / considered for the U10B team to help fill in the last two (2) spots that will get them to 15 skaters.****

Emily Daughenbaugh: We do not recommend allowing her to move up to U10 due to her age and having two more years of Mite eligibility remaining.

****The HDC recommends contacting all the girls in their final year of Mite hockey to see if they would like to be evaluated / considered for the U10B team to help fill in the last two (2) spots. Therefore, I make the following motion:

In light of the fact that the girls U10B team is looking for two more skaters, I move that the ACYHA board have the Girls Coordinator, Tom Keller, contact all families with a girl skater in her last year of Mite hockey to see if she'd like to be evaluated and considered for placement on the team for the 2008-2009 hockey season.

Thanks,

Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA”

The motion was seconded by Jim Siede and passed.

8) On October 12, 2008, in light of the fact that the PeeWee level has only 52 skaters, the following motion was sent to the board via Email:

“I move that we accept the HDC's recommendation to have four teams at the PeeWee level, each with 13 skaters.

Thanks,

Kristen Harnett, Secretary, ACYHA

Derek Olson seconded the motion; the motion passed.

This ends the reporting of electronic votes takes from 9/15/08 to 10/13/08 by ACYHA.