

HOPKINS ROYALS BOYS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2016
Minnetonka Community Center / 7:00 – 9:00 PM



Meeting Attendance:

Bobby Ciatti	Jean Stout	Justin White
Dana Johnson	Joan Frenz	Tim Omdahl
Andrea Rauser	Tony Corwin	Amara Chesson
Tim Hoffman	Conrad Chin	Gregg Schaefer

Call to order/Minutes/Agenda Review:

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Guests: We had one guest attend the meeting tonight. We did not scare Lydia Kabaka away. She is still interested in joining the Board and taking over the Secretary position at the end of the season.

Approval of Minutes: The October 2016 minutes were approved.

Reports/Critical Discussions:

Tip Off Night: This year's tip off night was very well received. We had an inspirational speech from Coach Ken Novak, Jr., and were successful in making the event less informational and more of a fun pep rally to get the season going. One question was raised about whether it was clear enough that the spirit wear was available for try on, but Conrad reported that spirit wear purchases were pretty brisk even though the families didn't really stick around to try things on. As in the past acoustics were an issue.

Picture Night/Cancellation of Practice: Picture Night also went very smoothly. It was less chaotic and quicker. This year we cancelled practices, however one team still conducted a practice that the club was not aware of. Although coaches scheduling their own practices does not present too much of a concern, it does raise some perception issues, and the board should know about them. In terms of perception, it may put other coaches who did not practice in a poor position. We also need to know what the kids are being told in terms of whether the practice is mandatory or optional, and need to make sure that players who choose not to attend are not stigmatized or penalized. The

coaches should, as a general rule, follow what the league has set up, as we already have more practice time than other organizations. Tony, Justin and Bobby will work on a communication to all coaches; and Tony will talk to the coach individually.

Treasurer's Update: Presently, we have just under \$57,500 in the bank. Financial were discussed, including what we anticipate coming in (e.g., the next round of installment payments) and what will be going out in the next month.

The Chipotle night was a success, raising \$624. We should receive the check shortly. The check from the Yogurt Lab fundraiser is in the mail. We do not yet know what the proceeds of that fundraiser were.

We received a request from the Hopkins Education Foundation for a donation to the annual Royal Bash fundraiser. Last year we donated \$300. A motion was made to donate \$300 again this year, was seconded and passed 10-2. The donation will get our name and logo in the auction brochure and promotional material.

Tournament Update: We have 160 teams registered. All but two have paid. We are running in to a gym space crunch and are looking to add space on Sunday to accommodate the registrations, possibly at Tanglen. If we cannot get more court space we may need to cut 10 teams.

Andrea and Tim. O. will be taking the lead on concessions. We will look for volunteers to assist as concession site leaders and assistants so that Andrea will not have to spend the entire 16 hours in the stand.

Coaching Update: This year we have had considerably more coaching and development director engagement. Tony and Joan have been visiting practices, and have begun keeping notes on practice observations in a centralized location, as well communicating directly. Hopefully this will have us better prepared for the mid-season survey.

The mid-season survey is usually sent out after the Chanhassen tournament, which is the last tournament before the winter break. Dana and Stacie will work on putting it together. Bobby will send over the question template.

All head coach paperwork has been completed. One coach still needs the concussion certification, but the assistant coach is certified. The assistant coach documentation is almost all completed.

The board spent considerable time discussing the 8 White coaching situation. The original coach resigned after two weeks, citing the time commitment as the reason for his resignation. A parent who had reached out with interest in head coaching stepped in to handle practices and was observed coaching at the Chaska Tournament. Tony would like to give him the head coach position. Bobby watched one of the games and thought

he was organized, had a good demeanor, and was fair with playing time. The kids appeared motivated. Justin observed one practice and the coach had the kids under control. There are no other candidates. He is a parent coach. We have one other parent coach in the upper grade levels, on 7C that we are not paying. Tony believes the parent wants to get experience and eventually be a paid coach.

The board discussed the results of the background check on one of the assistant coaches and determined that he was qualified to coach. Tony will speak to him about expectations.

“Focus” Clinics: Joan and Justin have been working on player development ideas, including the initiation of “focus” clinics. For these clinics, we would schedule 3 courts for 4 hours. There would be one instructor per court. These instructors would be paid \$80 for the day (\$20/hr.) and may be from outside the program. The clinics will be split into two blocks of time – one for grades 5-6, and one for grades 7-8.

There will be a fee of \$15 to participate in the focus clinics. The reasoning for charging a registration fee is to encourage kids to actually show up, and to keep a handle on how many come as registration will be limited to 24 players per group (12 per grade). Scholarships will not be offered since the clinics are optional.

Target weekends for the focus clinics would be the weekends on which there are no tournaments. It was originally hoped that the first clinic could be conducted on December 10, but it was thought that this was too soon to get the court time, and to get the word out and complete registrations. Justin would like to eventually offer the clinics monthly, and Joan would like to have one focus on the younger kids to help bring more of them in to the program.

FOCUS Awards: Joan presented regarding an award concept based on Coach Novak’s inspirational talk to the kids. The award would be a FOCUS award to encourage players to demonstrate our core values of determination, hard work, effort, sportsmanship and teamwork. At the end of the season, the kids could vote on who from their team should get the award. Over the next month, Joan will work on how to roll it out, present it to the coaches and teams, and refine the concept. It was suggested that the FOCUS concepts could be put on a T-shirt or perhaps a bag tag and given to all the players.

Tryout Feedback: Joan has put together the tryout feedback meeting notes. They address what worked in terms of best practices and the overall process. For action items, we need to work on putting together a coaching committee to begin the process for next year. We may need to update our policies and guidelines to reflect best practices, possibly bringing in independent evaluators so it is less focused on coaches picking teams, work with the high school program, and possibly create a shared calendar. Jean suggested we have a dedicated agenda item. It will be very important to address advertising and late registration issues.

Practice Schedule: We discussed whether to schedule holiday gym time. Typically, the kids have not practiced during the break and are rusty when they get back. We cannot schedule practice on Jan 2, but can schedule the 3rd. Jean will try to schedule Dec. 19 and 20 for regular practices as school will still be in session those days. The following week, we could consider an optional open court, hopefully on the 27th and 29th. Tony and Justin will reach out to the coaches to see if any would be willing to help out with open/optional the 27th and 29th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02. Next meeting, December 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Rauser
HRBBA Board Secretary