

MINUTES

SAHOF High School Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Meeting Time: 1:00pm

Meeting Location: Hollywood Beach Marriott – 2501 N Ocean Dr, Hollywood, FL 33019

Committee Members In Attendance: Tom Garavaglia, John Gullman, John Colombo

Committee Members Absent: Jay Feaster, Ed de La Paz

Also In Attendance: Joe Muller, Matt Janusz



Prior to the start of the SAHOF High School Committee Meeting, Jay Feaster gave his proxy and full voting rights to Tom Garavaglia for the duration of the meeting

- SAHOF High School Committee member nominations for 2018-2019 season

It was discussed that the 2017-2018 SAHOF High School Committee was the most active committee in years, and was extremely beneficial in the advancement of high school hockey in the state. With that thought process, brief discussion was had in regards to simply keeping the committee together for the 2018-2019 season

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY JOHN GULLMAN – Nominate Ed de La Paz and John Colombo to serve a second term as members of the SAHOF High School Committee for the 2018-2019 season

MOTION PASSES 3-0

With the confirmation of John Colombo and Ed de La Paz as members of the SAHOF High School Committee for the 2018-2019 season, the committee has reached maximum capacity of the following 5 members:

1. Tom Garavaglia – SAHOF Board of Directors – Committee Chair
2. Jay Feaster – LSHSL President
3. John Gullman – FPSHL President
4. John Colombo – Committee Member – FPSHL representative
5. Ed de La Paz – Committee Member – LSHSL representative

- SAHOF High School Committee meeting schedule for 2018-2019 season

It was determined that the SAHOF High School Committee will continue to meet on the first or second Friday of each month for the duration of the 2018-2019 season.

ACTION ITEM: Committee Chairman will establish a full meeting schedule for the 2018-2019 season, to be shared with the High School Committee and posted on the SAHOF website

- Rules approved in 17-18 going in to affect in 18-19
 - Per SAHOF HS Committee Meeting on 8-11-17
 - *Beginning in the 2018-2019 season, to be eligible for the SAHOF state playoffs and beyond, a private school may not combine with any public school*
 - Additional clarification needed on breakdown of this new rule for 2018-2019, including if a private school may combine with another private school,

and under what conditions/qualifications

Discussions on this topic during previous High School Committee meetings included the inherent advantages private schools have from a recruiting standpoint, as those schools do not have traditional boundaries, and may pull players from anywhere. Those issues were discussed again at length, as well as potential solutions for the construct of a combined team utilizing private schools.

Concern was expressed from a FPSHL front, as they fear if private schools are limited on the number of private schools they can combine with, they may lose teams from their league, as multiple private schools have 3, 4 or more players which must be accounted for per their own league rules,

It was noted that per SAHOF High School Committee rules established in the 2017-2018 season, players attending a private school which does not have its own team, but lives in a public school zone for a school that is an active part of a Tier II team catchment area may play for that team, without their private school counting against the maximum of 4 schools represented on a roster.

Additional discussion was had in regard to should private schools be allowed to combine with one another, other than the number of private schools allowed to combine, should there be any other geographical boundary or restrictions for those schools to combine. i.e. how far apart is a reasonable distance for two private schools to be to allow them to combine, while still staying true to the spirit of high school hockey, and community based teams

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY JOHN GULLMAN – A private school may only combine with another private school from within the same county

MOTION PASSES 3-0

The SAHOF High School Committee feels it is best to limit the number of private schools that can combine to make one team based on the issue of the recruiting advantages for private schools. At the same time, the Committee feels that drastically cutting down on private school abilities to combine may hinder league from forming a few teams. As a result, a staggered approach/implementation was presented to allow leagues an opportunity to plan, and transition to new guidelines. Overall, it is the belief of the High School Committee that private schools should at a maximum combine with 1 other private school for a maximum of 2 private schools. Again the it is proposed that a staggered/tiered approach/implantation would allow for a smoother transition and planning for each league.

MOTION BY JOHN GULLMAN, SECOND BY TOM GARAVAGLIA – In the 2018-2019 season, allow up to a total of 4 private schools to combine to form 1 team. In 2019-2020 season, allow up to a total of 3 private schools to combine to form 1 team. Following the 2019-2020 season, the High School Committee will re-evaluate this rule, with the intentions of limiting private schools to a maximum of 2 schools in the 2020-2021 season

MOTION PASSES 3-0

While there is now a staggered approach in place detailing the growth

and combination process for private schools, including eventually reaching 2 private schools maximum, should the 2 private school maximum be obtainable sooner, the High School Committee intends to move to that requirement as soon as they can, no later than the 2020-2021 season,

- Rules changes discussed but not approved in 17-18
 - Further clarification on billeted players. **RULE NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION DURING 2018-2019 SEASON**

While USA hockey has a rule specific to billeted players, due to issues generated in and discussed at length by the FPSHL, there is a need to generate a Statewide rule to further detail and outline qualifications to advance to State and National tournaments. Specifically, the amount of players permissible on a high school roster from outside of the United States. This item was placed on the agenda for discussion by the FPSHL due to issues that arose in their league in the 2017-2018 season where it appeared a team within their league was bringing in many players from outside of the United States to "stack" their roster. While participation in high school hockey is encouraged, it is important to promote hockey within the local community first and foremost.

Discussions included further enforcement of the existing USA Hockey billeted player roster limitations as defined by USA Hockey, as well as additional stipulations recommended to be enforced at the State level.

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY JOHN GULLMAN – Limit teams to a maximum of 2 non-North American players, who were not registered with USA Hockey in the previous season.

MOTION PASSES 3-0

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY JOHN GULLMAN – In the event a team feels they need an additional player beyond the 2 non-North American player maximum, they must apply for a waiver to be approved or denied by the SAHOF High School Committee. In the event a waiver is submitted to and approved by the SAHOF High School Committee, at most, only 2 additional non-North American players may be added to a roster

MOTION PASSES 3-0

ACTION ITEM: Committee member John Colombo will draft the proposed waiver for Committee approval at our next meeting.

In the case of a waiver submittal, the granting of any such waivers in regards to these roster limitations will not be considered normal practice by the SAHOF High School Hockey Committee.

- Statewide Development
 - Interleague play opportunities
Proposed a jamboree to be played between both the LSHL and the FPSHL. It is believed that the best time to host a jamboree would be in January, before students return from winter break.

Space would be limited in the jamboree, and would be invite only for a pre-determined number of teams from each league, which will be

determined at a later date.

Games would not count against teams record, and would be looked at as purely an exhibition game.

- o Areas for potential growth
Greatest areas at this point in time is Ft. Myers and Orlando area
- o Secondary tournament at State Championships

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY JOHN GULLMAN – Officially add secondary tournament to take place at the same time as the State Tournament, at the same location

MOTION PASSES 3-0

We are full go for secondary tournament to take place at the same time as the SAHOF State Tournament to increase participation and attendance. Exact details to be worked out as we move through the season. However, the initial goal is to host a 10-team tournament. Item will be added to future agenda for further development

- o Elite Development Programs

LHSHL Elite Development Program (EDP) is set to get off the ground in the 2018-2019 season with 2 teams; freshman/sophomore and junior/senior. LHSHL is fully operated and supported by the Tampa Bay Lightning, including the involvement of Lightning Alumni in many capacities. Discussions included the vast importance for the Florida Panthers to show a similar level of support for the FPSHL, including alumni involvement from a coaching standpoint to add additional credibility to the league.

John Colombo assures the group the Panthers intend to be more involved from a marketing and promotion standpoint of the FPSHL at a minimum, and intend to support the FPSHL in their attempts and efforts to grow high school hockey

- SAHOF High School State Championships
 - o Preferred location: Germain Arena
 - o Secondary location:
 - o What did we like? What did we not like? How can we make it better?

No changes to the Tier II format. However, adjust Tier I format to the following:

- **Following pool play, the 4th place team is done/eliminated**
- **Following pool play, the 1st place team earns an automatic bid to the Championship Game**
- **Following pool play, the 2nd and 3rd place teams will faceoff in a semifinal game, with the winner earning a spot in the Championship Game**

Additional discussions had in regards to the further improvement of the High School State championship including the potential addition of "All Tournament Team" awards, among other elements. The overall goal of the High School Committee is to continually improve upon the State Tournament, making it bigger and better year after year. State tournament improvements/developments will continue to be placed on

the monthly agenda for the High School Committee throughout the season.

- Apply to host USA Hockey Nationals
No discussion had specifically on this topic

The SAHOF High School Committee will again approach Germain Arena to host the SAHOF High School State Championships, securing a neutral site between the LSHL and the FPSHL

ACTION ITEM: Committee Chair will follow up with Germain Arena to discuss locking in ice for both the State Championships, as well as the secondary tournament.

- SAHOF Tier II Trophy Issue
 - We have been asked to explore penalty to the Mitchell Mustangs, who cannot locate the Tier II state championship trophy after having won it in 2017

As the Tier II State trophy went missing after it was last handed out to the Mitchell Mustangs of the LSHL in 2017, we as a Committee have been asked by a member team within the LSHL to explore potential penalties for a team not replacing the trophy, as it was not returned, and therefore could not be handed out to the 2018 winner.

The High School Committee is in agreeance that a penalty should be handed down for the sole purpose of ensuring this does not happen again in the future, and also to ensure there is a process in place to replace the trophy if need be, in a timely manner.

Committee discussed financial penalties, as well as trophy return deadline dates before a monetary penalty would be implemented.

MOTION BY TOM GARAVAGLIA, SECOND BY – Any trophy that is to be handed out on an annual basis, must be returned to the president of the League the winner resides in no later than January 15 of the following season

MOTION PASSES 3-0

MOTION BY JOHN GULLMAN, SECOND BY TOM GARAVAGLIA – A team failing to return the trophy by the issued return date, shall incur the full replacement cost of a new trophy, no less than \$500, payable to SAHOF.

MOTION PASSES 3-0

- Other items from the group
No additional items from group

Meeting adjourn at 2:57pm

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES



Tom Garavaglia

Tom Garavaglia – Committee Chair

Jay Feaster

Jay Feaster – LSHSL President

John Gullman

John Gullman – FPSHL President

John Colombo – Committee Member

Ed de la Paz, D.M.D.

Ed de La Paz – Committee Member