

# MICHIGAN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING

## DRAFT OF 2021 WINTER MEETING MINUTES

The 2021 Winter Meeting was held on January 24, 2021 via Zoom Conference Call.

It was moved and seconded the Summer Meeting of July 13 2020 be adjourned to meet in January 2021 at a date and time to be set by the executive committee; and, that proposed rule Proposal 2020-03 be adopted. President George Atkinson reopened the adjourned meeting at 8:45 a.m. The 2020-03 Tier 1 Player Movement was adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative and 1 negative. The adjourned meeting was closed at 9:10 a.m.

The 2021 Winter Meeting was held via Zoom Conference Call on Sunday, January 24, 2021. President George Atkinson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Present at the meeting were 57 voting members. Absent members were Chris Marek, Craig Staskowski, Brian Csutoras and Clem Waldmann.

Maurice Henderson went over Roberts Rules of Order.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the summer meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report for December, 2020 was distributed. The proposed budget was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the new budget and the USA Block Grant. Motion passed with 55 ayes and 2 non votes. Motion passed.

**NOTE:** All individual reports were distributed to all members by email.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President George Atkinson stated his report is in the book. Highlights of his report included: I want to thank our Coaching Education Program for quickly pivoting to a virtual curriculum that provided opportunities for coaches to increase their knowledge and attain the level they needed to continue coaching our youth. The virtual clinics included coaches from around the country which helped bring some new perspectives, which many coaches stated they found insightful. The Officiating Program also offered virtual seminars to train and certify officials for this season. This new format and everyone's participation helped keep the ball rolling when we were unable to conduct the events in person.

Another bright spot to 2020 was the addition of Jason Reynolds, our first paid staff member, as our Director of Operations and Marketing. Jason has really helped us stay on top of the changing landscape during the pandemic and was able to help us provide guidance very quickly to our associations as things changed. Jason is a great fit for our association and we are looking forward to 2021 so he can spend more time on the areas that were to be his original focus.

The pandemic has brought out both the best and worst in our membership. As I stated in January 2020, the Michigan Hockey culture needs to change and improve. Unfortunately, the pandemic saw many individuals, teams and rinks looking out only for themselves. Associations seemed to lack the will to police those that were jeopardizing player safety by going outside of the guidance and sanctioned activities. We will talk more about this during the winter meetings, but local associations must take greater control of their local programs. We expect local programs to set the standard for growth of their local program, player development, and participant safety, and then encourage and enforce those local standards in their program. Youth sports is meant for participants to have fun, develop their athletic skills, and also develop their cognitive and interpersonal skills that will serve them in their future. All too often we see the "recruit to win" model versus the "develop our local youth" model. There is a time and place for both, and as we reboot from the pandemic, we need to be more mindful of what our true mission should be.

### **RULE CHANGES**

Revision of By Law 7 – Forward to Summer Mtg.  
Revision of By Law 8- Forward to Summer Mtg.  
Additional to Bylaw 11 1 Forward to Summer Mtg  
Voting was done electronically.

Forwarded Rule Change Proposals will be posted on the web site.

**ELECTIONS:**

Executive Vice President	Dan Pozdol
Secretary	Kevin Wood
VP Youth	Joe Barone
USA Hockey Director	Gordon Bow

Term of office is three years commencing at the end of the 2021 summer meeting and ends at the conclusion of the 2024 Summer meeting.

All reports were emailed to all participants.

**SAFESPORT:** Richard Frescura highlighted key points of his report:

This season with the new background check being national has been to say the least different. The procedure is done with a few new steps but seems to be going okay. I will have a group meeting at the USA winter meeting and work through those for a better process going forward. When or if you get flagged, you will be sent on email from USA Hockey Safesport Staff. So, when you register with USA Hockey it is especially important to use an email account that you check regularly. Please do not just create an address just for the purpose of registering, you may then miss the email from USA hockey and that has a time period that will expire.

Safesport Training is yearly task so once you have done the core training, the next following three seasons you will do the one fresher each season and then the fifth season take the core training again.

**First Season taking SafeSport Training:** Take Core Training **Second Season:** Take Refresher Course 1 **Third Season:** Take Refresher Course 2 **Fourth Season:** Take Refresher Course 3 **Fifth Season:** Take Core Training Again  
**The Core Training takes approximately 90 minutes to complete and each Refresher Course takes approximately 30 minutes.**

**GUIDE BOOK:**

No Report

**OFFICIALS:**

No Report.

**COACHES:**

Gordon Bowman mentioned to send nominations for Coach of the Year to him by April 15, 2021. report is in the book

Jack Witt stated: This is my 25<sup>th</sup> year in the Coaching Education Program, and by far, the most unique and unusual. After years of preparing new clinic content, and after USA Hockey adopted revised Coaching Education progressions last summer, we spent the entire 2020 spring and summer dealing with issues of the Covid-19 Pandemic and its impact on youth hockey and coaching.

The Coaching Education Program managed to pivot to a virtual curriculum, organized by our Curriculum Committee, which included (and was largely led by) our ADM Regional Manager, Bob Mancini. We were fortunate to have adopted Zoom in 2017, so many of us were used to it, and had USA Hockey Zoom Accounts. By early July we had organized materials suitable for presenting on Zoom, had created scripts for virtual clinics, had defined new roles of "Clinic Producer" to manage the technical environment, and in early July launched the new virtual clinics. We also decided, based on several compelling reasons, to offer unlimited access to the Temporary Card for this season only. As you will see below, this was a popular decision.

Finally, USA Hockey's Youth Council, in December, authorized an extension of the Coach Education Due Date to January 31, 2021. We will offer at least two virtual clinics in January to assist coaches in meeting their obligation.

Here are the official nationwide participation numbers from USA Hockey as of December 28, 2020:

Temporary Cards – 12,462

Clinic Registrations – 14,846

Completed (Level 1-4) – 14,062 coaches

Registered (Level 1-4) – 293 coaches

Bronze Completed – 479 coaches

Virtual Clinics Held – 362

349 Level 1-4 Clinics (342 Completed – 14,062 Coaches/7 Posted – 293 Coaches)

11 Bronze Goaltending Clinics (11 Completed – 479 Coaches)

1 High Performance Clinic for coaches that are coaching blind athletes (Completed)

1 High Performance Clinic for coaches that are coaching disabled hockey (Completed)

#### **AWARDS:**

Larry Johnson distributed flyers for nominations for the Wes Danielson award. Nominations must be into him by March 15, 2021 Larry reiterated the nominee must be a person who has overcome a major setback, handicap or hardship and participated in or made a major contribution to the game of hockey. The William Kellogg Memorial Award nominees are to be sent to Kerin Wear by March 15, 2021. The criteria for both these awards are in the M.A.H.A. Guidebook. Female Honors Award must be into Jean Laxton by March 1, 2021. Association of the Year Award are to be in to Larry Johnson by March 15, 2021

#### **YOUTH:**

Roger Mauritho stated all is going well and last night's meeting was long but very productive and the State Tournaments sites and times are on the web site and is looking forward to the State Tournaments. No report in the book

#### **ADULTS:**

Larry Johnson reported:

The number of adult players registered with USA Hockey in Michigan has dropped significantly this season. Several leagues have purchased supplemental insurance from a private source, and at least one league has joined another organization. The lack of teams has forced the decision to not host the State Playoff tournaments this season. Instead, we are concentrating on hosting a 4-on-4 Adult Jamboree. Because a good number of adult players are also coaching and parents of youth hockey players, the tournament must be held after the youth State playoffs and Nationals are completed. At this time, the Jamboree is scheduled to be held the weekend of May 14-16, 2021. As soon as more information is available, we will be contacting all adult leagues to invite them to participate. All participants must be registered with USA Hockey. Any Adult who registers with USA Hockey after April 1, 2021 will be insured by USA Hockey for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season, as well as the entire 2021-2022 season. We are hoping that this will be an incentive for leagues and players to return to both USA Hockey and MAHA.

#### **GIRL'S/WOMEN:**

Jean Laxton highlights of her report: As of January 1, 2021 Michigan, had a total of 3,793 players compared to last year at the same time the were 4,724 which is a decrease in 931 players. The numbers are reflective of the current Covid situation and the pause in hockey across the state. Michigan hopes to increase our growth through the final months of the season and add some new skaters after the February 20<sup>th</sup> USA Hockey try hockey for free events and other local association events that are planned. The IIHF Girls Hockey weekend was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. USA Hockey had a girl hockey weekend celebration October 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>. Several affiliates across the country had in person or virtual events and 7 NHL teams participated.

#### **ONE GOAL:**

Lyle Phair reported: The MAHA OneGoal Committee received thirty-four OneGoal grant applications in 2020 with thirty-three approved for funding and approximately \$50,000 allocated for distribution to associations to help fund initiatives geared toward getting more players participating in hockey. The application that was not approved for funding was an association that had received funding in the prior year but did not fulfill the grant obligations as required.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL:**

Don Wright reported: This fall was the seventh year of the Midget Split Season. The playoffs were held in October. We ended up with four teams participating in the 16 U playoff and six at the 18 U playoff. Prior to concerns over COVID-19 as well as a potential conflict between the Midget State Tournament and the MHSAA Final Four we had 7 teams at 16 U and 13 teams at 18 U entered for the playoff equaling our highest number so far. Almost every team that ended up not participating said they planned to be back next year.

At 16 U this year the Champion was the USA Eagles, and they will move on to the 16 U MAHA State Tournament.

At 18 U the Champion was Michigan Elite and the runner up was the SEC Selects. Both teams will advance to the 18 U MAHA State Tournament.

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

Ron Hayes reported: This past season, because of the present situation, I haven't made any referee – coach relationship presentations at the level 1 and 2 coach's clinics. I want to thank Jack Witt and Russ Eidenberger for the chance to participate in this area of the coaching program

**DISABLED SPORTS PROGRAM:**

No report given:

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

Grant Helms reminded everyone: Please make sure everyone is aware of the Safe Sport Guidelines and protocols. Associations/Board of Directors/Teams will need to make sure guidelines are being followed to protect all Coaches, players, and volunteers!

Be sure all your teams and teams you are playing are properly registered and sanctioned by USA Hockey

**LEGAL:**

Steve Stapleton reported: COVID-19 remains the primary matter to address and we have assisted the Executive Committee with COVID-19 related issues/government restrictions and expect that we will address these issues throughout the 2020-2021 season and into the beginning of the 2021-2022 season. We have worked with MAHA to address necessary bylaw changes to accommodate operation through a pandemic or other emergency circumstance. This will allow MAHA to operate more effectively in the coming years.

**REGISTRATIONS:**

Bob Yohe stated: Currently we have 1195 pre/season, regular season and tournament teams rostered for the 2020-21 season,

1033 Tier III Teams

115 Tier II National Bound Teams

48 Tier I National Bound Teams

I want to thank all the Association Registers and the Associate Registrars for their hard work during this very uncertain time. As we move forward in 2021 let's hope for the best.

**DISTRICT ELECTIONS:**

Kerin Wear announced the elections of the district directors that would be taking place. Discussion occurred regarding the process for elections.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

District Elections All nominations and resumes for Districts Directors must be into the Secretary by February 1, 2021.

Each District will appoint a person to accept the nominations and resumes.

May Executive Board Meeting May 25, 2021 Marriott Livonia 9:00 am

MAHA Summer Meeting July 9, 10, 11, 2021 Double Tree by Hilton Grand Rapids, MI

No further business was to come before the meeting: the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Kerin R. Wear  
M.A.H.A. Secretary