



Meeting was called to order by President Dave Margenau at 8:00 AM.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Rhonda Madsen.

Board Members Present:

President Dave Margenau	Vice President Scott Gray	VP Tom Christianson
VP Scott Dornfeld	VP John Perry	Treasurer Doug Kephart
Secretary Rhonda Madsen	Director Tom Mickus	Director Jake Reinseth
Director Nicole Brodersen	Director Jeremy Reed	Director Steve Gapinski
Director Brad Hewitt	Director Rich Rakness	Director Mark Blaisdell
Director Colleen Donovan	Director Pete Hill	Director Steve Oleheiser
Director Dennis Bushy	Director Mark Elliott	Dir Adult Women Nancy Wefler
Disabled Hockey Toni Gillen	Section Referee Dir Mike Mannin	

Staff Present: Executive Director Glen Andresen, Marketing/Communications Manager Derek Ricke, and Hockey Programs Manager Mike Terwilliger

Minnesota District Representatives Present:

Dave Margenau, Director	Doug Kephart, Director	Steve Oleheiser, Director
Toni Gillen, Disabled Hockey	Scott Gray, Director	Todd Elmer, Registrar
Doug Foster, Girls/Women's Rep	Travis Johnson, Risk Manager	Steve Tatro, Referee in Chief

The voting quorum was announced. With 24 voting members present, simple majority was thirteen (13) two-thirds majority was seventeen (17).

Moment of silence for Jerry Gapinski, Steve Gapinski's father; Harv Graczyk, STMA Coach; Ken Johansson, Rochester and USA Hockey Leader; and Sandra Foster, Doug Foster's mother.

Minutes for the September 23, 2018 meeting were previously distributed electronically. With no changes or corrections, the minutes stand as distributed.

Agenda Additions/Changes: Addition under New Business – Jr. Gold Roster Changes

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kephart reported the Financial Statements through December 31, 2018. Revenues reported were \$1,107,523.69 and expenses reported were \$822,643.84 resulting in a net income of \$284,879.85. The financial statements will be referred to audit. The Annual Report was distributed, and a motion was made to accept the audit. **Motion carried.**

President's Report: President Margenau referred to the Management Letter in the Annual Report, highlighting the tremendous progress made in the priorities of Player Development, Growth, and Safety.

Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Andresen submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes, highlighting two new programs that have been implemented: the Legacy Fund and the Family Mentor Program; the Wild Foundation identifying Associations in need of financial assistance and helping to recruit more kids; the Little Wild will be held at 21 locations this fall; and the MNH Golf Tournament scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Committee Reports

Administrative Management: President Margenau reported that the committee completed a performance review and approved a merit increase for Glen Andresen, Executive Director. The Committee is also looking at staff expansion to provide addition resources for New Programs and support of the Hockey Director program.

Adult Hockey: Director Koontz submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

Adult Women: Director Wefler reported newly elected members to the WHAM Board – President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Disabled Hockey: Director Gillen submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

District Directors: Director Oleheiser submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

District 1 – Director Mickus reported that they picked up 28 10U players and that the Dynamites have 8-9 girls and will try a trial run with a 12U team.

District 2 – Director Reinseth reported that they are preparing for Districts; and that he will not be seeking re-election this year.

District 3 – Director Brodersen reported that they have had three Match Penalties compared to 11 last year; with the two spinal injuries that have occurred, the District is implementing a Body Contact Outreach Program and will be working with Hockey Operations; and the new program, 10U-B2 league, has gone well this year.

District 4 – Director Reed reported that they are preparing for Districts.

District 5 – Director Gapinski reported that they are preparing for Districts and Regions; they have had four match penalties to date; STMA will have a Disabled Hockey program beginning in March; and Director Gapinski thanked everyone for their condolences on his father's passing.

District 6 – Director Hewitt reported that they have had three incidents with racial slurs and derogatory remarks to hearing impaired. They are addressing these issues and feel there needs to be a stricter penalty imposed.. President Margenau requested that the Diversity Committee lead the efforts of Diversity and Inclusion.

District 8 – Director Rakness reported that they are preparing for the upcoming tournaments.

District 9 – Director Blaisdell reported that they are preparing for the upcoming tournaments; and that their match penalties are up this year..

District 10 – Director Donovan reported that they have two teams in the 10U-B2 league and the girls are having fun; they have had four match penalties; and social media postings have been getting out of hand, where education/awareness is needed for both the players and the parents. It was suggested to use the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) for association programs to teach respect for the game and opponents.

District 11 – Director Hill reported that they have 4 Girls 8U teams this year in the District; they have a group looking into organizing a Rec hockey league; and they are preparing for their region and state tournaments.

District 12 – Director Oleheiser reported that they have had one match penalty and six game misconducts; the ADM jamboree for Mites was successful; and International Falls had a 12U team for the first time.

District 15 – Director Bushy reported that it has been a quiet year; there has only been one match penalty; and they are preparing for the upcoming tournaments.

District 16 – Director Elliott had nothing to report.

Diversity: Director Mickus reported they have not received any applications for Diversity Grants.

Executive Committee: President Margenau highlighted the following agenda items from the committee meeting:

- Status of Moratorium of School Affiliate Agreements - the Committee approved the path moving forward. The Committee will be bringing to the Board at the April meeting a resolution to rescind the

School Affiliate Agreement and a rule which prohibits Squirt, 10U and up teams to be formed based on school attendance.

- September 20-22, 2019 fall meeting will be held at Giants Ridge, Biwabik.
- Article 6 has the authority to impose fines, an appeal process needs to be provided. Referred to Rules Committee.
- We need to draft a Confidentiality Agreement for MNH. Dan Beckman was asked to take the lead on this.

Finance and Budget:

The Finance and Budget Committee brought forth three action item needing Board approval:

A motion was made to approve a budget for the Blind Hockey Summit being hosted by MNH in August. **Motion carried.**

Disabled Hockey Director Gillen would like each attendee and a guest of the Blind Hockey Summit to get two admission tickets to the State Fair (approximately 300 tickets) and asked the Directors for District Support. District 16 committed to \$500, District 10 committed to \$500, District 12 committed to \$250, and District 6 committed to \$750.

A motion was made to support the District 10 Green Giants Youth 15 Only and Girls 14U teams participating at National Tournaments, granting each team \$5,000. **Motion carried, with one opposition.**

There will be a policy moving forward for the financial support of teams going to USA Hockey National Tournaments that will address all teams, including Adults, Adult Women, and Disabled Hockey.

Girls: Vice President Dornfeld reported that the leagues have been running well; there has been an issue with rosters; and we have been meeting regularly with the HS Girls and Youth.

Grievance Committee: Director Oleheiser reported that there are two grievances that are currently under review, one from District 10 and one from District 2.

High School Girls: Girls HS Rep Morris reported the following:

- In honor of the 25th anniversary for the Girls HS State Tournament and the 75th anniversary for the Boys HS State Tournament, there will be a replica of the first trophy in Eveleth used. Each player from the Championship Teams will have a day with the trophy.
- Senior Classic will be held March 1st-3rd at the Super Rink, with no admission.
- A survey was distributed to 117 High Schools:
 - 13 do not have a JV team
 - 97 have a JV team
 - 7 have a modified JV team

Hockey Operations: Vice President Perry submitted written reports which are attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. Vice President Perry also reported that they are currently looking to replace the Chair of the Tier-1 Committee.

Handbook: Committee Chair Halverson had nothing to report.

MIAMA: Director Rakness reported that MIAMA is currently reviewing their by-laws and looking to eliminate the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Marketing/Communication and Safesport: Vice President Gray's report stands, reminding everyone that he, Scott Gray, should be made aware of all SafeSport issues and that all on-ice incidents of racial slurs go by the playing rules unless not heard by a referee or others.

Membership Development: Marketing/Communications Manager Ricke submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes, highlighting that the next Try Hockey for Free day is scheduled for February 23, 2019.

Nominating Committee: Secretary Rhonda Madsen has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee. Open positions for the April 2019 elections are as follows:

- President – Incumbent Dave Margenau has indicated he will not be seeking re-election

- VP Maroon Coordinator – Incumbent Scott Dornfeld has indicated he will be seeking re-election
- VP Marketing/Communications – Incumbent Scott Gray has indicated he will be seeking re-election
- Director Adult Women – Incumbent Nancy Wefler has indicated she will be seeking re-election
- USAH MN Girls/Women's Representative – Incumbent Doug Foster has indicated he will be seeking re-election

Recreational Hockey: Director Mickus reported that their numbers are slightly down; he has been contacted by other States regarding the Rec League; and that the Rec Festival will be held March 16-17, 2019 at Bloomington Ice Garden.

Referees: Referee Section Director Mannin submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

Regional Coordinators: Vice President Gold Region Coordinator Christianson reported that he continues working with Vice President Maroon Region Coordinator Dornfeld regarding the VP Region Coordinator position.

Safety Committee: Committee Oleheiser had nothing to report.

Scholarship Committee: Communications have been distributed and there have been some applications received.

USAH Reports:

Dave Margenau: submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes, highlighting USA Hockey IT Expansion, SafeSport, August 31, 2018 Audited Financial Statement; Fee Increase from \$40 to \$46 for 2019-20 Season; Waiver request from a 20 game count for 14U/15 Youth to 17, which was approved;; Transgender Policy was adopted; and Exception request for six full ice games after December 31 for the 2019-20 season was approved.

Doug Kephart: submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

Steve Oleheiser: submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

Steve Tatro: Referee-in-Chief Tatro reported that they are down officials; and that USA Hockey is offering an advanced officials symposium on July 20, 2019, which there are 150 officials currently registered.

Travis Johnson: Risk Manager Johnson reviewed open and closed claims.

Doug Foster: submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. Doug also thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his Mother.

Todd Elmer: Registrar Elmer gave an update on the registration system; and that play down rules and procedures were discussed.

Toni Gillen: submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

New Business:

Proposed Bylaw and Youth Rule Changes:

Bylaw Change

B1. Our current Bylaw provision on voting has been interpreted to mean that an abstention vote is to be considered a "No" vote. This is contrary to Robert's Rules, which state that abstentions count for the purpose of establishing a quorum, but not as a "Yes" or "No" vote. It is proposed to remove the portion of the text that determines pass or failure based on the number of voting members present, and allow abstentions as Robert's Rules provides. The issue would then be decided by comparing those voting "Yes" to those voting "No". Example: 27 possible votes, 14 required for a quorum. There are 21 in attendance. Votes are 10 "Yes", 8 "No", 3 "Abstain". In the past, with 21 present, we have said we need 11 votes for a simple majority – vote

fails. With this change, 10 "Yes" and 8 "No" means the vote passes. We are proposing to reword this sentence so that we will confirm that we've maintained a quorum each time we take votes.

It is intended that, if approved, this change would be effective at our next meeting.

ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

Board of Directors Meetings: It is the normal obligation of all voting members to attend official meetings of the Board of Directors. Attendance/ representation is expected for all days of MH state meetings. Failure for voting members to attend at least two Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meetings in a fiscal year will result in automatic consideration for removal (refer to paragraph entitled "Removal of Officers and Directors"). All meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees must start with and maintain a quorum.

[B1] Confirmation of a quorum ~~and determination of a simple majority or 2/3's vote shall be based on the number of voting members present at the time of the vote.~~ **shall be done each time there is a vote.** *

* Additional language added based on a discussion between the Chairman and the President after the Rules Committee meeting.

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined as B1 to be approved as presented. **Motion carried, with one opposition.**

Youth Rules Changes

R1. *Players with July or August birthdates who started school on time sometimes have problems with Associations that have a no-play-up policy. For example, a 13-year-old player in 8th Grade that wants to play Bantams is forced to play Peewees with 6th & 7th graders. This is sometimes portrayed as an advantage since they are the oldest player on the team, but they only play with their classmates every other year, and will only have one year of Bantams before 10th Grade. The District Directors have discussed this in the past, and decided to leave it up to the Associations and the DD's will intervene if the Ass'n decision is appealed. That kind of works, but it seems like it just gives the DD's more work to do. Is there a circumstance where we would deny a player who started school on time the opportunity to play up with his/her classmates? The Rules Committee does not feel that we should give Ass'ns the right to hold players back, force the parents to file a grievance, and then make the DD's intervene.*

R2. *It is also proposed to add language covering medical playdowns.*

III. CITIZENSHIP AND AGE REGULATIONS

D. **AGE CLASSIFICATIONS:** Teams are to be formed observing the established age classifications, with players following the age range established for each classification.

[R1] 1. Each association shall have a policy on whether players are allowed to "play up" to the next classification and conditions which apply. **These policies must accommodate players with July/August birthdates so they can "peer up" and participate with their classmates if they desire, unless determined otherwise by the District Director.**

[R2] 2. **Players desiring to play down must participate at the lowest division the association offers, if approved, pursuant to the USAH Registrar's policy.** *

3. Players waived to another association are not allowed to play up unless approved by both association presidents and the cognizant District Director(s).

4. Two-thirds (2/3) of the players on teams at the Squirt level and above must be within the age classification in which the team is registered. Exception: In case of low player numbers, players from multiple age groups may be combined on a single team, with the approval of the cognizant District Director and the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar. The classification of the combined team shall be at the classification of the oldest player.

* Modified based on input from the District Directors Committee Meeting 12/9/18.

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined R1 to be approved as presented. After discussion, **Motion carried, with two oppositions.**

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined R2 to be approved as presented. After discussion, **Motion carried, with two oppositions.**

R3. Clarify when a pending move can be considered the player's residence.

IV. PARTICIPATION

Residence – the legal dwelling of the player’s parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s) having custody of the player as substantiated by sufficient evidence to establish the location of the legal dwelling such as a valid driver’s license, lease, property tax bill, utility bills or other persuasive evidence as to where the player

[R3] lives. A pending relocation is not considered to be the player’s residence ~~unless~~ **until** the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have completed the purchase or executed a lease and moved into the new residence. In the case of foreign exchange students, the place the player resides while in the USA shall be considered the player’s residence. Players moving after tryouts begin can be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

R4. Need to specify the minimum size of Stop Patches, since we have had some issues with screened-on patches where the size is smaller than our standard.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

M. A blaze orange “Stop Patch” must be displayed in the upper center on the back of all players' jerseys in all Youth and Girl’s classifications, except Mites and Mini Mites. ~~This includes the MH High~~

[R4] ~~Performance 15, 16, 17 and Great 8 teams.~~ This **octagonal** patch ~~has~~ **must be a minimum of 3" high/wide and** may be sewn or silk-screened on the jerseys.

R5. Add rules to define how teams from Minnesota can qualify for USAH National Tournaments. It is proposed to either add this to the Youth Rules, after or as part of Section VII. Levels of Play, or as a separate stand-alone document. If stand-alone, it will be added as a Governing Document.

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined as R3 to be approved as presented and R4 to be approved as amended, eliminating the second sentence. Following a brief discussion, **Motion carried unanimously.**

[R5] Tier I, Tier II and High School Classifications – USAH National Championship Eligibility

The Tier I and Tier II designations are restricted to classifications (Youth 14U, 15, 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) for which USA Hockey conducts National Championships. The High School classification is restricted to teams that comply with the requirements outlined in the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.

Participants of Tier I, Tier II and High School National Tournament bound teams must be residents of Minnesota as defined in the “Participation Rule”.

Tier I, Tier II and High School National Championship bound teams must comply with the eligibility requirements established in the USA Hockey National Championship Guidebook and USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.

A. Tier I

1. The purpose of the Tier I program is to provide Minnesota players the opportunity to develop and showcase their skills while competing at the highest level while enhancing and strengthening Minnesota’s community based youth/girls and high school structure. Upon completion of the fall pre-season, participants will be allowed to play for their community association or high school team and be brought back together upon completion of that season to participate in the USA National Championship.

2. Tier I Leagues shall be administered by the Minnesota Hockey High Performance (HP) Program or affiliate leagues as approved by the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors. League operations include player and coach selection, financial operations, scheduling and dispute resolution. The Tier I Committee Chair with the support of Hockey Operations shall on an annual basis at the MH Annual Spring meeting bring forward recommendations for any such affiliate leagues to the MH Board of Directors for approval.

3. The Tier I Committee shall have responsibilities for all matters pertaining to the Tier I Leagues as authorized by the MH Board of Directors.

4. Tier I Season	<u>Pre-season</u>	<u>Post-season</u>
Youth 14U/15Only	August 1 – October 15	MH State Tournament thru USA Hockey Nationals
Girls 14U	August 1 – October 15	MH State Tournament thru USA Hockey Nationals
Youth 16U/18U Nationals	August 1 – start of Boys High School season	MSHSL Boys State Tournament thru USA Hockey
Girls 16U/19U Nationals	August 1 – start of Girls High School season	MSHSL Girls State Tournament thru USA Hockey

5. Maximum number of Tier I teams

Youth 14U, 15 Only, 16U & 18 U – 8 teams each classification	Girls 16U – 7 teams
Girls 14U – 8 teams	Girls 19U – 5 teams

6. Tier I Tryouts – Tryouts must be announced publicly at least 30 days in advance of tryouts, providing details of place and time. Personal invitations to tryouts are permissible with a maximum of 80% of tryout participants being by invitation. Tryouts shall not be scheduled before 48 hours after the last Youth/Girls National Championship Game.

7. Minnesota District Tier 1 Playoff – The Tier 1 Committee Chair in cooperation with the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors is responsible for conducting and establishing the playoff format. The Youth 14U/15 and Girls 14U Playoff will be completed before October 15, Girls 16U/19U before the beginning of the MSHSL Girls hockey season and the Youth 16U/18U before the beginning of the MSHSL Boys hockey season.

Note: Shattuck St Mary’s teams, as a legacy program, will be classified as Tier I National Championship eligible and participate in the MN District Playoff. SSM players are exempt from the MN residency requirement for Tier I.

B. Tier II

1. MH HP Program, association and geographically defined affiliates teams shall make application for Tier II status to the Minnesota Hockey VP Hockey Operations by June 1 accompanied with a \$500 deposit toward a State Tier II Playoff fee. Tier II certification for Tier II National Championship eligibility shall be subject to approval by the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors at the Summer BOD meeting.

2. Tier II State Playoffs – The Minnesota Tournament Committee Chair in cooperation with the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors are responsible for conducting and establishing the State Tier II playoff format. The scheduling and format will be dependent on the applications for Tier II classification that are approved.

C. High School

1. Affiliates with High School teams as defined in USA Hockey Rules and Regulations (Pure and Combined) desiring to be eligible to participate in the USA Hockey National High School Championship shall declare such to the Minnesota Hockey Vice President Hockey Operations by June 1 accompanied with a \$500 deposit toward a State High School Playoff fee. The eligibility of High School National Championship bound teams will be subject to approval by the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors at the Summer BOD meeting.

2. High School State Playoffs - The Minnesota Tournament Committee Chair in cooperation with the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors are responsible for conducting and establishing the State High School playoff format. The scheduling and format will be dependent on the applications for High School National Championship bound teams that are approved.

The Rules Committee recommended formalizing R5 to be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Age Change

AC1. At its 12/9/19 meeting, the District Director Committee asked to have changing our Youth and Girls age cut-off from July 1 to June 1 added to the Rules Committee Report so the Board of Directors can consider it at the MH Winter Meeting. There is a separate handout covering the background and pros/cons. Since Youth Rules para. III-A says cut-off dates are established by the Board of Directors and published on the inside front cover of the Handbook, this vote will be classified as a Rules and Regulations change and requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

Adult	5/30/00	and older	Women	12/31/99	and older
Junior Gold	6/1/00	to 5/30/02	19 & Under	1/1/00	to 5/30/03
Junior Gold 16	6/1/02	to 5/30/04			
MN Bantam	6/1/04	to 5/30/06	MN 15U (13/14/15)	6/1/03	to 5/30/06
MN Peewee	6/1/06	to 5/30/08	MN 12U (11/12)	6/1/06	to 5/30/08
MN Squirt	6/1/08	to 5/30/10	MN 10U (9/10)	6/1/08	to 5/30/10
MN Mite	6/1/10	to 5/30/12	MN 8U	6/1/10	and younger
MN Mini-Mite	6/1/12	and younger			

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined as AC1 to be approved as presented. A roll call vote was taken, requiring 2/3 majority votes (15). **Motion was defeated, with 13 for, 9 opposed, and 2 abstained.**

Checking from Behind/Board Penalty Rule:

Director Oleheiser made a motion to postpone the Checking from Behind/Board Penalty Rule. Motion was seconded by Director Reinseth. **Motion carried.**

St. Peter/LeSueur Affiliate Agreement – Add Belle Plaine

Director Blaisdell made a motion to include Belle Plaine in the St.Peter/LeSueur Affiliate Agreement. **Motion was seconded and carried with one opposition.**

Director Hill made a motion to suspend the rules to add an agenda item dealing with rules. **Motion was seconded by Director Bushy, and carried with one opposition.**

Director Hill made a motion for a provision to allow two players from Duluth to join the Jr. Gold 16U team and be eligible for post season play. **After discussion, and requiring a 2/3 majority vote, the motion was defeated, with 8 for and 14 opposed.**

Director Hill made a motion for a provision to allow a player from Cloquet to play goalie on the Jr. Gold team. After discussion, **Motion was defeated.**

Director Bushy made a motion for a provision to allow two players from Moorhead to join the Jr. Gold B team. Motion was seconded. Discussion that the team currently has 13 players with two being injured. **Motion carried with 16 for and 7 opposed.**

Motion was made to add Dave Stigen as Director Emeritus. **Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Spring Meeting: April 12-14, 2019 at the Marriott.

With no further business, President Margenau adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda J Madsen, MNH Recording Secretary