

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Location: Watertown Municipal Ice Arena, Watertown NY

Date: 12/14/2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

<p>Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President (via zoom)</p> <p>Board Members Samantha VanBrocklin, Ice Coordinator Chris Nethers, Learn to Play Liaison (via zoom) Tim Esposito (via zoom) Tom Eiss Adam Nyitray (not in attendance) Thomas Brown John Terry</p>	<p>Additional Elected Positions *Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan – Secretary (via zoom) Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar (via zoom) Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator *Amanda Gregory - Equipment Manager *Lori Felder – Tournament Coordinator *Not in attendance</p> <p>Public attendee: Hannah Sherrill</p>
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:13 PM

Public Participation: Hannah Sherrill – Coach 8U group

- 12/6: Hannah Sherrill received a text from a parent needing a call ASAP
 - Parent stated that son got throat checked twice with a stick – sounds like on purpose: immediately let Vega know. Kid was taken to ER. According to the mother, no coaches paying attention, no coaches saw anything, etc. Coach and manager saw rough housing 11/29. Parent felt Hannah’s response to her was unprofessional and a very large email was then sent to Vega.
 - Hannah spoke to Managers and coaches. Only managers can be on the bench per board. Coaches will be monitoring the kids leaving, will be dismissing them in smaller groups from the ice. Camera footage was reviewed, and nothing was found from Hannah and Vega. Kids have been spoken to.
 - Dan McAloon perspective as ACE coordinator; the footage has been reviewed ad nothing was found. Since nothing was seen in the footage, move on.
 - Chris Nethers to speak to the mother 12/15.
 - 2nd email received: ADM model is frustrating to some parents, some high-level mites wanting more system-based play.
 - Samantha VanBrocklin: We follow this ADM, skill development until squirts. It is data driven that the ADM model works.
 - If more push back happens by parents, Dan McAloon will be invited to a parent meeting to discuss why the model works.
 - Girls’ tournament at Oswego: January 13-15th: Use mite funds or budget funds. Would prefer to be WHA funds for the support from WHA. Board agreed to tournament.

November Meeting Vega Nutting motioned to approve November minutes, seconded by Samantha VanBrocklin, all in Minutes Review: favor, motion passes.

Treasurer's Update: No update

Committee Updates:

Bylaw Committee: no changes

Fundraising Committee:

- Approximately \$3200 profit from the rifle fundraiser
- Some money was made on baskets.
- Advertise tournaments earlier because so many are already obligated since we are not releasing early enough. Book The Dan Dalin earlier.
- Robbie Glanz: Would like to come back. Open up to higher level 8U through 12U but not 14U and up depending on timeframe.
 - Needed better directing and support. When Robbie was booking flights and hotels he was very cognizant of the cost for WHA. Money was \$1100 so WHA didn't split it with him. Learned from it, maybe do in February or earlier in the season to gauge higher age interest. Bring back up in July.

Coaching Committee: no updates

Logo Update:

Almost done, we can use the Watertown Hockey with TR next to it, will take 5 months to have it officially official, attorney is telling us to use it now. PPS is putting the Watertown Hockey merchandise back out. Paul received confirmation from Vega to use.

Snowbelt update:

Moving forward Snowbelt is not going to allow any dual rostering other than inter-associations no longer between 2 different associations. Over 100 requesting dual rostering now. 14U/16U rostered with HS is totally fine. Basically, 14U and under.

Player Refund:

Parent signed his 3 year old up for mites, but he was mostly laying on the ice, not mentally ready for hockey. Doesn't want to ruin future hockey for him, parents requesting refund.

Tom Eiss motion to refund, Chris Nethers seconded, Vega Nutting agrees, approved. Tom Eiss to send to Brian Nutting and Michelle Rist for refund.

12U Player:

Player whose parent asked about dual rostering over the summer wasn't sure if they would stay in Watertown if the child didn't make the red team. Player did make the red team. Mid October: player missed a WHA game so thought that the player could be playing elsewhere. Approached parent that the player is playing for another travel team. WHA is always the priority team. Dual rostering between Valley and Watertown was not approved by Snowbelt. November 1st Vega sent an email to the family and head coach stating that Snowbelt has denied the dual roster. The player needs to decide which team. The next day the family said he has decided to play at WHA and has been removed from Valley roster. A week later she saw her, mom was appreciative that they didn't have to pursue dual roster. 2 weeks ago, the player missed Q games. Coach states after investigating, the player was continuing to play for Valley when there were no Live Barn cameras. Valley was told the same thing the parents told us, that he was no longer playing for WHA. Valley team is not TB or snowbelt but are in breach of contract of our bylaws and denial of request from Snowbelt.

- Coach had a meeting with all coaches, afterwards he recommended that we release this player from WHA. Vega to put up for a vote but will be waiting on NYS guidance.
- Thomas Brown, motions to release player from WHA, **pending NYS guidance**, Chris is seconding motion. John Terry, Tom Eiss, Tom Brown, Michael Ledoux and Samantha VanBrocklin support but waiting on releasing player until NYS guidance is received.

- November 30th:** Player David Cushman has been approved by the coaching committee and the board of directors to be added to the 12U roster. He will be eligible for the game on Friday 12/2.
- Discipline issues/updates:** 3 safesport complaints (2 minor, 1 other)
- 14u player stopped playing last month, incident in locker room. Many people involved. Player has not been cooperative. Working with NYS and safesport.
 - Samantha VanBrocklin; need to have refresher on safesport. Parents can't be in the locker rooms that aren't safesport approved, as well as no alcohol in locker rooms. Perhaps Dan McAloon to talk to the coaches.
- Coach Complaint:** Hannah Sherrill; same parent saying more of the same things and one other parent as well. Conflict of personality. Vega has addressed it.
- IHA comments and AAR:** Questions and Concerns from Parents
- As a board we voted to allow the IHA club to us USA hockey affiliation
 - Concerns are affecting members of WHA
 - Comments: Originally IHA club team was for everyone and then it was that you are only able to participate if you were affiliated with IHC, then on Tuesday the day of the tryout it was released on Facebook.
 - Looking for more upfront communication with the process
 - If attending tryout was everyone contacted if they made the team or not?
 - Chris Nethers address of questions and concerns:
 - Regarding the program only being open to affiliate schools of IHC, came from a member of IHC team that it was put out at a parent meeting with the AD, did not come from IHA Club team
 - He said it was opened to IHC first and then filled with others and that it was released that way
 - Facebook post: Mercedes Nethers reached out to PPS, WHA and IHC to put out the post for the tryout but WHA didn't get back to her, PPS did prior to tryout, then IHC did on the day of...Didn't get out sooner because Head coach of IHC HS team didn't make cuts in the timeframe he initially planned to do,
 - WHA players have not missed anything with WHA, he's been in contact with WHA 14U white and red.
 - Biggest complaints (per John): How it was communicated for eligibility, frustration of tryout info release, some went out to tryout, and no one ever followed up with them about their status.
 - Chris would like to be contacted before it gets to this point. During meeting at WHA, Chris had everyone put in their emails so anyone who gave emails they sent something to everyone on that list. Chris didn't cut anyone. 14 core players, they have first rights to every game. Re-evaluate the club team in the off season.
 - Intends to stay loyal to WHA and not effecting it negatively. Michelle is committing to weekly with updates to USA hockey rosters.

Meeting Adjourned 7:59 PM, Samantha VanBrocklin motioned, Vega Nutting seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.