

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2019
5:30 pm at Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep

Absent Board Members:

Robert Whited – Bantam Rep

Guests:

Shawn Schroeder – Bantam Head Coach
Amber Zietz – Squirt Parent
Randy Boysen – Equipment Manager, Squirt Parent, Mite Parent
Rob LaChappelle – Referee-in-Chief

Meeting Call to Order 5:36 p.m.

Minutes

Justin motioned and Scott seconded to approve the January board meeting minutes. Motion passes.

Public Comment

None.

Rink

Stan was invited to meeting. He was not present. Regarding the scoreboard request from last month, this did not pass. Three members said “no”, three said “go ahead” and three had alternative recommendations.

Coach-in-Chief

Coach Bob Richards could not make the meeting tonight but gave Kurt an update. There were two minor coaching incidents, but they were addressed. Bob did some skating with the squirts

and peewees. He watched practices from every level this month. He was unable to get goalies out to practice but hoping to do that in the next couple of weeks.

Conflict of Interest Policy – Justin

We have a conflict of interest policy embedded in our by-laws, so we need to consider both at this time. Justin used the MAHA conflict of interest to create the draft he emailed everyone right before tonight's meeting. Board members should take time to review Justin's draft and the one currently in our by-laws and discuss at the next meeting. Question would be: does MAHA have a problem with our current conflict of interest policy?

Revised Tryout Policy – Judy

Judy read through the highlighted areas of the Tryout Policy. The board discussed at length and made decisions on wording in these areas:

- Evaluators must sit apart from one another.
- Evaluators must be at least 25 years old and cannot have served as a HAYHA coach, within the past two years, for a child trying out.
- The Coach-in-Chief will create the tryout plan for each division.
- The Board needs to review the evaluator sheets each year. There was discussion about having a scale that is at least 1 through 5, instead of this year, which was only 1 through 3.
- The third session is by invitation only for players whom the coaches wish to see perform in a small group session.
- Within 7 days of the results being posted, Head Coach Representatives will set aside 2 hours to talk to players and/or parents about the results and player's performance. The Division Rep will notify parents of the set aside time.

Judy will make these revisions and send out to the board.

Referee-in-Chief

Rob LaChappelle talked about the lack of officials. Justin asked how referee training and how do we have open communication about issues. Rob said he welcomes communication about issues. He also expressed that it is hard to keep new refs because of the abuse they receive. He only has 4 adults who can do high school games and he has 8-9 young refs who can do the other games. Judy asked how we can help get refs better trained and suggested that the board offer incentives for referees to take upper level referee training courses. Rob thought that was a good idea. Justin asked if Rob would put together any other incentive ideas he has and bring them to the next board meeting. Kurt reminded everyone that we pay for shadowing of refs. When we only need one ref for a game, we pay for an extra ref to shadow that ref.

Rob also talked about how coaches and parents need to understand that referees are not going to be perfect. Coaches do not need to talk to referees about every two-minute penalty. Referees are reffing games because they love hockey, the same reason coaches coach. Both are advocates of the sport and should support one another. Judy suggested having Rob come talk during parent meetings and teaching parents about common penalties such as body contact vs. body checking, tripping, slashing, etc.

Amending the Bylaws

Kurt said we can't do online voting so we will have to mail out ballots and ask membership to approve adding two new board members:

1. House League Board Rep – 1-year term.
2. Member-at-Large with focus on program development (ie. girls hockey, etc.) – 2 year term. The board feels having another 2-year term position is beneficial.

Ryan moved to send out ballots. Judy seconded. Motion passes. Kurt and Lance will work to get this done.

Registrar – Lance

We are at 249 players, which is up 30 from last year and up 80 from 2015. We will prevent families with unpaid fees from registering next season until their balances are paid in full. Reminded managers and reps that when they set prices for tournament fees to take into consideration that all credit card transactions have 3% plus \$1.50.

Treasurer – Sarah

We have \$130,000 in the checking account. Sara has written around \$25,000 in tournament checks and her and Lance are reconciling with how much has been collected, but it looks good. Reminder to everyone to use up their remaining ice hours in March.

Division Updates

8U: Tournament planning is going strong with many families stepping up to volunteer and donate. It looks like it's going to be a great U8 Jamboree.

Squirts: Squirt A State will be in Bozeman. Squirt B State will be in Butte.

House: House Jamboree will be March 9 and 10. It is a sanctioned 12U tournament so PeeWee age kids can play.

PeeWees: PeeWee A State is in Billings and PeeWee B State is in Miles City.

Bantams: Shawn gave report. 3 games left and the state tournament is second weekend in March in Billings.

High School: 4 regular season games left, took 3rd place in Salmon Tournament, took 2nd place in Great Falls Tournament which ended in a six-shooter shootout. Senior Night is Saturday at 7 p.m. Sarah will send out an email to all divisions to forward to their families to try and fill the stands for senior night.

There is a new House League player who just moved to Helena. Lance proposed that we charge them \$165 as a pro-rated amount. Judy moved and Justin seconded. Motion passes.

Another House League family asked about a refund for their child who is done playing for the year. The board said no, because the player is not injured, and we can't start a precedent that kids or families can quit and be refunded.

Raffle Tickets – Mekell

Raffle tickets are due Feb. 19th, the drawing will be Friday, Feb. 22nd at the Bighorn game. Justin volunteered to do the drawing.

Other Business

Kurt asked Ryan to draft a practice schedule for next season so we can discuss at the next meeting and try to secure all the times our division needs from the rink earlier than we did last year.

Tabled Items

Possible 16U Team next season who could 1) play league games if MAHA does a 16U division and/or 2) plays in a few scheduled tournaments to offer that age group extra ice time.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 11th, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____