

CHE Preseason Meeting 2021

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Monday, September 27, 2021
Meeting Location: Online via Zoom
Presiding Officer: David L Fryer Jr, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

The Commissioner called to order the 2021 Preseason Meeting of College Hockey East at 9:06 PM.

Officers present (2): Dave Fryer (Commissioner), Jamsion Roth (Associate Commissioner)
M3 teams present (5): Cal U Of PA, Duquesne, Indiana U of PA, Kent State, Pitt-Johnstown
M4 teams present (4): Allegheny, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State, Saint Vincent
W2 teams present (2): Mercyhurst, Pittsburgh
CHE teams absent (5): Robert Morris (M3/M4), Oswego State (W2), Buffalo (W2), RIT (W2), Wooster (M4)

The Commissioner stated that we are behind pace by about 10 days for league operations but are on-track to have a season again after being dormant for a year during the pandemic. The purpose of this meeting is readiness for the season and to get us caught up to where we need to be on those matters.

GENERAL ORDERS

CHMA Position

Fryer informed the membership that he is the new Commissioner of College Hockey Mid-America, the D1 club league in the region. He expressed that this currently has little impact on his role with the CHE and, in the long term, should be beneficial to all parties.

CHE Officers

The CHE Executive Committee consists of 1 representative for each of our 3 divisions of play. The Commissioner presented Dave Layman (M3) and Tom McKinnon (W2) for approval. We are still seeking someone to represent M4.

Motion by the Commissioner to appoint Dave Layman and Tom McKinnon to the CHE Executive Committee, seconded by Cal U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 12-0.

Eligibility Policies

Due to the pandemic, the ACHA is not enforcing GPA and credits passed requirements for the first semester. Fryer feels that the CHE must do the same to prevent any eligibility conflicts. Players would still need to enroll – and stay enrolled in – the minimum number of credits for the current semester, which is 9 for men and 6 for women. The CHE does not need to vote to add another year of eligibility like the ACHA did because the CHE did not sanction a 2020-21 season. Anyone who played a game during that time does not count against CHE eligibility policies.

Motion by the Commissioner to suspend the CHE eligibility requirements for the first semester for GPA and previous credits passed, seconded by Pitt-Johnstown.

The motion passed unanimously, 12-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Registration

Fryer stated the need to reduce the number of registration requirements as teams return after the pandemic. Our mission is to ensure that schools are able to field teams and that players are able to get back on the ice, and some of our registration polices need to be loose to make that happen. Loose does not mean to ignore what is requested – please follow forthcoming instructions. M3 and W2 teams will primarily need to do their ACHA registration, and all teams will need to ensure that a roster is submitted of all players and coaches. The league contact list also needs to be current.

Game Schedules

A master draft of the schedule was already sent by the Commissioner. Teams are to review it and return it with updates by Wednesday 9/29. Fryer reminded all teams that start times and warm-up times are never the same thing, and he expressed the need to be active in communications for issues related to cancelations and postponements, particularly due to any COVID restrictions.

2022 League Playoffs

With lingering uncertainty about how this season will go, the dates and formats for playoffs must remain tentative until at least the start of the second semester. The Commissioner's Office will commit to dates, formats, and locations as playoffs near. For now, the following will be the targets for each division:

- M3 = weekend of February 19th; 4 of 6 qualify; potentially at Kent, OH
- W2 = weekend of February 25th; 4 of 5 qualify; centralized location TBD
- M4 = weekend of March 4; 4 of 5 qualify; location TBD

2020-21 League Budgets

Fryer explained that budgets are by division so that each team pays its fair share, but with less teams in each division than recent seasons, dues may be higher this year. Additionally, having playoffs – our largest expense – in February may result in higher costs for ice time than in March. We will consider reducing the number of playoff teams if we lose teams from our current list. Due to this variability, a budget cannot be established until the second semester, and invoices will be sent at that time.

Game Operations

Fryer informed teams that the Game Manual and accompanying checklists, guides, and summaries for this season are readily available on our website. Teams need to know and apply our procedures at every game. A listing of CHE rules changes from the spring is also posted to the website. Fryer reminded teams that our league is built on high standards, consistency, and professionalism. Fryer also expressed a concern that DQs are already up in the handful of games that have already been played, and he emphasized the need for teams to follow our social media policies.

Game Protocols

Fryer stated that we continue to have issues in this area every season despite placing emphasis on it at nearly every meeting. Getting game times (vs. warm-up times) set correctly is the first step, then all teams need to follow the proper protocol. There is an Excel file on the website that completes the official protocol for you, producing a printout to post and apply at every game. For 2021-22, all teams in each division will follow a standardized protocol:

- M3 = Protocol A
- M4 = Protocol B
- W2 = Protocol B

Score Reporting

The CHE has implemented new scoresheets, which should be much easier for everyone if applied universally. There is an Excel file on the website that guides you through a few short steps to create a printable scoresheet for each game. Fryer stated that it is only successful if we all follow procedures, including keeping your rosters up-to-date with the league. After each game, allow the opponent to take a picture of the sheet or get a photocopy of it made at the rink. A copy of the sheet is also due to the league office and must be done with a scanner app, such as Microsoft Lens. Please do not send a cell phone picture of it; there are instructions on the website for correctly submitting scoresheets. Fryer also reminded teams to report scores following each game.

Officiating

Fryer cited an overall shortage of officials due to declining participation in all sports. Fryer announced that he will be scheduling the officials for PIHO this year, which assigns referees to most CHE teams. This is a separate role from the CHE, but it overlaps well and should assist in bringing capable officials into the college level. Fryer asked that all teams remain professional with officials, especially newer ones. We cannot give reasons for officials to not want to do our games because we do not have a large enough pool to afford to lose manpower.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Dave Fryer, CHE Commissioner

Minutes approved on: