



New England District Spring Meeting

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES Sunday, October 18, 2020

Presidents & Directors Session Attendees:

NED – Ray St. Pierre (District Administrator), Cheri Bonawitz (Director & SafeSport Coordinator), Tom Regan (Director), Richard Oliver (Director & Tournament Director), Chris Washburn (Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer)

VT – John Cioffi (President)

CT – Chuck Wilkerson (President)

NH – Matt Roy (President)

ME – Mike Keaney (President)

RI – Andrew Guliano (President)

GUESTS – Sarah Fraser (USA Hockey Director at Large), Keith Barrett (USA Hockey VP and Youth Council Chair)

Called to order @ 10:00am

Regional Tournaments for 2020-21 season (non NB teams)

*******ME makes a motion to cancel all non-National Bound Regionals Tournaments for March 2021 – VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)** Additional details to follow in Tournament section meeting and report out.

Bylaw change regarding name of role currently being served by Ray St. Pierre

*******VT makes a motion to change the name of the role previously called “Managing Director” to “District Administrator” – NH seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion).** This change results in an administrative edit to the bylaws role description and website description.

Adjournment @ 11:50am





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General Session Attendees:

NED – Ray St. Pierre (Managing Director), Cheri Bonawitz (Director & SafeSport Coordinator), Tom Regan (Director), Richard Oliver (Director & Tournament Director), Chris Washburn (Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary & VT VP), Jake Strong (Treasurer), Barry Zalcman (RIC), Kyle Peckham (Safety Coordinator), Mike McCullough (Registrar), Larry Rocha (CIC), Deb Powell (Girls Player Development Admin), Charlie Fortier (Risk Manager), Bobby Rodrigue (Boys Player Development & NH CIC)

VT – John Cioffi (President), Nate Isham (Vice President), Pat Phillips (Treasurer), Mike Hickey (RIC), Jodi LaVanway (Player Safety), Bob Greemore (Registrar)

CT – Chuck Wilkerson (President), Kevin Redding (RIC), Amy Landino (Player Safety)

NH – Matt Roy (President), Roger Gillies (Registrar), Jason Guevin (Girls Coordinator)

ME – Mike Keaney (President), Sue Hamlin (Registrar), Jess Leclerc (RIC)

RI – Andrew Guliano (President), Seth Francis (Player Safety), Roger Bissonnette (RIC)

GUESTS – Sarah Fraser (USA Hockey Director at Large)

General Session called to order @ 5:05pm

Approve Minutes

*****CT makes a motion to accept April's minutes as presented – NH seconds - ALL IN FAVOR (motion approved, no discussion)

Treasurer's Report – Jake Strong

See attached reports. Important to note that refunded revenue in some 2020 instances reflects revenue received in previous years. Cash coming in this year will be at an all-time low, but with minimal expenses looking to mitigate the hit as much as possible this upcoming season.

Affiliate Updates - Presidents

- CT – Cautiously optimistic but also feel like hockey is on borrowed time. The Department of Health recently shut down one program on the east side of the state, and other programs being watched closely. All programs are strongly encouraged to follow guidelines as written and provided by the state.





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- NH – State closed hockey for two weeks in an effort to get ahead of most recent outbreak allegedly connected to hockey. NHAHA will work with state on data being used to determine whether the sport was really the known spreader, or just a piece of the spread. State considers an “outbreak” 3 or more from one group. As of now, rinks will be permitted to resume 10/30 and masks will now be mandatory while not in play (ie: off the ice, on the bench). Although it was not positively received by all associations, NHAHA issued a statement discouraging travel during this time.

- ME – State sent a letter 10/9 laying out how MEAHA wasn’t following their recommendations and shared possible fines and penalties. While MEAHA is following many safety guidelines and precautions, the state has communicated certain concepts as recommendations, not requirements. To show commitment to the sport and state, games were canceled for the weekend, encouraging rinks to reevaluate procedures. It was felt the state created a panic with misinformation about how a single referee “was in contact” with 400 people back in September. MEAHA shut down games again this past weekend in an effort to work together and not jeopardize the whole season. Hoping the state will engage in a conversation, but either way going to move forward with a safe plan to allow the sport to continue.

- VT – Status remains the same, no tournaments, travel within strict guidelines, masks worn ALWAYS (on and off the ice). Another round of updates will be issued 11/1 with enhanced language. A few rinks in the state have already made the decision not to open for the winter, leaving a few programs displaced. A small outbreak connected with one facility has provided the state some concern and the event is being investigated.

- RI – After being reclassified as a moderate sport, games are underway. RI Hockey leaves the responsibility to follow guidelines in the hands of the programs to do the right things and the small business rink owners to enforce. While there have been a few isolated incidents, there has been no blame on hockey itself.

Regional Tournaments – Richard Oliver

The exec board voted to cancel non-NB regional tournaments for the 2020-21 season. As long as the 2021 Nationals Tournament is still scheduled to take place, NED will support hosting regional tournaments to advance teams to these events. NED has currently scheduled these qualifying tournaments to take place the weekend of March 5, 6 & 7, 2021. January 1, the tournament committee will revisit, discuss and schedule based on more up to date information.





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NED Camp Discussions – Ray St. Pierre

Futures Camp will not happen for 2021. NED camps for older ages will be on hold until USA Hockey confirms they will in fact host their National Camps. No affiliate tryouts will be scheduled until more information is shared.

Coaches Report – Larry Rocha

While not typically approved in NED, temporary cards are an option still available for these extraordinary times. 12 out of 16 virtual clinics have already been completed. Vermont did host 3 in person clinics, with approx. 15 people total in attendance, at a wide open barn. CIC staff from around the district are being encouraged to host more clinics into November. To date the following coaches have completed clinics this year - 36 at Level 1 / 92 at Level 2 / 36 at Level 3 / 179 at Level 4. With the coaching certification changes taking place - Levels 1, 2, 3 will all expire after 1 year. The new level 4 will be good for 1 year and then coaches will have 3 years to complete 5 credit hours. Level 5 currently scheduled for Minnesota/Duluth for next year. There is grandfathering for some coaches under previous model.

Referees Report – Barry Zalczman

Through last weekend – 1140 registered, down 500 from same time last year. Completion rate is 28%, down from 84% same time last year. NED Referees are down 31% (Country down 33%). Level 1 is down 50% (Country down 60%). NED states are similar. 40 Zoom Seminars completed to date – lots of wifi issues, especially with high video content, as well as consistent attendance. 10 more seminars are scheduled over the next two weeks and more will be added over the next few months. Seminars are only allowing 10% out of district participants. After successful women's only seminars the last two years to introduce more women to refereeing, this year's session will be happening next week (teamed up with Mass Hockey). Match penalties have been a huge issue the past two weekends..... 2 have been assault on officials (one verbal, one physical). Rule changes next year – have until 11/1 to submit those requests. Steve Roullard (from Maine) has accepted the position of District Evaluation Coordinator.

Safesport Report – Cheri Bonawitz

Right now things are quiet, which isn't a bad thing. With the reduction in locker room use and reduction in overnight team travel, the decrease in issues is not surprising.

Disabled Section Report – Richard Oliver

POSTPONED – not enough attendees available to hold breakout meeting.





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Girls/Women – Bill Leidt

Nothing going on right now, more of a wait and see if there are any changes 1/1.

Player Safety Report – Kyle Peckham

As of last week there is a Player Safety Coordinator assigned from every state in the district. They have been asked to work directly with associations throughout their own state to make sure there is representation at each organization. Two major topics - COVID & Concussions. COVID: Coordinators are tasked with understanding their local health department expectations to ensure a plan is in place in the event of an outbreak. Concussions: Exec Board approved the recommended reporting platform and that will be shared with each affiliate.

Registrars Report - Mike McCullough

No registration updates in the last 3 weeks but registrations are down. 1600 rosters last year, 1000 rosters this year. Players on those rosters are down 31% - VT down 84%, ME down 70%, CT down 15%, NH down 30%, RI down 25%. None of this is surprising given the current landscape but still unfortunate. Sanctioned tournaments – 57 approved in NED to date which is a little behind for the year. Not all states can host tournaments this year and there is an expectation NED revenue will be down for this line item.

Old Business

* Risk Manager, Charlie Fortier - No updates since last meeting. Insurance is back in place and COI requests have slowed down.

New Business

*Ray St. Pierre - No in-person winter meeting in Florida for January 2021. Next NED meeting will be in the spring (format and location TBD).

*Tom Regan – A few weeks ago Congress imposed new governance on NGOs, already adopted by the Olympic Committee. USA Hockey currently doesn't comply with the new requirements and a national task force (of 15) has been formed to review the current structure and propose a new structure in order to comply. Tom is the chair of the committee. While a number of items need to be reviewed, a big one is the change to the board's percentage of former athletes. USA Hockey will need to increase from a 20% representation to 33% representation. The expectation to make these changes by the end of 2021 will be a challenge and USA Hockey has been granted an extension to reach compliance if needed.

Adjournment @ 6:10pm

