

SDAHA Spring Meeting Minutes Draft

April 12, 2024

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 12, 2024.

**Location:** Sioux Falls, Convention Center

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Delegates:

Tony Leif-President

Dan French-VP

Randy Honkomp-Treasurer

Jon Kotilnek-Secretary

Duke Witte-Aberdeen

Cody Clites-Brandon

Jesse Rounds-Brookings

Deanna Helvik-Huron

Mark Zens-Mitchell

Blake Dunfee-Northern Hills

Nathan Sanderson-Oahe

Dan Laughlin-Rapid City

Brian Groeneweg-Sioux Center

Jenn Warren-Sioux Falls

Lucas Deutsch-Watertown

Brian Wenisch-Yankton

Jenni Wirkus-Executive Director

Cherry Hunter-Risk Manager

Rob Kittay- CIC/Boys Development

Jared Ahlberg-RIC

Kristi Jacobsma-Sioux Falls Power

Jim Olander-Sioux Falls Stampede

Ryan Cruthers-Sioux Falls Stampede

Scott Anderson, Curtis Ahmann-Brookings

Rob Zinke, Todd & Megan Bergan-Northern Hills

Bret Afdahl-Oahe

Brad Eggers-Rapid

Chun Chan, Curtis Egan & Aaron Debates-Sioux Falls

Shane Wirkus, Todd Randall-Watertown

A quorum was determined to be present, and President Leif called the meeting to order at 8:55AM.

President Leif welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.

## **ACTION: Adopt Agenda**

- Motion by Oahe – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mitchell. MOTION PASSED

## **ACTION: Approval of Spring Minutes**

- Motion by Mitchell – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yankton. MOTION PASSED

### **1. Financial Report (Randy Honkomp):**

- The spring financial report indicates that income is projected to be ahead of budget.
- An increase in expenses is noted due to the switch to game sheets instead of paper score sheets, costing approximately \$3,500 more. This cost will be passed through.
- Game sheets cost \$3 per game played by each team in the league season and the state tournament. The cost of paper score sheets the previous year was about \$1,800.
- Team assessments are expected to be in line with the budget.
- Kelsey Bowman is the association's bookkeeper/accountant and is doing a good job.
- The financial report was delayed due to a forgotten step regarding payroll explanation for Kelsey.
- A USA Hockey audit was conducted in November of the previous year and passed with flying colors. Kelsey handled the reply to the recommendations.
- The main recommendation from USA Hockey was to stop using a debit card and switch to a credit card.
- This recommendation stems from security concerns related to potential breaches.
- The bylaws currently state that no loan can be taken in the Association's name without authorization, which was a concern with credit cards being technically a loan.
- Approval to obtain a credit card will be sought.
- Potential benefits of a credit card, such as cash back or miles, will be explored.
- The current debit card is held by Jenni. It is likely that only one or a limited number of credit cards would be issued, potentially to the executive director and/or treasurer.
- Credit cards would be useful for Team South Dakota travel, automated payments (e.g., Sports Engine, background checks), and situations where only credit cards are accepted.
- **ACTION: Approval of the switch to credit cards**
  - Motion by Huron – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sioux Falls. MOTION PASSED
- Concerns were raised about discrepancies in Team SD numbers (boys 16U and girls teams running in the red). These are likely due to timing of expenses (e.g., new jerseys, tryout jerseys) being recorded before corresponding income from registration.

- Sports Engine payments for registration cannot be split out automatically, requiring manual allocation by Jenni and Kelsey.
- It is common to see red numbers in the spring financial report as it is the middle of the budget cycle, and assessments haven't occurred yet.
- **ACTION: Approval of the financial report**
  - Motion by Aberdeen – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Watertown. MOTION PASSED

## 2. Reports

- **President's Report (Tony Leif):**
  - The president has been involved with the state association, Northern Plains District, and USA Hockey National committees.
  - The USA Hockey winter meeting in Nashville included discussions about the new National Development League, which is causing some unrest.
  - This is a rule change year for USA Hockey, with a long list of potential changes available on their website.
  - The president thanked the board for the opportunity to serve for the past four years.
- **Registrar's Report (Jenni Wirkus):**
  - Clarification was provided regarding player transfers due to family situations or school district changes. The initial player participation location is maintained unless an affirmative change is requested. This is intended to mirror USA Hockey rules and address situations like Sioux Falls school district boundary changes.
  - Common sense should be applied to these rules.
  - The intent is that if a player starts with an association (e.g., Rushmore) and moves to a different location (e.g., Spearfish, within the new Northern Hills), they can remain with their original association unless they choose to change.
  - This conversation will be memorialized in the minutes.
  - The registrar confirmed the "grandfathered in" status.
- **Scheduling Report (Jenni Wirkus):**
  - For the current season, a three-game rotation was implemented for girls' varsity hockey at the request of the coaches, which was generally well-received.
  - Rushmore had some concerns regarding travel and hosting with this format, and adjustments will be considered.
  - Potential scheduling changes at the PeeWee level may occur based on proposals from the competition committee.

- Associations should start checking in with players' families to get an idea of numbers for the upcoming season.
- Girls' coaches unanimously supported continuing the three-game rotation.
- **Officials Report and Scheduling (Jared Ahlberg and Jenni Wirkus):**
  - Three officials (Cody Nicholson, Bria Julio, Tori B) worked national tournaments. Cody Nicholson is on a "fast track".
  - Jonathan Como was invited to a future camp and, along with Cody, will work the NAHL prospect camp.
  - USA Hockey passed down information regarding online seminars for Level 1 officials, which had some issues this past season.
  - Recruitment and retention of officials is an ongoing issue needing attention.
  - Official compensation for each association was provided, along with game counts and travel expenses. Higher travel costs often correlate with lower local official numbers.
  - Recruiting young Pee Wee and Bantam-age kids is a good starting point for officials.
  - Level 1 officials in college can only officiate younger age games.
  - Officiating classes will start earlier this year, targeting May 1st.
- **Discipline Committee Report (Dan French):**
  - Game misconducts were down for the season, and no game misconducts were given to coaches.
  - Supplemental discipline included two Safe Sport violations handled by the state. Many other Safe Sport violations were handled locally.
  - Video review numbers were similar to last year, but more action was taken, primarily in the first third of the season.
  - John Carroll from Sioux Falls is retiring from the discipline committee and was thanked for his service.
  - Two players (from Brookings and Sioux Falls) have suspensions carrying over to the next season (2025-2026).
  - The fee for video review is considered a good way to avoid unwarranted reviews, and the funds help pay for things like Cody's trip to the national tournament.
  - Video reviews must come from the Association President, not families.
  - Discussion arose regarding the \$250 fee for appeals of disciplinary decisions, with a suggestion to reconsider it as the cost of teleconferencing is no longer a factor with Zoom. The concern is that the fee might disproportionately impact

families with fewer financial resources. This was noted but no action was requested.

- Most associations pay for video reviews, while appeal fees are typically paid by the appealing family.

- **Safe Sport Report and Risk Manager (Tony Leif and Cherry Hunter):**

- There is currently no Safe Sport coordinator, and identifying someone for this role is critical for the incoming president.
- The role is challenging and time-consuming, involving investigations and dealing with emotional cases.
- Racial slurs and bullying are the most frequent issues.
- A high percentage (90%) of issues occur in locker rooms, and locker room monitors should be enforced.
- Dan French expressed concern that a normal volunteer is not adequately equipped for this role and suggested that individuals with investigative or legal backgrounds are needed.
- Suggested a model with a paid investigator (potentially funded by USA Hockey or the state) and a separate volunteer decision-maker for Safe Sport cases to ensure separation of responsibilities and a fair process.
- Discussion clarified the notification process for Safe Sport suspensions: Safe Sport notifies USA Hockey, who then informs the state president and Safe Sport coordinator.
- Clarification is needed on whether partial suspensions (e.g., barring someone from administration but allowing them to coach or ref) can be issued by Safe Sport. Once National takes jurisdiction, the state's hands are off. Typically, Safe Sport suspensions involve all USA Hockey activities.
- Communication protocols for team activities (coaches to players) were discussed, emphasizing the need to avoid one-on-one communication without another adult present (parent or another coach). Many associations use Sports Engine for communication, while some use text groups with multiple adults included. TeamSnap and the "data app" were also mentioned.
- Ben Tronnes from USA Hockey agreed in principle that USA Hockey should provide more support for Safe Sport investigations but made no commitments. Steve Gray from Minnesota was mentioned as a potential contracted investigator, but concerns were raised about his reliability.
- The high number of Safe Sport filings in USA Hockey is attributed to its large grassroots participation compared to other National Governing Bodies (NGBs). Safe Sport is a federally created oversight committee formed after issues in gymnastics.

- New board members have 45 days to submit their background screening as per the Safe Sport manual.
- **Growth and Retention Report (Duke Witte):**
  - All associations now have a growth coordinator, which is a new development.
  - Several conference calls were held, and South Dakota is considered more focused on growth than other states in the Northern Plains District.
  - South Dakota grew by 100 players year over year, with varying growth among individual associations.
  - USA Hockey provides resources and best practices for growth coordinators, but communication to local associations in South Dakota has been inconsistent. This is being addressed.
  - The USA Hockey "Hat-Trick Challenge" has had issues with associations not receiving promised equipment. Feedback has been provided to USA Hockey.
  - National meetings focus on sharing best practices for growth, particularly from states with large numbers like Minnesota, Michigan, and Massachusetts.
  - Efforts are underway to develop a similar growth calendar for South Dakota associations.
  - Adopting "learn to skate" and "learn to play" programs prior to the 8U level is being explored to improve retention and development of new skaters.
  - A dedicated growth information tab will be added to the South Dakota website, with resources like videos on dressing a skater and a new hockey parent manual.
- **Player Development (Rob Kittay):**
  - The tryout camp for 12-18 year olds was held recently.
  - The 12U and 18U camp participants advance to the district camp; others can also attend.
  - Clarification regarding eligibility for national camps was emphasized, particularly for players whose parents live outside the district.
  - Mark Cabreu from USA Hockey will attend to observe the camp.
  - Boys' registration numbers (currently 153-154) are looking good and could be the highest ever.
  - The district camp is in Grand Forks in May.
  - The national camp evaluation process has been adjusted.
  - The Northern Plains team did well at the national tournament last year.
  - Coaches for the Northern Plains team will include Carl Bring, Blake Hella, and Justin Kercheval.

- Rob Kittay will be at the Western Regional Camp in Colorado Springs and the 15U camp in Buffalo.
  - Girls' registration was around 56, which is typical.
  - An assistant coach from Jamestown will help run the girls' camp.
  - Opportunities exist for girls aged 13-17 who haven't registered.
  - Evaluators need to be notified of any scheduling conflicts (e.g., prom).
  - Next year's tryout camp dates are the last weekend in April (April 24-26).
  - Attending the Northern Plains District Camp is crucial for players with aspirations beyond high school hockey. Testimonials regarding its importance should be gathered.
- **Coaching Report (Rob Kittay):**
    - Discussions at the national level focused on clinics, curriculum, and continuous education requirements.
    - Training session numbers from the fall were strong.
    - Two coaches received temporary coaching cards for \$1,500 each due to not completing requirements.
    - Coaches should complete all requirements (registration, coaching requirements, background check, Safe Sport).
    - Safe Sport expiration notices are sent 30 days in advance. Safe Sport expires one year from the date it was taken. Renewal cannot occur more than 30 days before expiration.
    - Eight specific coaching modules are still available. Level 1-5 clinics have minor changes.
    - Coaching clinics typically start around June 1st. Coaches should be encouraged to complete them early.
    - A new U6-U8 coaching clinic will be available – a less intensive online clinic with a five-year refresh requirement if the coach stays at that level. Progressing to Level 1 requires completing that pathway.
    - A new organizational diagram for coaching progression is included.
    - Level 5 clinic is in Columbus in July.
    - Neck laceration protection is a self-policing rule; coaches must ensure players wear it in practice. An incident in Wyoming highlighted the importance of this. The rule is considered to have potentially saved lives.
    - Clarification is needed on whether high school players helping to coach need to wear neck protection. The rule applies to youth and girls' teams, regardless of the

individual's age (e.g., an 18-year-old on a youth team must wear it). Adult leagues do not require it.

- Communication regarding coaching requirements needs to be improved to ensure coaches are aware.
- Rule changes for the year include allowing shorthanded icing and tag-up offsides again for 15U and below.
- Changes also affect the number of players that can be dressed, vertical roster, and the Tier 13U only program becoming permanent. Most other rule changes primarily affect junior hockey.
- Coaches must have a background check completed before going on the ice. They should also be signed up for coaching seminars, preferably not last minute. Hockey directors should track coaches' seminar registration.
- **High School Nationals Report (Tony Leif):**
  - Rushmore won the championship in the 2A division. The tournament structure changed to 1A, 2A, and 3A tiers.
  - The South Dakota girls' high school team participated in the 1A division but did not make it out of pool play.
- **Sioux Falls Power Report (Kristi Jacobsma):**
  - All three Tier 1 teams (14U, 16U, 18U) qualified for the National Tournament.
  - The 14U team narrowly missed advancing in a shootout.
  - The 16U team spent time in the top ten nationally and has a few work permits already.
  - The 18U team has several tenders for junior leagues.
  - Matt appreciates the partnership with South Dakota Amateur Hockey.
  - Tryouts will be held the May 9th weekend.
  - Close contact with Matt regarding Tier 1 issues is encouraged for the incoming president, as there are ongoing discussions within the Northern Plains District about managing Tier 1 teams.
- **Team South Dakota Report (Jenni Wirkus):**
  - This report covers the past year.
  - Girls - Four teams were fielded (12U development, 14U, 16U, and Girls High School).
  - The 14U girls finished third at Nationals.
  - The 16U girls did not make it out of pool play.
  - The Girls High School team graduated several seniors.

- The 18U boys had many seniors in their first year but did not make it out of pool play.
  - 16U boys made it to the semi-championship game, but ultimately finished third.
  - 14U boys was a bit of a mess this year. New processes should help give them better direction next year.
  - The financial report for Team South Dakota is not yet clear due to the recent end of the season; a clearer picture will be available in the fall.
- **Northern Plains District Report (Tony Leif):**
    - The district is undergoing restructuring to establish a board of directors and obtain 501c3 status.
    - The board of directors consists of the four state presidents (Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota) and one elected representative from the state without a president on the board (currently Montana) – totaling eight members.
    - The Northern Plains District has three representatives on the USA Hockey Congress, with one from Wyoming, one from South Dakota (Rob), and one from North Dakota (Greg Evenson). Bylaws prevent all three representatives from being from the same state.
    - Greg Evenson was elected as the chairperson for the district.
    - The district's primary function is the development camps.
    - USA Hockey Audit - Similar to South Dakota, the Northern Plains District had issues with ensuring records retention, conflict of interest, and whistleblower policies were publicly available on websites. Rob is taking on the project of setting up these documents.
    - There are also credit card/debit card and financial reporting issues within the Northern Plains, which are being addressed.
    - Eric Ballard (Wyoming representative) is moving and will need to step down, requiring an election for a third representative.
    - USA Hockey's summer meetings are in Denver starting June 4th.
    - The election of the district representative is dictated by USA Hockey bylaws, not the Northern Plains bylaws, and is weighted based on the number of registered members in each state. North Dakota has significantly more weight due to higher adult registration.
    - Rob's term on the Congress will be up for election next year (2026) for a full three-year term.
    - The election for the new Wyoming/Montana representative will likely occur at a special board meeting soon.
    - Engagement with the Northern Plains District is an important task.

- The Northern Plains District meeting is tentatively scheduled for the weekend following Labor Day, starting on Friday.
- Encouraging adult leagues to register with USA Hockey would increase state membership numbers and voting weight. Rapid City's adult league may switch to USA Hockey registration. South Dakota would get credit for each registered adult.
- Overseeing an adult league requires managing registrations and potentially background checks. Background checks are not required for adult league participants.
- **Hall of Fame Report (Jenni Wirkus):**
  - The third Hall of Fame event was held the previous night and was a success.
  - In addition to scholarships, the Hobey Baker and All-State awards were presented this year.
  - Eight new members were inducted (three players, one coach, two builders, two officials).
  - Ticket sales were the highest yet, with 298 tickets purchased.
  - Inductees appreciated the presence of past Hall of Fame inductees to congratulate them.
  - The location was the grand ballroom this year, which addressed lighting issues from the arena.
  - Next year's Hall of Fame event is scheduled for April 17th, with the meeting potentially on April 18th.
  - An idea was raised to host the Hall of Fame event in conjunction with the state tournament to maximize participation. However, this was deemed logistically infeasible due to the length of the banquet and the already chaotic nature of the state tournament.
  - The placement of the Hobey Baker and All-State awards at the banquet may be reconsidered, as recognizing the students in front of their peers at the state tournament might be more appropriate. This could be discussed further with coaches.
  - The location for the Hall of Fame event will be a future agenda item.
  - This year had a reduced number of inductees compared to the first two years. The standard number is three players, two builders, one coach, and one official (seven total), although the board approved two official inductions this year due to worthy candidates.
  - Nominations for future Hall of Fame inductees should be actively sought from each association.

### **3. Local Association Reports:**

- **Aberdeen:** Launched a \$6 million capital campaign, with the first priority being replacing the compressor system (\$2 million). Added a voting position of Director of Hockey Operations. Formed a partnership with the NAHL Wings organization to share a coaching headcount focused on player and coach development and culture.
- **Brandon Valley:** New indoor rink opened in mid-March. Plans to install a dehumidification system to potentially keep ice year-round, pending cost analysis. Rink is currently available for rent at \$150/hour. Seating capacity is approximately 250.
- **Brookings:** No new report.
- **Huron:** Numbers were up 15% this year due to a retention program. On year two of a five-year plan to improve hockey quality. JV team made state for the first time since 2019, finishing fifth. Bantam and Pee Wee teams also had good outcomes at state. Utilizing a coaching coordinator (Mike Hunter) extensively, with weekly videos and dryland sessions, and on-ice presence with all teams.
- **Mitchell:** Hosting an adult tournament this weekend as a major fundraiser for the Lucky Devils, who donate proceeds to the Marlins Association. Implemented "level ice" resurfacing and wishes they had also done "fast ice" (multi-nozzle misting system) for faster and harder ice. Numbers down slightly and is seen as a trend. Scoreboard and lighting improvements made to rink. Looking to make additional locker room modifications.
- **Oahe:** Continuing on our capitalize on the future campaign. Currently at 2.5 million of the overall goal of 4 million for improvements at our permanent practice facility. The end goal is to get the rink into a position that it could hold smaller games and tournaments.
- **Rapid City:** Reported having good numbers for now, however, after a few years might start to see a drop off. Currently working on lowering the debt for the rink they own. They have recently started a strategic planning committee to discuss how to progress their facilities long term. New boys and girls varsity coaches last year. Very robust inhouse program.
- **Sioux Center:** Ordered a new state of the art zam that will have self leveling surface technology and "fast ice" spraying. Overall numbers are down and retention is tough. Definitely will struggle at the bantam level next year.
- **Sioux Falls:** Had a good season despite initial rocky start with reduced numbers and ice issues. Nearing final fundraising for an ice plex expansion including locker rooms, dryland space, shooting lanes, conference rooms, and office space dedicated to the Flyers, with a viewing area. Hoping for completion by the end of the calendar year. Focusing on planning for next season and player retention and growth.
- **Northern Hills:** Blake reported. Recently received land from the city to potentially build a covered rink in the next 2-3 years. Fundraising and rink committee are active. Player numbers around 50. Successful "Try Hockey for Free" event brought in 15 new kids, aiming to restart a mite program and have a squirt team next year. Supporting their Bantam team and house programs. Scheduling to accommodate the Bantam team having weekends in their home barn. In the second stage of building their program, aiming to increase community excitement and numbers, drawing from Sturgis.

Discussing territory lines with Rushmore regarding Sturgis for the future, with a current understanding due to grandfathering rules. Aiming for an amicable agreement, potentially using a road on I-90 as a cutoff.

- **Watertown:** First year in the new barn. Numbers have increased significantly, even with people signing up late in the season. Strong growth at younger levels. Continued using YouTube for streaming games instead of LiveBarn, with positive feedback. Will be in both sheets next year. Hosted the varsity state tournament.
- **Yankton:** Both high school teams made their respective state tournaments for the first time in a while. Using this success for recruiting. Completed a successful U14 girls' season. Trying to build their girls' program. Preliminary discussions with contractors and engineers for an additional sheet of ice on the 4H grounds, but the lease agreement with 4H is restrictive. Lack city/county support, making funding challenging; project is likely a decade out. Planning for their 20th anniversary season in 2025-2026 with a planning committee formed. Strong junior class driving the high school team currently.

#### 4. Old Business

- **State Tournament Schedule (Jenni Wirkus):**
  - Projected rotation for future state tournament locations was provided. Hotel availability is a consideration for smaller tournaments like Pee Wee and Girls 14U.
  - The Thursday-Saturday format for girls' and boys' varsity state tournaments is likely to continue for at least another year or two, based on feedback.
  - Feedback from the girls' tournament requested moving the last game of the day earlier (7:00-7:30 PM start) and bringing back a more formal awards banquet off-site.
  - Feedback from the boys' tournament also requested moving the last game earlier and announcing the All-State and Hobey Baker teams during the tournament between the semifinal games on Friday. They preferred the consolation games to start earlier on Friday.
  - No issues were raised with the Saturday schedule (1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM).
  - A decision on the tournament format and awards banquet will be made at the fall meeting.
  - Gate revenue for the varsity tournament was down almost \$7,000 year-over-year. Potential factors include the day of the week conflicting with basketball and the location. Sioux Falls was suggested as a market with potential for higher attendance.
  - Girls' parents seem to prefer a formal banquet more than boys' parents. Girls' coaches suggested a morning awards banquet on Friday before games.

- A slightly different Friday schedule for girls (later start due to morning banquet) and boys (earlier start for consolation games with on-ice awards) is being considered.
- Switching the evening games on the first day to reduce the likelihood of overtime impacting the later schedule was suggested.
- A small group could refine the schedule proposals for presentation.
- The conversation really centers on awards banquet vs. on-ice recognition. Associations should gather feedback from their members on this.
- Tournament schedule proposals will be discussed at the June meeting when state tournament bids are reviewed. Draft schedules should be included with the bid information.
- The need for an awards banquet venue (capacity 400-500 people) depends on the decision regarding the banquet. Bidders should proactively secure potential venues if considering a banquet.
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#### **Lunch Break**

- The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:06 PM and would reconvene at 12:36 PM

#### **Reconvene**

- Reconvened at 12:36.

#### **4. Old Business Continued:**

- **TSD Committee (Jon Kotilnek):**
  - A motion for final approval of the policy and procedures developed by the South Dakota Committee was anticipated.
  - The committee, chaired by Jon Kotilnek, was formed in October and included Duke, Justin, Rob, Lucas, Mark, Ritter from Rapid City, Jenny, and Dan Hauck from Sioux Falls.
  - The committee met regularly to discuss expectations and consistency for Teams South Dakota.
  - A provisional approval was requested in January to establish the Governance Board, which would then establish the coaching committee.
  - The Governance Committee has been established and includes Duke (Chair), Dan Houck, Dave Tronnes, Casey Curley from Watertown Shamrocks, and Scott Langer from Aberdeen Wings.
  - The Coaching Committee has been established and includes Justin Kirchevel from Brookings (Chairperson), Brad Penny from Sioux Falls, Steve Steele from

Pierre Oahe, Lucas from Watertown, and Jacoby Anderson.

- Registration is currently open, and applications for coaches are being accepted.
- Team structure for the boys' side is planned for 18U, 16U, and 14U (National Tournament bound) and 13U and 12U (development only).
- Team structure for the girls' side remains the same as last year: 19U (high school, National Tournament bound), 16U, and 14U (National Tournament bound), and a 12U player development team.
- Concerns were raised about potential conflicts of interest if paid coaches serve on the Coaching Committee. The policy includes a provision for abstention in such cases.
- Discussion occurred regarding player eligibility requirements, specifically whether participation in the SDHA league or house play is necessary. This will be outlined in a clear document from the governing committee.
- **ACTION: Approval of TSD Policy**
  - Motion by Aberdeen – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mitchell. MOTION PASSED (Huron Vote No)

#### 5. New Business (Sioux Falls and Stampede):

- Discussion arose regarding players seeking alternate playing opportunities outside of South Dakota amateur hockey.
- Ideas were presented from the Stampede and Sioux Falls Hockey Association to address this demand.
- Sioux Falls proposed allowing non-league traveling teams.
  - **ACTION: Amend the proposal and adopt allowing associations to field no more than two non-league traveling teams from Squirt/10U through Pee Wee/12U, provided they enter a minimum of four teams in the league at the Squirt and Pee Wee levels.**
    - Motion by Oahe – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Honkomp. TABLED
  - **ACTION: Modify original motion to amend to include adoption of Stampede propose of up to 5 teams one 14U, two 12U, and two 10U.** - motion to modify the original motion to amend was made by
    - Motion by Kotilnek and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Watertown. MOTION FAILED 9-3.
  - **ACTION: Back to original motion to amend by Oahe – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Honkomp. SEE ABOVE.**
  - Discussion further transpired regarding the Stampede's proposal.

- **ACTION: Allow Stampede to have one team at 14u, two teams at 12u and one team at 10u.**
  - Motion by Oahe – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Kotilnek.
- **ACTION: Amend the original motion to allow Stampede to field up to three teams (one each at 13U, 12U, and 10U) registered through South Dakota Hockey, without forming a new association.**
  - Motion by Sioux Falls – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Watertown. MOTION PASSED 7-6
- **ACTION: Vote on amended motion to allow the Stampede one team each at 14U, 12U, and 10U.**
  - MOTION FAILED 8-6

#### 5. New Business Continued:

- League Game Counts Proposal:
  - **ACTION: Adopt a proposal establishing minimum and maximum league game counts for different divisions.**
    - Motion by Aberdeen – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rapid City. MOTION FAILED.
- Assessment Fees Proposal:
  - **ACTION: Adopt a proposal to re-establish the Player Development Fund and implement a Player Growth Fund with a proposed \$13 assessment fee.**
    - Motion by Aberdeen – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sioux Center. MOTION FAILED
  - **ACTION: Table the proposal.**
    - Motion by Randy Honkomp – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oahe. MOTION PASSED.
- Age Classifications:
  - **ACTION: Adopt proposed age classifications with an amendment to the GV Varsity birth year to 2006**
    - Motion by Watertown – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aberdeen. MOTION FAILED.
- Freeze 10 Proposal 1:
  - **ACTION: Adopt an amendment to the Freeze 10 rule, requiring the final list to objectively include the top five varsity points leaders (determined by goals and assists) and striking language related to the top goaltender.**
    - Motion by Randy Honkomp – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yankton. MOTION PASSED (8-6)
- Freeze 10 Proposal 2:

- **ACTION: Adopt a proposal establishing firm guidelines on the number of players that need to be frozen based on roster size.**
    - Motion made by Mitchell – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aberdeen. MOTION FAILED
- Three Penalty Rule Suspension:
  - **ACTION: Adopt a change regarding what happens after a player's suspension for the three-penalty rule.**
    - Motion by Aberdeen. MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND
- Handshake Line:
  - **ACTION: Adopt a rule change allowing the varsity handshake line to occur before the start of game.**
    - Motion by Mitchell – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aberdeen. MOTION FAILED.
- Competition Committee Proposal:
  - **ACTION: Adopt the Competition Committee proposal for the upcoming season and to set aside three identified rules under the rule section for the duration of this implementation, specifically for the Pee Wee level.**
    - Motion by Randy Honkomp – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Northern Hills. MOTION PASSES (2 No Votes)
    - Discussion covered implementation details, team balancing, ranking systems, and potential state tournament impacts.
    - Move forward with further discussion and refinement at the fall meeting.

## 6. Discussion items

- Gate Fees:
  - Discussion revisited the "gentleman's agreement" regarding gate fees, with concerns raised about inconsistencies.
  - Discussion ensued regarding the state association's authority to mandate fees for local associations.
  - It was generally understood and will be recorded in the minutes that the maximum gate fee an association should charge for daily entrance is \$8.

## 7. Elections:

- VP Notified that he would be stepping down in the coming months.

- Secretary Position:
  - **ACTION: For the position of Secretary, Jon Kotilnek was nominated. Cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote.**
    - Motion by Randy Honkomp – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mitchell. MOTION PASSED
- President Position:
  - **ACTION: For the position of President, two candidates were nominated Dan and Duke. Cease nomination and cast vote.** A motion was made by Jon Kotilnek and seconded by Yankton to cease nominations.
    - Motion by Jon Kotilnek – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yankton. Dan Laughlin of Rapid City ELECTED AS PRESIDENT
      - Both candidates gave brief statements. Ballots were distributed and votes were cast.
      - The question of the runner-up potentially serving in the Vice President/Discipline Chair role will be addressed later.

#### 8. Fall Meeting:

- The fall meeting was scheduled for September 20th.
- The location is to be determined (TBD).

#### 9. Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made Randy Honkomp and seconded by Huron.
- The meeting was adjourned 5:15PM.