

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2020**

5:30 p.m. ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL Meeting due to Coronavirus Precautions

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep
Darryl James – Squirt Rep
Jon Flynn – House Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator

Absent Board Members:

Randy Boysen

Guests

Shawn Schroeder – Coach-in-Chief
Jennifer Lawson – Peewee Parent
Sisi Carroll – Squirt, Peewee Parent

Meeting Called to Order 5:43 p.m.

Minutes

Sarah moved to approve March minutes. Lance seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Jennifer Lawson, a Peewee Hockey Parent, read her comments:

I am speaking before the board this evening out of concern for the integrity of the Association's election process that is taking place now. This week, one of the three candidates running for the MAHA position on the board - was given preference and a platform by this board - over the other 2 candidates running for that same position. The Board allowed only one candidate of the three to utilize HAYHA's email, and member- wide distribution list to solicit votes. This could've easily been construed by voting families as an Association endorsement. Furthermore, this one candidate not only used the Association's

platform to ask directly for votes, but he chose to allude to conspiracy theories against him, with his words of “nothing will impede my passion... regardless of rumor or ill intent”. What did he mean by this? Each voting family was left to infer on their own and draw their own conclusions about this provocative statement.

5 hours later, after midnight, the Board issued a second email saying that the candidate’s email was “forwarded without consultation with the Board”.

Without consultation of the Board? Then, who did this. Did the candidate gain access by himself? Did a board member or members decide to unilaterally make a decision to allow this? How did this happen? Why did this happen? It appears that the board has an internal control problem. I hope you will do your due diligence to figure out what happened and work to change the protocol on who has access to the HAYHA distribution list and email in the future during an election.

As a parent and a stakeholder in this Association, I will always wish for the best for our program. In this case we deserve fairness in our elections. We deserve better.

Thank you.

Election Update – Lance

Lance accepts total fault for the email that went out from the board’s email account with personal message from Al Swanson, candidate running for MAHA position. Lance apologizes. He stated that he thought the members may be questioning whether Al was still running due to his cancer diagnosis and treatment. Lance had no intentions of supporting politicking or creating an unfair advantage for a candidate. Ballots did go out last Friday. Sarah Garcia fully agrees with Jennifer Lawson and others who are concerned about the email that went out. Sarah wants to prevent this from happening again because the board should not be interfering with election process. As an association we should be extremely sensitive with the communication we send out as an association, whether it is a fundraiser, in support of a business or in support of a candidate. She suggests sending a standard as an association on what goes out. Darryl said he had four people reach out to him asking if Al was still running and asking why the ballots were numbered and other questions about the election process. Mekell asked what steps the board will take moving forward so this does not happen again. Kurt believes there was no ill intent or intent to influence the election in any way. He believes it was a mistake and nobody involved in this was trying to do something wrong. Nonetheless, it was not appropriate. Some have suggested taking a name off a ballot, which we will not do. Certainly, when the new board convenes, a short policy could be looked into. Mekell wants the policy to not only cover elections but also what goes on the website and Facebook. Sarah will check the mailbox for ballots.

Practice Schedule – Rink

Ryan made some few change that were talked about at the last meeting. He had some discussions with Jon regarding the House 2 time being so late on the Thursday evening practice slot. Ryan sent the schedule as is to Stan on March 31st. Stan got back to him on the 1st of April and said that he would put all these times in the rink's schedule. Jon is concerned about the House 2 practice that goes until 9:50 p.m. on Thursday for two reasons: 1. This is first year for the house 2 group and the late time may deter people from signing up and 2. The lateness has 11 year olds leaving the rink at 10:15 p.m. He talked about maybe using early Saturday mornings for House 2 practices. That discussion will continue with the rink.

2020-2021 HAYHA Schedule - Pending final Confirmation With Rink

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4:20 - 5:20 House 1	4:20 - 5:15 8U 1	4:20 to 5:20 Squirt	4:20 - 5:20 8U 2	4:20 - 5:20 Girls Hockey
5:30 - 7:00 Squirt	5:20 - 6:20 8U 2	5:30 to 6:30 House 1	5:25 - 6:20 8U 1	
7:10 - 8:10 Peewee	6:30 - 7:30 House 2	6:40 to 8:10 Peewee	6:30 - 7:30 HS	
8:20 - 9:50 HS	7:40 - 8:40 Bantam	8:20 - 9:50 Bantam	7:40 - 8:40 Bantam	
	8:50 - 9:50 HS		8:50 - 9:50 House 2	
*** If there are 2 HS teams - someone will need a morning practice				
2020-2021 Start Dates - Week of			All Division Days Off	
High School	10/12/2020		11-25-20 through 11-27-20	
Bantam	10/12/2020		12-23-20 through 01-04-21	
Pewee	10/12/2020			
Squirt	10/12/2020		U-8 Games - Saturdays (Start 10-17-20)	
House	10/12/2020		10:00 to 10:55	
8U - 1st	10/13/2020		11:00 to 12:00	
8U - 2nd	1/4/2021			
<u>Other Topics</u>				
Goalie Training - Every other week Starting in September (Either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday Morning @ 6:00)				
House League Games - Friday Evenings @ 5:30 when Bighorns are not playing at HIA				
Weekly practice scheudle noted above will end 03/11/2021				
<u>Tryouts - 09-26-20 & 09-27-20 (Preferred) or 10-10-20 & 10-11-20 (If September dates are unavailable)</u>				
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>			
Squirt 1:00 to 2:00	Pewee 7:00 to 8:30			
Pewee 2:10 to 3:10	Bantam 8:40 to 10:10*			
Bantam 3:20 to 4:20*	HS/16U 10:20 to 11:50*			
HS/16U 4:30 to 5:30 *	Squirt 3rd session 12:00 to 1:00			
Squirt 5:40 to 7:10	Pewee 3rd session 1:10 to 2:10			
	Bantam 3rd session 2:20 to 3:20*			
	HS/16U 3rd session 3:30 to 4:30*			

Coach-in-Chief Update – Shawn

Shawn is working on getting feedback from coaches who are coming back next year. Sarah is working on sending coaches their reimbursements of fees.

Safesport – Scott

Mekell said coaches and board members can start taking Safesport training right now. Scott has messages in to MAHA Safesport asking if football, track, soccer and other Safesport certifications can transfer to hockey. He has not heard back.

MAHA Update – Mekell

Mekell's MAHA meeting conference call notes:

- There will be a Presidents call where MAHA President will attend this week (by zoom/phone) regarding Covid and other USAH updates.
- USAH Annual Congress in Colorado has been changed and there will no longer be physical meeting due to Covid. Mtg will be via zoom in June.
- MAHA Annual meeting has been changed due to Covid where there too will not be a physical meeting in Butte next month with associations travelling from around the State. Meeting will be conducted via Zoom (same date/time as previous).
- MAHA VP Reports that this year's received grant requests have been processed and will be sent to treasurer so checks can be sent shortly. (Last few months I finished submitting any receipts/additional documentation for our HAYHA \$2000 grant request, and previously confirmed our request was complete).
- Those interested, can begin doing Safesport now for next season. Hold off on doing background checks as these are still being worked on and will be discussed/voted on at annual meeting. USAH player/coach/volunteer applications can now be done for next season.
- After 12 seasons, TSL Commissioner announced that this season was his last and that there will be new commissioner next season as he is stepping down.
- Asked to remind local associations that solid team commitments need to be submitted and finalized by Labor Day Weekend and to make sure ample time with registrations/deadlines was set for this to occur.
- 10U Half ice proposed draft rules discussed. I discussed that one additional item our Helena Board would like to see implemented is the additional requirement of half ice netting for rink's/associations with teams participating in this division. Good and productive discussion pursued with some other associations in agreement. Some indicated that main reason associations were reluctant was due to increased additional expense this season, which many have already incurred with half ice boards/nets etc. Discussed possibly getting a group discounted bid to see what group cost might be (if less than individual association cost). (I will work on gathering this info and getting a bid prior to annual meeting so we will have this info to discuss). Discussed that ice cost would reduce due to half ice, so believed this may help associations. However it was also discussed that some associations do not pay ice fees like some associations (community owned/different agreements) so ice fees may not be impacted. Was also discussed that many associations are extremely concerned regarding current Covid situation and how it may affect player registration numbers next season/budgets. Many discussed that they have tight budgets and that reductions in player numbers may impact different decisions for next season. There were also some discussion that this may need to be phased in over next year. Associations were very open to discuss this netting and will take this info back to their local associations so it can be voted on at annual meeting.
- Proposed MAHA budget was discussed and presented from subcommittee.

-MAHA Background Screening Proposal was discussed and presented due to this year's USAH background screening cost changes.

-Some of these items will be voted on at next months MAHA Annual Meeting. I have attached documents for our HAYHA Board to review so can be discussed prior to next months MAHA annual meeting. These include:

- Draft letter that will be sent to all violators of USA Hockey 601 (e) penalties next season. Already been viewed at USA Hockey level.
- List of MAHA positions.
- Proposal submitted by the finance committee regarding the change in background screening companies at USA Hockey.
- Most updated version of the new draft 10U half-ice rules, presented to MAHA Board this week for review. Which include the updates we submitted, and recommendations implemented.
- MAHA Financials (prior to adjustments suggested in past week to be made to the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting)

Squirt Sub-Committee Meeting

Allison expressed concerns about 12 kids for a half-ice team, when there were 14 for full-ice team, that is only two less. When the board originally started brainstorming, there were numbers like 9 and 10 being used. Shawn explained that it's a smaller ice surface but players are more engaged, nobody hiding, nobody standing, everybody will be involved and engaged like they are in 3v3 play. Plus, these are going to be two 33 minute halves, which are long halves. Therefore, he recommends having three full lines of 4 players for 12 total. One of the other reasons is that the team would not change when we do a full-ice tournament, so we would avoid having to add B kids to the A team for full-ice and the decision making involved with that. Darryl said we would set the final team number once we had registration numbers, but the number would be set before tryouts. Darryl asked Mekell about scheduling festival format for squirt division next year. Mekell's notes said that a committee of squirt reps and the TSL commissioner are going to try and put the schedule together ahead of the scheduling conference at the summit.

U8: Judy will get in touch with Randy about scheduling equipment rental return. Randy thought he would wait to do it in phase three of Governor's Covid19 Directive.

Squirt: No update.

House: No update.

Peewee: No update.

Bantams: No update. Ryan decided not to run again for the board. He has served on the board for 4 years. Thank you Ryan!

High School: No update.

Treasurer Report – Sarah Garcia

99,688.81 is the balance in the HAYHA checking account. Venmo has been a great tool. Dustin Ryser volunteers every year to prepare the taxes and submit to Rudd & Co. Thank you Dustin!

Goalie – Lance

We have a Peter Budaj goalie camp coming to the Helena Ice Arena, August 10 – 15. Registration is open now for Squirt through High School age, two ice sessions per day for five days. The cost is \$300 for the week. Lance will send the flyer to the board for dissemination via email and Facebook.

Visioning

Allison suggested we start looking at what next fall might look like with the expected return of covid19. Darryl said he was interested in getting back together with Christie from Helena Parks and Rec and share some of the operating agreements he has from other Montana rinks, to keep the conversation going with her and Stan.

By-Laws

Kurt will send out suggested changes for the by-laws for everyone to review and then the new board can take any actions they wish. Darryl will send some information about the new current legal language regarding by-laws and articles. Darryl agrees with Kurt in that by-law changes should be left for the new board, plus it is too much to get done over zoom.

Registrar Report – Lance

Registration for upcoming year is set to go once we update prices.

Other Business

Scott asked about cleaning the equipment when it is returned. Sarah suggested having Lysol there when it is returned, and we spray the equipment as it is returned. Judy also said that we send specific instructions to families to have the gear washed before it is returned. Jon said the virus has a shelf life so we could take the bag, leave it for two weeks and then do the inventory. Randy will decide.

Kurt thanked all board members for their hard work and said it was a good season with very few issues. And Helena did get a state championship – Squirt B Division!

Next Meeting: May 21, 2020 at Historical Society at 6:00 p.m.

Items for Next Meeting: counting ballots

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____