



## 2021 WINTER MEETING MINUTES – ZOOM MEETING

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*Date | time* 1/25/2021 10:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Glenn Hefferan, President  
*Meeting Adjourned (motion from Gene Palecco and Charlie McLaughlin)* 1:20 pm  
*Minutes respectfully submitted by* Maureen Thompson Siegel, AAHA Secretary

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### In Attendance

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There were 58 members that attended the virtual meeting.

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### Voting Eligibility

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Voting Members - 47

Simple Majority - 24

2/3 Majority - 32

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### Opening Comments

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Thoughts and prayers for:

- Sudden passing of Chris McCafferty
- Brian Page – spinal injury
- Franco Monnecka – hodgkins lymphoma
- Lori Tomasello – recovering from a stroke and Debbie McGady – cancer treatment

Pat Kelleher – USA Hockey Executive Director

- Winter meetings just wrapped up last weekend
- Looking forward to getting back – face to face
- Rule change year – 250 rule changes between junior and youth hockey – voted on in June
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion emphasis
- Looking forward to areas re-opening
- Work hard to get to end the season on a positive note
- Must work to bring people back to the rinks
- Olympic/para-Olympic year coming up
- Thank you for all you do to support the sport

Donna Guariglia – USAH Treasurer, co-chair of DEI Task Force

- Thank you to all - working together to overcome all the challenges we have faced so far this season
- Thanks to Jim Doyle and Mike Lichtenberger for all of the work to keep seminars moving forward
- Boston Bruins are retiring Willie O'Ree's jersey
- Theresa Feaster – 1<sup>st</sup> women on World Junior gold medal staff
- Haley Moore – MA – named the VP of Hockey Operations for the AHL

- USAH changes support the growth of women's hockey – it is our largest growth section
- There is a USAH DEI page on the website that includes resources
- Finances for USAH are relatively stable in light of lower membership

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## Approval of Minutes

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The minutes from the Annual 2020 virtual meeting were presented. They were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to this meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jay Finnigan, seconded by Frank McGady. Approval of the minutes of the Annual 2020 meeting passed unanimously.

- All reports were distributed prior to the meeting.
- All voting in this meeting is limited to those that are dialed into the Zoom video. Phone attendees are not able to vote.

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## Treasurer's Report

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AAHA Treasurer, Jake Geverd, presented the annual financial report. It was distributed prior to the meeting.

- Just completed our first audit
- USAH audit scheduled for next week
- Deposits received from festival/Quebec teams are shown as liabilities on the balance sheet at the moment as we may need to refund
- Predominant expenses are for lobbyists and lawyers to educate our legislators on how ice hockey operates
- Other line items are static as there are no expenses being incurred
- Current expenses are basically administrative expenses (internet, website, etc.)
- There are some final adjustments to be made once we receive the final audited financial statement adjustments
- The tax return will also be following shortly (within 2 weeks)
- Management report also forthcoming – to advise us how to improve our management going forward.
- We are down 15-20% down in registrations at the moment.
- Processes in place –
  - Finance committee (Glenn, Jake Geverd, Charlie McLaughlin and Ray Ferry) – they create budget and submit to Exec Committee for approval. Expected that going forward this will shift to winter meeting so the budget is prepared before the start of the next fiscal year
  - Audit committee – (Pete Rothman chair) we are required by state law requiring we perform an annual audit.

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## President's Report

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AAHA President, Glenn Hefferan, presented his annual report to the membership. It included the following:

- Provide feedback on all proposed rule changes so that we may properly represent the concerns of the AAHA
- We continue to stay in touch with local government officials with regard to the sport during the pandemic
  - Working with NJ to lift interstate competition ban
  - Lawyers and lobbyists working supporting our efforts
  - Doing all we can to make sure our programs and facilities stay open and active
- Thank you to everyone for support, guidance and comments to keep this season moving forward
- Thanks to Maureen for her support

- Thanks to Jake Geverd to move our financials from cash to accrual basis

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## Executive Vice President's Report

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Executive Vice President Ray Ferry - no written report.

- USAH approved all block grants for the year – we should receive approximately \$107k.
- USAH felt it was vitally important to retain these block grants.

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## Vice President Reports

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Annual reports from the Vice Presidents were distributed prior to the meeting.

- John Graves – High Schools:
  - PA just started playing on 1/4/21.
  - Increase in spectator capacity to 25% anticipated from 25 persons
  - Thanks to Glenn to move PA to reasonable restraints
  - Struggling with DE teams – PA teams can go to DE, but they cannot come to PA
  - NJ is moving forward with HS starting mid-January
  - NJ teams cannot host out of state teams – hoping for relief on this requirement
  - NY coming on line on 2/1/21
  - Requesting that Monsey rink be included in NJ operations
  - Our attorneys state (NJ) – working to allow teams to host
- Pat Ferrill – Adult Council:
  - Reviewed all rule change proposals
  - Successful that some changes will exempt adult level
  - Registrations down by about 40%
  - Expectation is that numbers will rebound next season
  - Pond Hockey tournament was cancelled due to COVID – registered teams will receive preference for next year's tournament
  - National tournament still scheduled for mid-April

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## USA Hockey Director Reports

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No written reports distributed.

- Gene Palecco – Youth Council:
  - Conducting National Championships is the focus
  - April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup> – some host sites are changing
  - National tryout dates are being discussed at the next youth council meeting – dates should be finalized by the end of February
  - Current rule in place is that tryouts cannot begin until 48 hours after the end of the National Championships

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## USA Hockey Appointee Reports

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Annual reports submitted by the USA Hockey Appointees were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Coaching Education – Mike Lichtenberger
  - AAHA outpaced the rest of the country with seminars – all delivered virtually
  - July 6th – end of December was clinic period

- 38 clinics
  - 74 sessions
  - Just under 300 hours
- Identified go-to CEP staff that ran these clinics including 3 producers, Callie Smith, Dave Moss and Jennie Pirro. Other staff included Ryan Carter, Gump Whiteside, Dave Moss, Kate Whitman-Annis, Kristen Wright, Lisa Burga
- We included coaches from all over the country attended our clinics
- We issued over 1,600 temp cards in the AAHA – many who converted to CEP levels this year
- Hosted an in-person bronze goaltender clinic – Alex Patusek and Terry Jarkowsky
- 1,905 coaches trained in 19-20 season
- 1,836 remote coaches trained in 20-21 season
- Thanks to the CEP seminar staff for all of their hard work
- Officiating – Jim Doyle
  - 1,756 officials registered – down about 500 from last year
  - National – extend the deadline for incomplete officials from end of January to Mid-March to permit those that have not completed their requirements to do so this season
  - Seminars will not be able to open up until July due to the rule change year that will be voted on in June
  - Reaching out to those local officials that have not been active for the last 3-4 years to invite them back
  - Targeting players 16-25 years old as well as men’s league players with a marketing/email campaign
  - Development camps are planned for May/June assuming we can move forward
- Risk Management – Ken Haas
  - How are we dealing with COVID this year. As a reminder there is no coverage for any COVID issues.
  - Biggest issue is those not wearing masks.
  - Please focus our energies on maintaining the safety of our game
- Registrar – Tony Montagna
  - We are running about 81% of our registration from 19-20
  - Number of teams are down from last year
  - Approved 1571 teams of which 66 were TI National bound and 132 were TII National bound
  - 19-20 season – 2,092 teams of which 63 were TI National bound and 121 were TII National bound
  - COVID has actually impacted two seasons – 19-20 and 20-21
  - 20-21 registrations to date – 6,237 registered that are unclaimed in the AAHA – majority of unclaimed is Adult hockey
  - 1,321 – 6U registered this year – last year was 2,352, 2706 in 18-19 season. We are down considerably.
  - Tournaments 37 tournaments this year – last year 115; 18-19 – 124 tournaments
- SafeSport – Pete Rothman
  - Many reports are being sent to the US Center for SafeSport
    - Every person in your organization is a required reporter under state law and US Center for SafeSport. Please make sure reports are made and let US Center for SafeSport handle it
  - Last year USAH took over screening. In PA and MA, state members must also upload their state screening. It did not go smoothly – mostly due to these not being uploaded properly.

- Pete will be working with NCSI to streamline this process.
- In PA it was year 6 for PA screening, but COVID created some difficulties
- All AAHA board members must be SafeSport certified or screened.
- Disabled Hockey – Alex DePalma
  - Most programs are not moving forward this year
  - Special hockey has particular concerns
  - Hoping for increased involvement/enrollment next season

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## AAHA Appointee Reports

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Annual reports submitted by the AAHA Appointees were distributed prior to the meeting.

- Dave Baun – Legal
  - For those in PA that have to comply with Act 15 – we are in the 6<sup>th</sup> year – all need to re-certify. Due to the changes to NCSI – they are managing. Their services as a database does not change the requirement for the person that employs or retains that person is qualified under the state law. They still have a responsible to retain the records.
  - Our insurance carrier excluded all COVID-related coverage as of 9/1/20.
  - Each member (club, league, etc.) is required to have a Health and Safety plan. Urge everyone to adopt and follow a plan.
- John DiNordia – Player Development Program
  - Schedule starting to take shape – working with Kenny Rausch and Rich Hansen
  - Pushing tryouts back as far as we can to accommodate all
    - Open tryout is 5/16 (15/16/17 year-old players)
    - Selected and waived players are on 6/5-7
    - 12 players (Quebec), 13 and 14 year-old events will be held in July
    - Austria is tabled until 2022
    - Hoping to host camps for 13s and 14s
    - Pushing tryout registration to as late as possible to avoid refunds, etc. Tryout fees remain the same.

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## USA Hockey Reports

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Pat Kelleher comments are listed above.

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## Old Business

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No old business.

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## New Business – Legislative Proposals

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Those members that are using telephones to participate in the meeting cannot vote. All were instructed to pre-register and to use zoom video features to enable voting. Voting is not possible via phone.

### Proposal Number WM2021-01 – Dual Rostering (proposed by John Graves)

- Motion to adopt – Pete Rothman, second - Jay Finnigan
- Motion to amend – Jay Finnigan, second - Colleen Marinari
- **Proposal approved as amended.**

### Proposal Number WM2021-02 – Girls Tier I Rostering (proposed by John Graves)

- Motion to adopt – Pete Rothman, second - Colleen Marinari
- **Proposal approved.**

**Proposal Number WM2021-03 – Exceptional Status at 16U AAA** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Motion to adopt – Jay Finnigan, second - Gary Williams
- Motion to amend to pause the rule until 22-23 – no motion
- Motion to protect an association’s own players – no motion
- **Proposal is defeated as it lacks proper wording.**

**Proposal Number WM2021-04 – Player Movement – 2/4 Roster Rule** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Motion to adopt – Gene Palecco, second Colleen Marinari
- Motion to amend to add in clause – Pat Ferrill, second John Graves – yes = 25, 14= no, 2 abstentions
- **Proposal approved as amended.** (Yes = 23, 14 = No, 3 abstentions)

**Proposal Number WM2021-05 – Fees** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Motion to adopt – Jay Finnigan, second Maureen Thompson-Siegel
- Motion to amend – Jay Finnigan, second Frank McGady
- **Proposal approved.**

**Proposal Number WM2021-06 - Housekeeping changes – Rules and Regulations – pg 7** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Removal of editorial note in Rules and Regulations
- Motion to revise – Jay Finnigan, second – Frank McGady
- **Proposal approved.**

**Proposal Number WM2021-07 – Housekeeping changes – Rules and Regulations – pg 15** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Removal of editorial note in Rules and Regulations
- Motion to redact – Jay Finnigan, second - Jim Britt
- Motion to approve – Gene Palecco and Frank McGady
- **Proposal approved.**

**Proposal Number WM2021-08 - Housekeeping changes – Rules and Regulations – pg 8** (proposed by Glenn Hefferan)

- Update to “Time for Rostering” removing signing of official roster form and adding in current practices.
- Motion to revise – Bill Fox, second - Maureen Thompson-Siegel
- **Proposal approved.**

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## **New Business**

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- Board positions up for election at Annual meeting are:
  - Executive Vice President – Ray Ferry
  - VP Rules and Regulations – Bill Fox
  - Secretary – Maureen Thompson-Siegel
  - USAH Director I – Glenn Hefferan
  - Nominating committee is Frank McGady and John Graves
- Debt payment list – dates extended until 3/1 to add to the list and 3/15 to remove from the ice.
- End of season calendar shared.

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## **Next Meeting**

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The AAHA 2021 Annual meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 17, 2021 – location TBA**



WINTER MEETING  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021 AT 10:00 AM  
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM  
AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL
- SECRETARY'S REPORT
  - Voting Directors Present: \_\_\_\_\_ Majority: \_\_\_\_\_ 2/3: \_\_\_\_\_
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING (June 2020)
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT
  - USA Hockey Meeting
  - Other
- TREASURER'S REPORT
  - Financials
  - Audit Report
- VICE PRESIDENTS & APPOINTEE REPORTS (submitted in writing – distributed in advance)
- OLD BUSINESS
  - Tabled
- NEW BUSINESS
  - New Proposals
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - Annual Meeting
  - Districts
- ADJOURNMENT