

## SAHOF High School Committee Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Friday, November 10, 2017

**Meeting Time:** 10:00am

**Meeting Location:** Conference Call

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Tom Garavaglia, John Gullman, John Colombo, Ed de La Paz

**Committee Members Absent:** Jay Feaster

**Also in Attendance:** N/A



- FPSHL – Scottish Chiefs
  - League issue & proposed compromise

**Concerns raised by the FPSHL in regards to international players being brought in to attend school, and have all registered using the same home address, South Florida Hockey Academy. Additionally, when these specific players are in the lineup, they are dominant.**

**The Scottish Chiefs asked the FPSHL to waive one of their local FPSHL rules which states that if you have 12 or more players from 1 school, you have to be a Tier I/Pure team. They have 13 players from St. Andrews specifically.**

**Scottish Chiefs also asked the FPSHL to waive local FPSHL rule stating that players must participate in 50% of their regular season games to be eligible for FPSHL playoffs.**

**FPSHL informed Scottish Chiefs they would not waive the 50% participation rule. However, the FPSHL would waive their rule pertaining to 12 players from 1 school, allowing them to continue to play as a Tier II/combined team, however it came along with 2 stipulations from the FPSHL:**

- 1. The FPSHL would require them to move up to Division 1 (FPSHL specific tier system based on skill of each team)**
- 2. Scottish Chiefs would be ineligible for FPSHL playoffs**

**Scottish Chiefs did not want to comply with the stipulations set forth by the FPSHL.**

- Questions that can be answered by High School Committee

**SAHOF High School Committee views this issues as a FPSHL specific issue. The SAHOF High School Committee supports the methods of the FPSHL to enforce their own league rules. The FPSHL has the ability/right to set their own standards, and follow their own local process in determining who can/cannot advance to the State Playoffs, so long as those teams are in line with the established SAHOF eligibility requirements, set forth by the SAHOF High School Committee.**

**The SAHOF High School Committee supports the FPSHL and the enforcement of their own league rules and sanctions. No further action is required/necessary from the SAHOF High School Committee on this issue at this time.**

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**Additional discussion in regards to billeted players was also had. This topic specifically will be moved to a later meeting agenda.**

- State Tournament – February 23-25, 2018
  - Meeting set with Tournament Committee – November 14 @ 10:30am
    - Final review of declaration form by Tournament Committee to take place

**Additional/final review in regards to what penalties, if any, should be imposed on a team that signs their intent to participate, and then backs out of their commitment. Many ideas had been discussed by the SAHOF High School Committee at precious meetings of the Committee.**

***ACTION ITEM: Form to be shared with FPSHL, LSHL, and SAHOF Tournament Committee officials prior to official send to teams.***

- HS State tournament to be held in south Florida
  - FPSHL assemble a tournament committee to assist?

**FPSHL confirms they will assemble a “Host Committee” to assist in the local planning process of the State championships.**

**John Colombo believes the Panthers organization can/will be willing to be involved in the State Tournament. He will address with the Panthers organization directly, and will follow up with the High School Committee at a later meeting**

- Tournament site and ice slots need to be secured

**As tournament generally goes back and forth between Tampa and Ft. Lauderdale from year to year, the High School Committee plans to target Panthers Ice Den to host SAHOF High School State Championships.**

***ACTION ITEM: John Gullman to begin the process of checking in to and securing ice time for the tournament at the Ice Den, and other local venues.***

**Additional discussion held in regards to expanding the size of the tournament, to include/involve additional teams. As both the LSHL and the FPSHL have an abundance of Tier II/Combined teams, the distinct possibility to include more teams in the state playoffs does exist. High School Committee believes both the LSHL and the FPSHL can each add 1 additional Tier II team, for a total of 3 LSHL teams, and 3 FPSHL teams, totaling 6 Tier II teams.**

***ACTION ITEM: Committee Chair to address possibility of adding 1 additional LSHL Tier II team, and 1 additional FPSHL Tier II team to the State Championships with the SAHOF Tournament Committee. Should the Tournament Committee see no issue, this plan of action will be instituted immediately to implementation in the 2017-2018 State Championships***

- Hotel information needed

***ACTION ITEM: John Gullman to begin checking in to hotel blocks for the tournament***

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- Declarations due no later than November 15, 2017
    - SAHOF HS Committee has declared and confirmed we will send 1 Tier I and 1 Tier II team to Nationals

**Clarified that USA Hockey was looking for SAHOF to verify/confirm that we would be sending teams to the National Championships. High School Committee Chair has confirmed to USA Hockey that we will be sending teams to the National Championships (1 Tier I & 1 Tier II). Also informed USA Hockey that we would be willing to send more teams if needed.**

- Info requested from each league (attached to last month's agenda)
  - Please return to HS Committee Chair when completed
    - Have not yet received this information

**USA Hockey would like to verify the number of High School teams active in our state. Both the LSHL and the FPSHL have been asked to submit a report on their active teams, as well as how many of them are Tier I and how many are Tier II. Leagues are asked to return those reports as soon as possible to High School Committee Chair**

- Team/player eligibility requirement process

**SAHOF High School Committee would like to establish a formal process to verify if teams are or are not eligible to advance to the State playoffs and beyond. The thought process is to complete this process well before the State Tournament, to allow time to confirm team eligibility for each team, making sure teams are in alignment with SAHOF eligibility requirements.**

**Discussion held regarding adding space on the Declaration form asking for additional information to assist in the verification process ensuring team eligibility. Discussion on potential steps for verification include:**

1. **Teams complete the Declaration form**
2. **Submit form back to their local league and their local Board of Directors first and foremost for local verification**
3. **Local Board of Directors signs off on Declaration form confirming their team meets SAHOF eligibility requirements**
4. **Local League/Board of Directors submits Declaration forms to SAHOF High School Committee for final verification and approval**

**SAHOF High School Committee believes these steps are highly beneficial to establishing a system of checks and balances to ensure teams are meeting all listed requirements. Official motion and vote on these steps were not taken at the time of this meeting, as this item/process will not be active for the 2017-2018 season. This item will be reevaluated at a later time**

- For future agenda
  - Statewide development & opportunities