



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

September 9, 2024 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:06 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci welcomed the board to the 2024-2025 season. Jack Cohen has been hired as the Program Services Coordinator starting 9/9/2024. Number 1 Priority is Growing the Game. In addition, player development at 10U/12U for all programs is a focus area to support this and our mission. It's more than ADM.

2. VARIOUS UPDATES

A. COMMITTEE STATUS

Stephen Palmacci: You've been placed on committee you asked. We'll publish list soon.

B. BOD COMPLIANCE

Tim McMahon: We have 41 of 56 board members (73%) compliant to all requirements. 52 of 56 Background screened, 48 of 56 SafeSport, and 41 of 56 COI.

C. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Steve Gear: Insurance renewed with no change. We have up to 70 issued so far. Fill out the form, do not email.

3. RULES PROPOSALS

Christopher: Bylaw Proposal 1, removal of alternative directors was postponed to September meeting. Tim McMahon has withdrawn it so the Long-Range Committee can provide a governance recommendation to the Board.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Sent last fiscal year results prior to the meeting. A little over \$2M cash position at end of June. Requesting 2 modifications to 2024-2025 Budget for 1) USAH Block Grant reducing from \$137,838 to \$118,281 reflecting revised approved application and 2) Office



rent increase of \$4800 due to 4 employees which has received an approval from E-board to recommendation adoption. A motion was made to approve of these changes to the budget as outlined above, seconded, and unanimously approved.



Massachusetts
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5. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the May 4th, 2024, Annual Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: The annual guide is done and will be printed for the next meeting. Working on State Tournament schedules hosted by Mass Hockey. The Hall of Fame is part of the Annual Meeting this year so looking at 3 possible locations. Sending out 18 newsletters this year. Possible \$18,000 in partnerships planned this year. Liz Keady Norton was appointed Girls Player Development Director. Jack Cohen has been hired as the Program Services Coordinator starting 9/8/2024. Congratulations to Kip St. Germaine and Kevin Stevens induction into the USA Hockey Hall of Fame. Please, note spam emails asking for money.

Jen Dematos: Shared player membership data, highlights from recent newsletter, and Affiliate Agreement due by district.

7. VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH)

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: no update.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: Registration for 18U NB closes 9/15.

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: no update.

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: Continue to have safesport issues which are denied by USCOS. Hate speech issues started immediately with Midget season.

Rules, Christopher Gong: See above.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: USA Hockey has replaced Roger Grillo who took another roll with Rich Hansen. Great player development camps this summer. 25 Mass Boys



participated in 16U camp as USA Nationals. Held first regional district camp with 2nd group of 15U Boys who didn't make national camp.

Adaptive Hockey, Ray Leblanc: Feb 23rd will be Mass Hockey Adaptive Hockey Day to showcase all disciplines at Lovell Arena. New warrior team in Mass. This is fastest growing segment. We need your help claiming players. Going to part of 100-year Bruin's celebration.

ADM, Jim Maimone: Working on body contact clinics for continuing education credits. Looking for additional staff to deliver training.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee, Dan Esdale: Dan was absent but Christine reported that a meeting was to be scheduled soon.

Sportsmanship, Tom McGrath: Thanked the scholarship committee for everyone's help to award 5 recipients.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Long Range, Jeremiah Tabor: Strategic Implementation Committee Co-Chaired with Jeff Brown working on plan to implement redistricting from 10 to 8 to support governance and tournaments.

Safety, Tom Smith/Nicole Siglin: Tom Smith congratulated Tom McGrath on Dr Ashare Safety Award recognition.

Nicole Siglin couldn't attend but sent this report:

Neck Laceration Protection:

Neck Laceration Protectors are currently in effect for this season.

Please remind coaches, officials and athletes that the laceration protection must be worn the way it is intended, to comply with the mandate.

Having worked at a development camp in early August, we witnessed how athletes are already trying to get around it by folding the neck guard over, taping it or wearing it open in the back. Others tried to wear Under Armour compression turtlenecks in an effort to pass visual inspection.

- Under Armour does not currently make neck laceration protection, so if you observe the logo on a players neck garment, it is NOT a NLP.
- Learn to Skate falls under USA Figure Skating so the mandate does not apply to them.
- Learn to Hockey is not required to wear them.
- All disciplines of disabled Hockey is required to wear them at with the exception of the adult group.



Medical Waivers:

Overall, 28 Medical Waivers were submitted, with 16 approved for the '24-'25 season. Last year, there were 50 Medical Waivers submitted with 18 approved.

Team Up Against Concussion

October 24th-26th is Team Up Against Concussion week. Learn more about it here:

<https://concussionfoundation.org/programs/concussion-legacy-captains/tuac-speech>

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

See above.

9. REFEREE COORDINATOR REPORT

Gene Binda: not present.

10. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. Scheduling first meeting.
Dist 2. Scheduling first meeting.
Dist 3. First meeting Thursday
Dist 4. First meeting last month.
Dist 5. Working to schedule first meeting.
Dist 6. not present
Dist 7. not present
Dist 8. Scheduling first meeting.
Dist 9. First meeting Wednesday
Dist 10. First meeting before end of month
G/W. First meeting 9/21. Tournament registration.
Club. Roster approvals.

11. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Bob Joyce: Legal Counsel is reviewing billeting and un-sanctioned play. The Tier 1 Committee is looking at Tier 1 roster size, game counts, game limits, and affiliate quotas.

Steve Rizzo: NHL added money to player development budget. 3.9% of registrations are goalies which equates to less than 1 goalie per team. Looking for ways to increase goalie participation.

Tom McGrath: Youth council meeting this month.

Christine Mayer: Legal counsel update shared by Bob Joyce.



Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: Absent but Steve Rizzo reported that clinics are underway. Silver and Bronze level clinics are posted.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATING, REGISTRAR, COACHING

Risk Management- Steve Gear: See above.

Officiating, Kevin Donovan: Working with Gene Binda on mentoring programs. Referee clinics for on Ice positioning. Conducted 19 seminars to date. 1300 officials through seminars. Registration closes October 31st. Trying to recruit previous officials.

Registrar, Peter Giuliano: Rosters are coming in faster than prior years. Programs need to get portals activated right away.

Coaching, Paul Moore: Coaching clinics are posted online. Cam Earle does a great job with coaching Coaches for Goalies. Will have Bruins Symposium tentatively planned on October 26 where level 3 and level 4 will be offered.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Steve Rizzo: Make sure players are wearing neck laceration protection that is certified and worn correctly.

Christopher Gong: Remind teams about new fighting rules this season.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:13pm.