

District 5 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Meeting Location: St. Augusta Legion

Meeting was called to order @ 7:02pm

Attendance

Buffalo, Hutchinson, LDC, MOOSE, River Lakes, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, St Cloud, STMA, Willmar

Secretary's Report – Al Setrum

Al provided an oral report. Minutes posted to the website on August 12, 2024, Meeting. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Buffalo and seconded by Sartell with no discussion motion. Motion is approved.

Treasure Report – Jeff Swenson

Jeff provided a written report. Attached is the written report. These were completed and posted to the D5 website. Motion Buffalo second STMA motion passes.

- Taxes are at the CPA and should be done within the next month.
- Fall HP registrations coming in.
- District Register is still needing to be paid.
- Team travel membership cost \$240 and \$10 for rostered Mite teams.

Coach in Chief – Aaron Johnson (No Report)

- Nate updated that fall leagues will start in Mid-August
- Looking for ways to get the word out there the programs are there and the dates which they run.

Official's Report – Ryan Szmanski

- Registration is opened for the upcoming season.
- Seminar's will all be online this coming season.
- Currently waiting on USA hockey for approval on level 1 to be broke up into separate days rather than 3 straight days.
- Level 1 September 8th and 9th and looking to the follow week for the 3rd class.
- Level 2 September 30th
- Level 3 October 7th
- WSOA board is going to requiring an age limit. Starting June 1 they must be 14 years of age. Main reason is being able to proper train.
- PW will have 3 officials' system to help train new officials.
- Enforcement of required gear is going to be zero tolerance and strong enforcement at the beginning of the season.
- 298 officials for the district. A lot of kids didn't game, and we are looking at potentially losing up to 50 officials.
- Scheduling of officials is going back to 2 people (Chris and Nick) with the passing of Tom Hanson.
 - Requests must be within 7 days.

- During the season a spreadsheet will be sent to the ice schedulers to load their games. Monday will finalize the schedules for the week.
- Will look at schedulers getting Arbiler as read only so they can review.

Tournament Coordinator – Kevin Mooney

- Waiting for MN Hockey to open the website for the listing.
- Game Sheet has a spreadsheet for tournament that is very user friendly.
- If you are hosting tournament associations must register their tournaments.

Girls Coordinator – Kim Monahan (No Update)

- Nate gave an update on all girls. Looking at trying to get a 15U coop of multiple associations. Can do this for one year. Looking at age-appropriate levels.

MN Hockey - Nate Wold

- Recruitment and retentions are associations doing.
- Neck guard
 - This year there will be no stamp on the gear. Starting 2025 it will be required.
- Intermate nets for Mite levels.
- MN Hockey had another \$200,000+/- surplus from the previous year. Each district will receive \$10,000 in surplus.
- Affiliate agreements will be coming out shortly.
- Redistricting at the state level.
 - Looking at different options for doing this.
 - Statewide leagues for AA leagues with the lower number of teams. Nothing is happening for at least 2 years (2026 season).
 - Ideas from associations at the September meeting to back to MN Hockey.
- The Double A teams will go to District 10 with district play.
 - Single A teams can request to play the double A teams but need to know that before the scheduling the starts this fall.
- District will host 5 Region tournaments.

Association Updates:

- Buffalo – Registration is ending soon, and numbers have been slow. In the past we have done some recruiting with different types of events. New board member is going to take the lead in trying to get more information into the schools. Slotting 10UB may only have 1 team. If they don't have 4 bantam teams the B2 will drop.
- Hutchinson – Registration went well. Summer camps have wrapped up. Trying to put together 1 day of events to draw new skaters. New logo branding for the association to try and generate some excitement. Have the Mite nets.
- LDC – Previous president resigned. Registration is complete and numbers a lower. Litchfield will start building the new rec center next to the rink. Bathrooms and concessions will be affected later in the season. HS boys' programs has co-head coaches and have been very involved. Recruitment do parades and have Sunday free for kids and get a happy meal. Sending HS players into the classrooms to read to them. Have mite nets. Slotting – looking at 10U/Squirts will combine unless more numbers come in. Going to try have a 10U team.
- MOOSE – Registration is currently going on ending August 10, 2024. Have changed to crossbar for a platform. Slots are good. Working to get mite nets. Every year have different ideas to do recruitment.

- River Lakes – Registration have come in the last couple of days. Good numbers at each level. Have mite nets. Have multiple events for recruitments. Give 1st year mite free. Host an open house at the rink at the beginning of the year. No changes to slotting.
- Sartell – Numbers are slow coming in. No changes to slotting. Have mite nets. Little wild program and try hockey for free. Other events through the year.
- Sauk Rapids – have mites nets. Registration closes August 30th and numbers a slow to coming but lots of times. Increased budget to recruiting to try and draw more numbers. Yard signs. Changes at the squirt level and at the PW and Bantams levels. Send updates so the website can be updated.
- St Cloud – have mites nets. Recruiting have HS players target K to 2nd grade to go get a free pair skate. On electronic billboards and with try hockey for free. Have additional events through the year. No changes to slotting but waiting on bantam numbers. May add another PW team.
- STMA – 50th anniversary have a bunch event for the year. Haven't had to do a lot of recruitment but with the new waiver rule are looking to get stronger with it. Boys were down and the girls are flat with numbers. New HS coach on boys is very involved. Have mite nets. No changes to slotting.
- Willmar – have mite nets. Registration is down. 10U and 12U number are going to be low. No changes to slotting. Bantam numbers are in question. Hockey events ended last week. Lower dues 10% for the upcoming year. Had a booth at Rock'in Robbins and dropped the parade. Picking up concessions at all the home tournaments.
- River Blades – have mite nets in multiple arenas. Must register in home association. No changes to slotting. Numbers are good for 15U to have an A and B level. Work all 3 associations with recruiting.
- General Conversation –

Old Business:

- Make sure contact list is updated.
- Non-Board Positions within D5
 - Looking at DEI coordinator and Social Media Coordinator
- School waivers
 - If presidents agree the district will agree to allow them.
 - Need to be consistent and have flexibility.
- Neck guards will be required beginning 8-1-24.

New Business:

- Ice Scheduler meeting October 13th. The goal is to go digital and not have a meeting.
 - Will launch the test schedule next week.
 - After the September district meeting the schedule will come out the following out week.
- District Squirt/10U tournament February 21st and 23rd
- Association that wants to host a district tournament need to declare at the September meeting.
- August 22nd is the registrar meeting.
- Board Roster due to registrar no later than October 2nd.
- Game limits prior to official roster.
 - Games before that point must be send a roster to Nate.
- Each association should have a Game Sheet expert.
- Move Ups must be approved by Nate.
 - No move up from lower levels during the season.
 - If a team has less, then 8 players are allowed to reschedule without penalty.
- Will have a Squirt A Black and Blue division.

*August meeting minutes are in draft status till approved at the September 4, 2024, meeting.

Next Meeting: September 4, 2024 @ 7:00 PM, St Augusta Legion
Adjourned at 8:58pm