



New England District Spring Meeting

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES Sunday, April 25, 2021

Presidents & Directors Session Attendees:

NED – Ray St. Pierre (District Administrator), Cheri Bonawitz (Director & SafeSport Coordinator), Tom Regan (Director), Richard Oliver (Director & Tournament Director), Chris Washburn (Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer), Mike McCullough (Registrar)

VT – John Cioffi (President)

CT – Chuck Wilkerson (President)

NH – Matt Roy (President)

ME – Mike Keaney (President)

RI – Andrew Giuliano (President)

GUESTS – Keith Barrett (USA Hockey VP and Youth Council Chair)

Called to order @ 8:00am

Girls Director Interviews

8:13am w/ Ed Rodham

8:45am w/ Chris Hall

*******NH makes a motion to offer Chris Hall position of NED Girls Director – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)**

Treasurer's Update – J. Strong

*Reviewed 990, will share P&L and Balance Sheet for minutes

Camps Update – T. Regan

*Girls - Registrations were at 150'ish and need to be at 250 for the camp to be viable. Looking to loosen up the no spectator/parent decision and defer to the hosting state and facility. If numbers remain low, some expenses can be cut back in order to make the event still financially feasible.

*Boys – Mike and Bobby should have everything they need to start inviting people by the end of the month. Need to confirm the at-large allowances and candidates that weren't able to attend selections process, specifically CT.

Registrar Update – M. McCullough





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*Residency Rules beyond USA Hockey – issues with MA/border states as well as programs looking for new hosts outside of the affiliated state where they live and practice. Presidents to send MM each state's guidelines to find some consistency in NED permissions.

*Playdowns – seeing an abundance of requests across the district, specifically CT, regarding playdown requests based on (lack of) ability or non-medical reasons. Is there an appetite at the NED level to prohibit skill-level playdowns? Or keep at the affiliate level?

*******CT makes a motion for NED to only permit medical playdowns for playdown considerations and determined by the NED registrar and respective state registrar – VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR?**
Discussion – Is it necessary? There's value in having a ruling that supports the individual states. Who would determine? Medical exemptions would still be discussed and determined by the NED Registrar and the respective State Registrar. Would USA Hockey support this rule? Need to confirm the official wording but there is wording that states their opposition to non-medical playdowns. **ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried).**

*Credentialing – all state registrars will meet with all Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs early in the season so everyone understands the credential book requirement and what the approval process looks like.

*Regionals – do the same sanctions apply to a team that withdraws vs. gets disqualified? COVID made everything slightly strange this year.

*Tournament Fees – USA Hockey increased Invitational fees from \$50 (+\$10 or \$60)/\$75(+\$85) to \$250. Registrars felt an increase was appropriate but surprised to see the big jump. What does NED want to use as the affiliate fee? MM proposes we keep non-profits at \$10 but increase for-profits to \$75?

*******ME makes a motion for NED to increase sanctioned tournaments registration fees to \$25 for non-profit USA Hockey hosts and \$100 for non-USA Hockey hosts - VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR?**

Discussion –

ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried).

***TALK to VERMONT TEAMS ABOUT MARCH REGIONALS

*** TALK to AMI ABOUT BANNERS

Elections for this year – RO 3 year term / RSP 1 year term – both have expressed interest in re-election.





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Richard & Ray would like to continue in these roles, looking to see if anyone from the floor want to seek these positions (3 times). Seeing that no one from the floor, as the Secretary I'd like to cast 1 ballot for these candidates, Presidents? All in favor Yay.





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General Session Attendees:

NED – Ray St. Pierre (Managing Director), Cheri Bonawitz (Director & SafeSport Coordinator), Tom Regan (Director), Richard Oliver (Director & Tournament Director), Chris Washburn (Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary & VT VP), Jake Strong (Treasurer), Barry Zalcman (RIC), Kyle Peckham (Safety Coordinator), Mike McCullough (Registrar), Larry Rocha (CIC), Bobby Rodrigue (Boys Player Development & NH CIC)

VT – John Cioffi (President), Nate Isham (Vice President), Mike Hickey (RIC)

CT – Chuck Wilkerson (President), Kevin Redding (RIC), Mary Turner (CT Registrar)

NH – Matt Roy (President), Roger Gillies (Registrar)

ME – Mike Keaney (President), Sue Hamlin (Registrar)

RI – Andrew Guliano (President)

GUESTS – Sarah Fraser, Chris Hall, Ed Rodham, Denis Collins

General Session called to order @ 2:00pm

Approve Minutes

*******ME makes a motion to accept October's minutes as presented – CT seconds - ALL IN FAVOR (motion approved, no discussion)**

Treasurer's Report – Jake Strong

See attached reports. Not too much to report for 2021 Q1. Revenue coming in due to upcoming Girls Camp, General Ops minimal. There were some expenses related to camps, looking to use that apparel for this upcoming year before spending again.

R&R VOTE

Affiliate Updates - Presidents

- CT – Opened up a bit earlier than originally anticipated. Did host NB tournaments but state tournaments were shut down to get organized for that format. Frustrated parents thinking CT hockey in charge of the decisions but not true. Onward to next season.





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- NH – Granite State League was able to mostly play their normal season. Was able to host regional tournaments. Had constant communication with the state and worked together to keep hockey open. Looking forward to next year. Will (finally) have their own 501(c)3 wrapped up in June. 3 teams going to Nationals.

- ME – State of Maine got some hockey in. Things were crazy, lots of practice time but games were reintroduced regionally limitations. Last couple of weeks opened up to more normal. State government was not interested in engaging with the organization to work together, decisions made without input. State did not have any real evidence of player to player transmission. Had a 75% normal season for games but playing many teams many many times. Thanks for NH & CT For hosting regionals this year.

- VT – Nothing too much to report. About a month of games and no state tournaments. Appreciation to our organizations that were able to provide hockey to our communities. Only games within VT, even at the upper levels. Looking to learn and improve as always. Shamrocks are headed to Nationals.

- RI – Back to playing hockey, moving in the right direction. Tryouts are done, 3 teams at Nationals, quiet on their front.

NED Camp Discussions – Tom Regan

Boys (Attleboro, ma) camps Memorial Day Weekend. Every state is using prior list, CT is done, organize at large bids. Bobby –

Girls (hooksett, nh) camps Memorial Day Weekend. Registrations are a little bit low but will hopefully pick up sooner than later. Bill – ready with full staff, will make cuts if needed.

Registrars Report - Mike McCullough

Associate registrars coming off a busy team, thanks to all the states. More teams were disqualified (due to COVID) but everyone got through that. NO membership reports, will get those in June. Invitational Fees have increased for the first time in over 10 years. Increased from \$50/\$75 it is now \$250. Affiliate fee increased from \$10/\$60 is now \$25/\$100. Playdowns – after discussing state specifics, and USA Hockey language, discussed a district wide policy. Going to only allow medical playdowns in New England. For credentialing – have mandatory meetings with the T1 and T2 programs EARLY about how to have properly setup books.

Coaches Report – Larry Rocha

See attachment. Ran 32 clinics this season –New curriculum and transitioning from in-person to Zoom. Hard to do serious training and grateful for Bobby & Chris carried the weight. Had coaches from all over





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the country, able to 'train' 1,000+ coaches. Moving forward the Level 4 clinic has changed drastically. Level 1 – A / 2 – B / 3 & 4 – C / by next year 4 will have – D. Only 3 age-specific modules now.... 8u / 10u&12u / 13+ and changes to SafeSport & Background Checks as well. Up to districts and affiliates it's important to understand the new education system, specifically T1 & T2.

Referees Report – Barry Zalcman

Down 21% from last year (23% at the national level), approximately 1400. Will reach out to see if COVID the only reason they didn't renew. Only 1100 were certified of the registrations. May not feel the pain from Level 1 numbers being so low but will in future years. Seminars will open 6/1 but due to rule change year, seminars will begin in July. Important to get those Level 1 back on the ice, Level 2 will be 50/50 virtual v live, and Level 3 will be mostly virtual. Have to get creative with seminars but hearing that 50% of budget will likely get cut. A lot of zoom sessions (more affordable). 14 NED refs head to Nationals. BZ will be in Dallas. Thanks Matt & Tom for Regionals support. Every state had referee representation. Had referees from MA as well.

SafeSport Report – Cheri Bonawitz

For Nationals, auditing credentials for SafeSport but reminder it needs to be followed. HS audit went well but brought up questions. Minor athlete prevention policy is being emphasized. EVERYONE needs on an annual basis (coaches, volunteers).

Regional Tournaments – Richard Oliver

Thanks NH & CT for hosting all NB tournaments a couple of weeks ago. Everything else was canceled. Talk of moving all tournaments to March and no longer host HS T1 & T2 in November. Vermont expressed timing concern based on HS finals. Proposal to increase fees across all ages to accommodate increasing ice fees and making sure hosts are not losing money. Keep rotations in place 2019/20 hosts will be the 2021/22 hosts.

NH makes a motion to approve fees – ME seconds – All in favor (see attached fees) 16u girls not the same as 18u.

Disabled Section Report – Richard Oliver

Time to get someone in the role that is very involved and invested. Need to do it justice and RO just doesn't have the bandwidth. Asking states to present any interested candidates.

Girls Candidates – RSP





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Great interviews today, no decision being made. Thank Bill Leidt for his work and dedication these past years. Public thank you from BL - sharing a sincere thank you - Incredibly grateful for the experience and thank you to the district.

Player Safety Report – Kyle Peckham

Last few months have been focused on making Nationals happen safely by developing protocols. Pivoted back to the concussion reporting tools with the pandemic no longer primary concern. Reporting platform will be available soon but forms working properly. 16 reported from 4 out of 5 states. More than half at 12u. 80% of clearances were provided by medical physicians. We didn't have any reports at 18u, we're not capturing them and need to.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

*BZ – parents using SafeSport portal to share complaints about officials. Encourage to go through local and state methods first.

*TR – echos BZ sentiments that parents using SafeSport portal to complain on a much broader scale.

*JC – think about futures for 2022, last weekend in March?

Adjournment @ 3:15pm

NH first / VT second

ATTACHMENTS:

*Treasurer

*Larry Rocha

*Kyle

