



**Meeting was called to order by President Steve Oleheiser on September 20, 2020 at 8:00 AM.**

**Roll Call was taken by Secretary Rhonda Madsen.**

**Board Members Present:**

President Steve Oleheiser	Past President Dave Margenau	VP Scott Gray
VP Tom Christianson	VP Scott Dornfeld	VP John Perry
Treasurer Doug Kephart	Secretary Rhonda Madsen	Director Tom Mickus
Director Kevin Suoja	Director Nicole Brodersen	Director Jeremy Reed
Director Rich Rakness	Director Mark Blaisdell	Director Colleen Donovan
Director Pete Hill	Director Dennis Bushy	Director Mark Elliott
Disabled Hockey Toni Gillen	Sec Referee Dir Mike Mannin	

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Glen Andresen, Marketing/Communications Manager Derek Ricke, Hockey Programs Manager Mike Terwilliger, and Financial Administrator Kathy Hayes.

The voting quorum was announced. With 20 voting members present, simple majority was eleven (11) two-thirds majority was thirteen (13).

A motion was made by Past President Margenau to suspend the rules for the MNH Fall 2020 meeting to be held electronically via Zoom. Motion was seconded by Director Reed. Motion passed.

Minutes from the June 28, 2020 meeting were previously distributed electronically. With no changes or corrections, a motion was made by VP Perry and seconded by Treasurer Kephart to approve the minutes. Minutes stand as distributed.

**Agenda Additions/Changes:** None

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Kephart reported the Financial Statements through August 31, 2020. Revenues reported were \$1,836,758.17 and expenses reported were \$1,919,789.27 resulting in a net income (loss) of (\$83,031.10). The financial statements will be referred to audit.

**President's Report:**

President Oleheiser reported on the interesting year regarding the pandemic and issues MNH has faced. It is good to see players back on the ice and plans in place. Thank you to the Board for the continued support during this time. Moving forward, the hope is to have a full and complete season with no setbacks. Things may look different, as they are not normal yet, but someday hopefully we will be back to normal.

We are working towards diversity and inclusion making everyone feel safe playing hockey in Minnesota. A task force has been created to help guide the Board in that direction. If anyone on the Board knows of a good candidate that would like to be part of the diversity and inclusion task force, please contact President Oleheiser or Executive Director Andresen.

There are financial challenges we are facing, which we will keep watching closely. MNH has received the block grant from USA Hockey where 25% goes towards the last fiscal year and 75% towards this year.

Please contact President Oleheiser with any issues. He wants to support the District Directors and everyone as much as possible going into the upcoming season.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Executive Director Andresen submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Administrative Management:**

President Oleheiser had no report.

#### **Business Development:**

Hockey Programs Manager Terwilliger submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

#### **Disabled Hockey:**

Director Gillen has submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

#### **District Directors:**

Director Reed reported that the District Directors met on August 12<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussions included: Invitational tournaments and aligning the start dates with MN Hockey and USA Hockey's start dates; plans that each District Director have in place, or are putting in place, for the upcoming season; and Game Sheet Inc. gave a presentation for electronic scoring, which Districts 4 and 6 will be piloting this season.

**District 1** – Director Mickus reported that all Associations must have a Covid Plan, which includes the case of a shutdown, as well as a refund policy.

**District 2** – Director Suoja reported their tryouts are in process and that there has been pushback from coaches having to wear masks.

**District 3** – Director Brodersen reported they are in the process of finalizing their Covid Plan, and shared that their Associations have expressed appreciation to MN Hockey for all their support.

**District 4** – Director Reed reported they will be keeping their Mites in-house this season and Squirts will remain in the District until January 1<sup>st</sup>. District 4 will be hosting another Body Contact Clinic again this year.

**District 8** – Director Rakness had no report.

**District 9** – Director Blaisdell reported they continue working on their Covid plans and plan to ensure the leagues follow the rules.

**District 10** – Director Donovan reported that some of the Associations have started their tryouts; all Associations have been asked to send in their Covid plans; and there has been some difficulty with one arena regarding Covid and putting the plan all back on the Association.

**District 11** – Director Hill reported they are working with the arenas and Associations for their Covid plans; they have a new Tournament Coordinator and League Scheduler; and more Associations are delaying the start of Squirr games.

**District 15** – Director Bushy reported they had a Zoom meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>; the District Tournaments have been assigned to their Associations; they have a new Referee-in-Chief; numbers for registrations look good; and Park Rapids has asked to co-op with Walker and move to District 16, where next year they'd like to merge. After discussion, they will remain a co-op this year, which has been approved by both Directors, and will bring to the MNH Board during the spring or summer meeting for approval to merge.

**District 16** – Director Elliott reported that Lake of the Woods is experiencing issues with the border being closed and Canadian players not being able to play. Some of the Lake of the Woods players will be moved over to Warroad and some will stay and playing in a recreational league. They have met and developed a Covid plan. District 16 teams will start out just playing in District 16 and then expand out where they can go to other Districts and play. There will still be tournaments, but it will be

monitored as to where the teams are coming from. They are using the Mayo-Covid Monitoring System to determine "hot spots" as a guideline whether to allow teams to participate in their tournaments.

**Diversity:** Director Mickus had no report.

**Executive Committee:**

President Oleheiser reported that the Executive Committee approved the MNH 2021 Fall Meeting to be held at Sugar Lake Lodge. If the dates for the meeting are not available, the committee will research other options.

**Finance and Budget:**

Committee Chair Kephart reported the Committee had two agenda items they will be further discussing:

1. Review of the financial policies regarding District financial situations, due to the pandemic; and
2. Options of moving our employees into a professional employment organization. The Committee will review for cost savings and will bring a recommendation to the Board, if warranted.

**Girls & Regional Coordinators:**

Vice President Dornfeld reported the Girls state meeting is scheduled on October 11, 2020 at 7 pm via Zoom. All teams should be submitted to Doug Foster by October 1, 2020.

**Grievance Committee:**

President Oleheiser, reporting on behalf of Committee Chair Gapinski, reported they have had a couple of grievances which were handled well; and there will be a couple upcoming grievances that will be submitted to the committee.

**Hockey Operations:**

Vice President Perry submitted written reports which are attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. District Directors should ensure, that as part of their Covid plan, each Association has a Covid contact person.

**Handbook:**

Committee Chair Madsen reported the handbook is in progress and will be distributed for final review by Tuesday.

**MIAMA:**

Director Rakness reported that MIAMA has been working with MN Hockey and the MN Department of Health to help make the upcoming hockey season normal.

**Marketing/Communication and Safesport:** Vice President Gray had no report.

**Membership Development:**

Marketing/Communications Manager Ricke reported that all Try Hockey for Free events need to be submitted through USA Hockey, which is a new process this year.

**Recreational Hockey:**

Director Mickus reported that their website is currently active for registration, which they have received 12-14 players register that have previously never played hockey. The league will begin on January 1, 2021.

**Referees:**

Referee Section Director Mannin submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. All MNH games will work with a 2-person system this season. There has been a designated Covid contact assigned in each referee group.

**Regional Coordinators:**

VP Christenson stated that once the season begins, they will look at the AA Region and State Tournaments. VP Dornfeld is working with Districts on waiver appeals.

**Rules:** Committee Chair Beckman has brought forth the follow rule changes:

## Youth Rules Changes

[R1] Beckman. The Rules Committee based on a recommendation from the Safety Committee proposed a Cold Weather Policy for the Summer 2020 Meeting. During the Rules Committee meeting, the District Directors requested to table the proposed policy to consider a uniform statewide policy. The District Directors discussed a potential statewide Cold Weather Policy and decided they could not agree on a uniform statewide policy, so we are reconsidering the following rule with slight modifications from the one proposed last spring.

### VIII. PLAYING RULES

#### [R1] **S. COLD WEATHER POLICY:**

**It is required that all Minnesota Hockey Districts have a written policy regarding players playing and practicing at outside rinks. Policies should indicate the minimum temperature, including wind chill, that is safe for players to participate outside. Policies should account for the opportunity for participants to warm up should they become cold. No player should be required to remain outside in extreme weather if they indicate they are uncomfortable. Each District's policy shall be provided to the Minnesota Hockey Player Safety Coordinator prior to the season for review and approval and anytime thereafter when a change in the policy is adopted.**

The Rules Committee recommended changes, effective 2021-2022 season, defined as R1 to be approved as presented. **Motion carried with one opposition.**

*[R2] Checking from Behind. The BOD has requested the Rules Committee enact a rule regarding the penalties for checking from behind.*

### VIII. PLAYING RULES

#### [R2] **T. CHECKING FROM BEHIND AND BOARDING:**

**The penalty to be assessed for Check from Behind (Rule 608(a)) and Boarding (Rule 603(a)) shall be a minimum of a major plus misconduct. For all levels 12U and above classification the major shall be 3 minutes.**

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined as R2 to be approved as presented. After discussion, the **motion failed with 5 for and 14 opposing.**

*Hockey Operations Vice President Perry requested a modification to the Off-Season Affiliate Agreement to add a provision allowing MH to suspend, withdraw, or modify the Off-Season Affiliate Agreement approval to deal with circumstances such as the current pandemic*

### OFF-SEASON AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

Add paragraph 1.5 as follows:

#### I. JURISDICTION

**1.5 MH reserves the right to withdraw, suspend, or otherwise modify its approval of this Agreement should circumstances so require. This right includes situations which arise because of force majeure, pandemic, disease, or other forces outside the control of MH. MH shall not be liable to the Off-Season Affiliate for any claimed damages, express or implied, consequential, special, or extraordinary arising from any withdrawal, suspensions, or other modification.**

The Rules Committee recommended changes defined as Off-Season Affiliate Agreement to be approved as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Bob Halvorson formally withdrew as co-chair of the Rules Committee but will remain on as a committee member. His hard work has been appreciated and thank you Dan Beckman for assuming the position of Chair.

#### **SafeSport/Screening**

Committee Chair Gray reported that SafeSport made a change that a refresher course will need to be completed every season vs every two years. All MNH Board of Directors need to be screened and complete

SafeSport training. All District and Association Boards have to be screening and complete SafeSport training as well. Board flex rosters need to be submitted to their respective Associate Registrars. If someone is not on the flex roster, they cannot be on the Board until completed.

If there is someone who has been screened and disqualified in MNH, it will go to one of the seven 3-person screening committees. VP Gray is not involved. USA Hockey will contact a disqualified candidate with the appeal process information.

## **USA Hockey Reports**

Steve Oleheiser: Reported the Executive Committee of USA Hockey has elected to hold their meeting virtually. MNH has received their block grant from USA Hockey.

Dave Margenau: Reported the following:

- Youth Council
  - Discussions were had on the status of rinks. New York, California, and Washington are not officially open. Restriction are in place where they are open.
  - It was confirmed that Nationals will be held in 2021 and will not be delayed. If teams cannot meet the qualifications, they will be waived this year. Game counts will be determined on a case by case basis but will be flexible.
  - CEP virtual training has been well received. In the future there will be in-place and virtual training.
  - Declaration of player safety
- Financial Committee
  - Registrations are at approximately 78%. 50% of total revenues comes from registrations.
  - Staff were furloughed for two weeks.
  - Salary reductions were put in place for staff.
- USAH Governance Task Team
  - USOCP to require 33% of governing boards be athlete directors and have participated on a national team.

Doug Kephart: Reported that the MN delegates are working hard at financial viability. USA Hockey relies on registrations. MN Hockey is good at diversification, which makes us stronger financially.

Travis Johnson: Submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes.

Antonia Gillen: Submitted a written report which is attached hereto and incorporated into these minutes. Events have been cancelled; tryouts are by invitation only; and there is some financial items that need to be reviewed.

Todd Elmer: Reported that he has held meetings with all registrars. No teams will be registered until the flex rosters have been verified. There are currently issues with the portal and not being able to produce the flex rosters, which are being worked on to resolve; and all MN Hockey Board Members and Committee Members need to send their confirmation numbers to Todd for verification of screening and SafeSport training.

Scott Gray: Reported the new Legal Counsel Chair, John Tobin, intends to more active, and would like to change the presence of the Legal Counsel Committee.

Dennis Green: Reported the following:

- Playing Rules Committee
  - This is a playing rules change year, going into a 4-year span
  - Changes need to be submitted by November 10<sup>th</sup> – form is on the USA Hockey website
  - At the November 15<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting, changes will be reviewed and will make recommendations to the Board for the winter meeting.
  - A final report will be prepared after the winter meeting.
  - Amendments to any rules need to be voted on and completed in January.

- USA Hockey Board of Directors will vote on any recommendations at next summer's Annual Congress.
- Covid Reports – truthful reporting issues

Doug Foster: Reported on receiving a number of calls this past month regarding Covid. WHAM has elected not to host the 2022 Nationals.

North Dakota: Greg Evenson reported that Northern Plains District is at 112% registration; all arenas are open that would normally be open by this time; and Covid plans and updates are on the website.

Discussion was had regarding travel to North Dakota. District 11 and District 16 are not allowing travel to ND; all other Districts are allowing travel to bordering states.

### **New Business:**

#### **Confirmation of Advisory Board Members**

Motion was made by Treasurer Kephart to accept Confirmation of the following Advisory Board Members: ADM Coordinator, Wes Bolin; Goaltending Coordinator, Steve Carroll; Parent Resource Committee Chair, TBD; High Performance Program Director, Mike MacMillan; Hockey Director Committee Chair, Jacob Mars; Jr. Gold Committee Chair, Tom Slaird; Legal Advisor, Dan Beckman; Membership Development Committee Chair, Jeff Wright; New Hockey Program Steering Committee Chair, Tom Slaird; Rules Committee Chair, Dan Beckman; Tournament Committee Chair, Nick Nyhus; Human Resource Advisor, Nick Nyhus. Awards Committee Chair, TBD; Handbook Committee Chair, Rhonda Madsen; Safety Committee Chair, Jessica Finnigan; Tier-1 Committee Chair, Dave Margenau; Girls Development Coordinator, Brooke White; and Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair, Jeff Baidoo. Motion was seconded by Director Rakness. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Traveling Coaches Exemptions**

Motion was made by Director Reed to approve the following Traveling Coaches Exemptions:

Dennis Bushy, Moorhead Bantam AA; and  
Dan Rabideaux, Virginia Peewee A.

Motion was seconded by VP Perry. **Motion passed unanimously.**

With no further business, a motion was made by VP Dornfeld to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by VP Christenson. President Oleheiser adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda J Madsen, MNH Recording Secretary