North Stars Youth Hockey Association
BOD Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2024
6:00 pm - Grafton

I. Call to Order @ 6:02 pm by John Suda

II. Roll Call

A. Present - Theresa Thompson, Kristi Olson, John Suda, Kylen Kostrzewski, Jay Thompson, Matt Peschong, Jennifer Thompson, Jason Meyer, Jesse Irvine

B. Absent – Christian Larson

C. Guests – Mikey Olson, Vanessa Flanagan

III. Approval of Previous Minutes - January Meeting

A. Motion to approve previous minutes. Passed

IV. Approval of Agenda

A. Motion to approve agenda. Passed

V. Treasurer's Report

A. Motion to approve treasurer's report. Passed

VI. Old Business

A. Mega Raffle Review, Golf Tourney

B. Fees/Dibs

C. PR Concession Manager

D. Motion to temporarily adjourn annual meeting

VII. Certification of Election

A. Election resulted in Grafton representatives John Suda and Mikey Olson, and Park River representatives Christian Larson and Vanessa Flanagan. Jay Thompson agreed to fill in open-endedly for Andy Gire due to his health.

B. Election of Officers

1. President – John Suda
2. Vice President – Theresa Thompson
3. Secretary – Vanessa Flanagan
4. Coaching Coordinator – Kylen Kostrewski

C. Motion to move back to New Business

VIII. New Business

A. Coaches Contracts

1. Jennifer Thompson explained that coaches are trying to submit the entire season of travel and meal expenses, which is not acceptable. She also noted that there has been too much debate on how much per diem is allowed for a particular day and is having to backtrack the schedule to reconcile events.
2. Board agreed that upcoming contracts should clearly state that reimbursements must be submitted by the 10th of the month for the prior month's expenses, or else reimbursement will be forfeited.

B. Team Projections & Tournaments
    1. J. Irvine noted that signup for desirable tournaments especially at the Bantam and Peewee level is May 1st, which is much earlier than prior years.
    2. There was discussion about moving players up and down within the Peewee level and creating a sort of hybrid schedule of games for the upper and lower tiers of teams – i.e., at coach's discretion, selecting a particular group of players for a certain game or tournament that would benefit/challenge those players.

C. Review of the Number of Games per Level
    1. It was agreed by all that 30 games was a good number for Squirt B
    2. K. Kostrewski proposed increasing the number of Squirt A games beyond 35 – J. Irvine countered that players at that age may benefit more from in house ice time/open hockey/drills and a less busy game schedule. After further discussion it was agreed that Squirt A's remain between 30-35, pushing towards 35 if coaches and parents are in agreement to do so.
    3. Peewee B's had a very busy year at 44 games, but it would seem that this was a scheduling anomaly unique to this year and typically they should also stick around 35 games.
    4. Bantams remain at 35 – 40 games.
    5. Briefly revisited complaints about splitting games more equally between Park River and Grafton – J. Irvine explained that several teams unfortunately aren't interested in playing in the CMA due to the facility, lack of showers, etc. He also noted that opening up the CMA costs more money where the CC is already paid for and always up and running.

D. Lines of Communication
    1. T. Thompson proposed setting up a flow chart of phone numbers for all relevant people/parties to streamline communication – a contact for game/practice scheduling, coaching contact, arena/facility contact, etc. Board agreed and Teri will work on that.

E. Goalie Coach
    1. The board discussed the continuation of Kody Stark and his ability to help with coaching our youth program. Kylen shared Kody has two young kids and is not able to give his time to coach but he will talk to him about still helping with the equipment and organization of the goalie room. The board agreed Kody has been a fantastic asset to the program and hopes he is able to continue in this capacity. Erik Kuehn was paid to work with the goalies this year and the board will make a contract moving forward for his duties so days and times are laid out. The board is also planning to reach out to other coaches in the area who have been brought up by others.

IX. Miscellaneous Comments

A. Jim Kalbrener Award – it was mentioned by members that they overheard

frustration with the presentation of the award this season and we may need to more clearly define what the award is and who is eligible. It was understood and agreed upon by board members that this particular award is meant for the "MVP" of the Bantam A team, specifically, (not including Bantam B). There was suggestion of creating a second award geared more towards work ethic, sportsmanship, team mentality, etc. but no further decision on that was made.

B. J. Irvine stated that the cell phone in the locker room issue needs to be very firmly addressed for the coming season. It needs to be an absolutely zero tolerance policy. M. Olson proposed a designated bag for the phones as players enter the locker room, which was noted but not formally motioned.

X. Motion to Adjourn

A. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:20pm by J. Suda and seconded by J. Thompson.

Next Meeting - __May 28, 2024_____