

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting

June 12, 2024

6:30pm

Sanford Conference Room – SCHEELS IcePlex

President Chun Chan called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Jenn Warren (Vice-President), Adam Gorra (Secretary), Elliot Hitt (Treasurer), Sam Everson (Past President), Derek Berg (Development Director), Cody Alderman (Director of City League), Leah May (Travel League Director) and Amanda Smith (Director of Tournaments). Quorum was present. Dan Houck (Director of Hockey) and Cherry Hunter (Director of Operations) were also in attendance.

Open Forum – Attending for Open Forum were Amy Kimber, Nancy & Justin Schempp, Kari Kobes, Sara & Jordan Gillis, Kevin Wiese, Dan VanSchepchen, Mike Hoffman, Chris Forbeck, Don Bennett, Jim & Leesa Olander, Neil & Sheila Matthiesen, Ashley & Matt Bacoulis, Dua Anderson, Carrie Fickboom, Brandon Bell, Robert & Riley Block, Dustin Collins, Jake Meier, Justin Vyn, Ken Dunn, Bob Sechser, Scott Hansen, Michael & Erin Heeney, Jason Brooks, Dan Wegener, Dustin Larson, Kevin McCullum, Kat & Scott Anderson, Kristi Butler, Bruce Abels, Tommy Torok, Lisa Frock, Nolan Wiese, Tim & Tiffany Anderson, Paul Keizer, Ryan Faber, Shelly & Eric Watson.

Topic: SDAHA League Play – Comments from membership attending:

- ✓ need appeal to Northern Plains (NP) on the grounds SDAHA is targeting SFYHA. Time to get attorneys involved.
- ✓ Provided hockey background. Need to get out of SDAHA – this will trigger USA Hockey involvement. There is misrepresentation at SDAHA. Need to hire a lawyer. He will contact USA Hockey
- ✓ Governance - SFYHA has the most numbers but the least number of voice/votes at SDAHA.
- ✓ Northern Plains Appeal – What options does SFYHA have? We are being targeted. Message to USA Hockey – SDAHA is trying to shrink our membership and that is certainly not the goal of USA Hockey
- ✓ Do not pay SDAHA fees because our membership is unhappy.
- ✓ Options – AAU or MN Made or other non-USA Hockey programs
- ✓ Some Group Members indicated they will be filing complaints via legal avenues – possibly lawsuit for SDAHA Discrimination
- ✓ Email from SFYHA Board to membership – SFYHA Board is not doing enough for our kids.

Responses:

- ✓ The majority of SDAHA votes did not support the travel team exemption request submitted by SFYHA in May.
- ✓ Appeal to SDAHA or NP – Same people would hear the appeal as those who ruled on the exemption request at the SDAHA Level. The rest of the local associations want to play SF competition.
- ✓ Leaving SDAHA will place team sanctions in jeopardy
- ✓ Need long term strategy

- ✓ An appeal may not be in the best interest of SFYHA. Working to improve our relationship with SDAHA

Secretary's Report – Sam Everson made a motion to approve the May 8, 2024 SFYHA Board of Directors Meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded and carried. Leah May made a motion to approve the May 20, 2024 Special Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Elliot Hitt presented end of year information. The proposed budget will be emailed for consideration at the next meeting.

- Proposed plan is for 3 high school practices per team this season and not 4 per week
- Most likely will need a \$25 per player increase to the Fundraiser Fee.
- Equipment budget request of \$9.5K received from Equipment Manager. Need to make sure SFYHA gear is not disappearing.
- Elliot noted SFYHA players will need to provide their own neck guards. Social media and eblast focus on USA Hockey requirement beginning August 1.

Director of Hockey – Dan Houck

- Helped organize additional off-ice workouts w/ Adam Gorra at KOTA CrossFit
- Working on initial tryout schedule w/ Cherry
- Interviewed perspective HS West Head Coach w/ Andy Gillham
- Met w/ Amy Kimber, Chair of NW Addition Fundraising Committee, to assist her in certain areas of fundraising campaign
- Re-worked Mite league plan for 2024/25 – attached
- Met w/ Aaron Debates regarding Goaltending Development for 2024/25
- Working on fall clinic and event schedule w/ Cherry
- Discussed changes to fall practice schedule w/ Leah May
- Evaluated Team SD 18U and 16U Tryouts
- Various phone calls with new families moving in the area regarding the program
- Ice schedule meeting happening the week of June 17th for 2024/25
- HS Coach Meeting the Week of June 17

To Do:

Social Media: We need to do a much better job of publicizing the successes of our athletes. There are various kids playing places, going places, and making events that an entire association is completely unaware of. I would strongly recommend a hard look at how our Social Media Coordinator is kept up to speed on this.

Asks: I would like to sign up again (virtually) for the NHL Coaches Association Clinic June 25-28. The cost is \$200, and I receive continuing education credits for my USA Hockey CEP. There are not many continuing education programs offered and this is a fantastic clinic. Board Approved

Admin Update – Cherry Hunter

- ✓ Organization license plate decals have been renewed and should be available for purchase within the next 2 weeks.
- ✓ Reminder – First round of Continuing Education for CEP will be due for affected coaches 2025 (5 credits)
- ✓ Proposed Base Schedule has been completed and included in board packet. Working on detailed schedule

- 3 weeks DOH instead of 4 weeks DOH camps – requested 3 more hours of ice for DOH to create more available player slots
- Christmas on Wednesday, December 25. Week off Dec 23-27: No SFYHA ice slots. Dec 31-Jan 1 are Tuesday/Wednesday no practice days
- Super Bowl Sunday – February 9: We have typically hosted ICL and ACL on this Sunday. The attendance has not been good. Ice slots for City League will not be scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday.
- Registration – Need fee amounts, Skills Assessment list, confirmed no game jersey subsidy for Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams, ICL & ACL will remain as previously offered.
- Student Coach – Player with medical procedures will most likely be off the ice until late Feb/early March. Player wants to still be involved with the team and on the bench. List player as a team member on the roster and will be listed as injured until released for play.

Director of Tournaments – Amanda Smith – Bantam & PeeWee Tournaments are full. Squirts have a few open slots.

Director of Travel League – Leah May – Discussion on projected player and goalie numbers at the Bantam level vs possible BT players participating elsewhere. Tournament scheduling is about 75% completed.

Director of Development – Derek Berg – Raffle sales were down last season due to the new OPH fundraiser. Board members requested Raffle sales be available again and hopefully the OPH fundraiser.

Presidents Report – Chun Chan

- ✓ Northern Plains District Meeting – Sept 6-8 in Deadwood. Chun will be attending. Jenn Warren and Cherry Hunter may also be attending.
- ✓ Team SD Updates – Planning continues for SDAHA Team SD teams and tryouts.

Agenda Items:

IcePlex Expansion Fundraising – Levels of naming rights and proposed cost included in board packets. Player and team shooting lanes and workout area will be free of charge during the season and SFYHA Camps/Clinics for SFYHA registered players. POWER, non-SFYHA camps and other sports will pay a fee to utilize the shooting lanes and/or gym during the season and off season. Insurance & utilities will be under IP. Equipment for the gym is long term goal. \$3K donors and above will be placed on the donor wall. Need Lead Donor! POWER is not doing addition to the south end of the IP.

Skills Assessment Listing - The document will be posted for parents to utilize when determining city or travel league registration. Dan will provide updates to the current document for presentation to Squirt and older players – both girls and boys. During evaluations, players are assessed on individual hockey skills, physical qualities, game play/game sense and coachability.

Mite Program Overview – Coach Houck presented proposal for SFYHA 2024-2025 Mite Program Overview.

- Players will have the option to register for Mite Travel or Mite City League
- Field four tiers of Mite level play
- Mite Travel will be placed to Tier 1 or Tier 2 – with Tier 1 being higher skilled
- Mite City will be placed to Tier 3 or Tier 4 – with Tier 3 being higher skilled

- Mite players will be evaluated during the first 2 weeks of the season and moved as needed to final Tier assignment. Mite Tier 1 and Mite Tier 2 may be moved to Tier 3 or Tier 4 if minimum skills are not seen during evaluation.
- Mite Tier 1 will consist of 2-3 travel teams and will not participate in Sunday night cross ice games. Three practice slots per week for up to 36 players. 3-4 croxice tournaments/jamborees per season plus possible pick up games.
- Mite Tier 2 will consist of 2-3 travel teams and will participate in Sunday night league games and End of Year Tournament. Three practice slots per week for up to 36 players. Three croxice tournaments/jamborees per season. Mite Tier 2 will not have Sunday night games on weekends of tournaments/jamborees. Mite Tier 2 rosters for Sunday night games will be different than Mite Tier 2 Travel rosters.
- Mite Tier 3 minimum player count is 32 that will be divided into 4 City League teams. Two practices per week with Sunday night City League games and End of Year Tournament.
- Mite Tier 4 minimum player count is 32 that will be sorted into 4 City League teams. Two practices per week with Sunday night City League games and End of Year Tournament.
- Players registered for Mite Travel that are moved to Tier 3 or Tier 4 will receive fundraiser fee credit for the extra Mite Travel registration fee paid.

***Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Mission:
To Motivate, Inspire and Encourage Athletic Participation and Good Health through Ice Sports***

Meeting adjourned at 11:05pm

NEXT MEETING
July 10, 2024 6:30 pm
Sanford Conference Room at the IcePlex

Respectfully submitted,
Cherry Hunter
SFYHA Director of Operations

Adopted July 10, 2024 as amended by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence
(Date) (Circle one)