

District Director Report

Feb 4 2012

Another season is winding down and teams are preparing for the upcoming playoffs. It should be another fun playoff weekend in District 15. The competition is good and I look forward in seeing who advances to regionals. Good luck to all teams boys and girls.

Minnesota Hockey recently held their winter meeting and several topics were brought up. The main issue was, off course, the checking from behind and head contact. The District Directors voted unanimously to follow the High School rules except for the some minor changes with head contact. The ruling is displayed at the Minnesota Hockey website. The biggest thing here is to teach our coaches how to implement this to the players. We must instruct our players there will be no tolerance with this ruling. The referees are instructed to call these penalties no matter how unintentional it is. Teach your players to check properly. There are videos on the Minnesota Hockey website to help out coaches instruct correctly.

Another topic was the redistricting proposal. In short, Minnesota Hockey is trying to help District 4 with more "A" caliber teams by moving teams out of District 5 to District 4 and adding a team or two from our district to District 5. After much discussion the proposal was tabled and no vote was taken. The final draft had Little Falls leaving District 15 and going to District 5. That would have been the only change to our district. With it being tabled, I believe, our district will

stay intact for years to come. Little Falls was against moving and I informed the board their wishes during our discussions.

In 2012-13 (next season) we will be reclassifying our levels. Minnesota Hockey will now have an "AA", "A" and a "B" division. In our district teams like Moorhead and Brainerd will have to go "AA", the rest of the teams will go either "A" or "B". The criteria are based on number of players in association. Teams that want to play up will have to petition the move in October before the season starts. If approved it would be for one year only. I will have more information on this during our spring meeting in May. I have mixed feelings with this proposal and need to get more info before I would vote for it. This would include both bantams and peewees.

The new guidelines for our CEP program went well this year. Many improvements were made. They will go over the feedback from coaches this spring and we might see some additional changes in the CEP program. I thought the modules were very good, some coaches thought they were too long, maybe make them less time consuming for the younger levels. We will have more info on this before next season.

USA Hockey will implement a \$10 registration increase this next season. Minnesota Hockey is strongly against this and will voice their opinion at the spring meetings in Colorado. If the increase takes effect it will be for this coming season. Minnesota Hockey hopes to reverse the action for it least another year. More on this later.

Our district numbers continue to climb, this year we had 2631 players registered and 529 coaches. Let's work on retention and finding new players to play our great game.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the association presidents and their board for the work they all do. Without you key people our district would not be what it is today. Your countless hours during the season shows up in our increasing numbers and the respect we get from my fellow directors. Keep up the good work and let's continue to be a big part of the State of Hockey.

If at any time you have questions please call me, I can be reached at the numbers listed below.

Good luck during the end of your seasons and we'll see you at rink or our upcoming meetings.

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