

SDAHA 2012 Fall Meeting
September 22, 2012
Yankton, SD

Meeting was called to order by SDAHA President, Dan French, at 9:00 am. Roll call was taken and it was determined there were 11 voting delegates present. Voting Delegates: Chris Bessette, Rushmore, Mike Carrels, Aberdeen, Gary DeYoung, Sioux Center, Vince Foley, Watertown, Bryan Kouri, Sioux Falls, Tony Leif, Oahe, Doug Solem, Huron, Todd Stratmoen, Brookings, Chris Tronnes, Mitchell, Dave Spencer, Yankton, Ben Tronnes, SDAHA Vice President. Absent: Randy Honkomp, Denise Niehoff

Other Present: Maxine Tronnes, SDAHA Adm. Asst., Ron Dobesh, Website, Ted Gibbons, Sioux Center, Tom Hitchcock, Past President, Cherry Hunter, Sioux Falls, Brady Pinney, Girls Development, Scott Riddle, National Team Committee, Gerry Rounds, Brookings, Rhonda Schenkel, Yankton, Doug Sorensen, RIC, Jodi Sterrett, Official's Scheduler, Dave Tronnes, Past NPD Director, Bryan Seaver, Brandon Valley

Agenda adopted. Approval of spring minutes postponed until later in the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Randy Honkomp was absent, Tom Hitchcock presented the current report, and discussed it item by item (see attached). Discussion was held on \$5 SDAHA fee that is now collected by USA Hockey for SD, tournament expenses, income from the boys state varsity, block grants, etc. It was motioned and seconded to approve the budget report.

Vince Foley, Watertown, brought up funding for the National Teams, and this was discussed. No decision was made. Then it was asked if the coaches fund money could be used for the ADM clinic in Spearfish in October and decided that it was available for the clinic. Steve Salwei (CIC) has also requested funds for a computer for training coaches. Cherry Hunter asked if CEP reimbursements were being made by SDAHA and that was discussed.

It was motioned (Todd Stratmoen) and seconded (Bryan Kouri) that reimbursement for expenses that could be covered by the coaches fund could be requested from the SDAHA president, and approved or denied by the SDAHA president.

Motion Passed

At this time the 2012-2013 budget was presented by Tom Hitchcock (see attached). Budget based on team counts and is adjusted if team count changes. Tom reviewed basic items.

It was motioned (Doug Solem, Huron) and seconded (Tony Leif, Oahe) to approved the budget.

Motion Passed

Discussion returned to the ADM Clinic in Spearfish. *It was motioned (Bryan Kouri, Sioux Falls) seconded (Chris Bessette, Rushmore) to pay for motel rooms for coaches attending.*

Motion passed

Registrars Report: Annette Stensgaard was absent, no report

Risk Managers Report: Dawn Magee was absent, no report. It was discussed that no one could be on the ice or working with the children unless they have turned in/completed their background check forms. Dave Tronnes mentioned that the role of the risk managers may be broadening in the future, and they may become more supervisory. This brought up discussion of "Safe Sport Coordinators". Dan French needs a representative from each association. Reporting will increase. Per Gary DeYoung, Sioux Center, there is a new 40 page document that covers changes. Each local's representative will receive a 90 minute presentation, and then give the presentation to their volunteers with full implementation in 2013-14. More information is coming from USA Hockey.

It was also discussed that the risk manager needs to keep a list of approved volunteers that can be referenced to see if someone has completed their background check forms, etc. There needs to be coordination between the registrar and risk manager to match up names to be sure everyone is cleared.

Officials Report: Referee in Chief, Doug Sorensen reported that they are emphasizing body contact penalties, head contact penalties. He asks that locals contact him and set up training sessions for their volunteers and coaches to help them understand what will be considered penalties. He said the video created regarding the head contacts was “eye opening” and it should be seen by everyone. Calling penalties as “major” or “minor” was discussed: When a major was appropriate and not a minor.

He would like to purchase updates for his computer programs and teaching purposes. SD Officials Association has reformed, and Dane Yde is treasurer with Bruce Palmer and Robb Hirschhoff as officers. They are considering camps for officials and are interested in working on getting reimbursed for National Tournament expenses. USA Hockey reimbursement does not cover all expenses. Tony Leif, Oahe returned to discussion on head contact penalties. Discussion held on how to make the call more consistent, with head contact always being a major penalty. Dan stated that education was key, with Doug agreeing. Chris Bessette, Rushmore asked if the videos can go to coaches through CEP classes, etc.

At this point, discussion returned to reimbursement for expenses for officials and Doug. It was determined that Doug has the authority to spend the officials fund as he determines necessary. Jodi Sterrett asks that we send out reminders on what to do when weather becomes bad and games are cancelled.

Coaching Report: Steve Salwei, CIC absent. See attached written report. Cherry Hunter mentioned that coaching clinics being held in SF include level 2 on November 10th and Level 3 on November 11. Level 1 TBA.

Player Development: Rob Kittay, Absent See attached written report.

Scott Riddle, National Tournament committee, stated that South Dakota had 100 plus boys on teams this year. The U-14 plays in Charlotte and the U16 is in Detroit. Thanks to the associations that gave the players ice time. They started playing games 9/1 so they could get 20 games in against other national teams. They have been playing in Nebraska, but struggling to get games in. They formed a U-14 scrimmage team to play games. ND will not have a national team this year, and they are usually teams they play to get 20 games done. Expenses for each player can reach \$1500, and the players/families do a lot of fundraising. Development camp will be in June this coming year instead of May. There has been some communication problems between ND and SD regarding player development and other items. Dan stated he would have to make sure he is more involved in communication to make sure things get passed on and worked on regarding player development. Dwayne Dillinger is the new district director, replacing Dave Tronnes. Dave Tronnes said the tournaments are great for the families and players and SD needs to keep involved. Lifelong friendships are created.

Girls Development: Brady Pinney, Director reported he would like to see a girls national team someday. They are starting with a development camp, and trying to get one established for this year. It was asked if there will be a president’s cup again this year in Rapid City, and Dan said there probably won’t be a boys tournament, but there may be a girls tournament. That would be a good time to set up try outs for girl’s development. Discussion was held on district play sites for girls and how much interest there is for girl’s teams to go to national tournaments.

Varsity Coaches: Rob Kittay, absent but has sent a written report. See attached.

Discipline: Ben Tronnes, discipline director, needs the name of their discipline committee person from each association. Dan mentioned that we need to make sure the officials fill out the incident reports, even out of state, league or non-league.

Scheduling: Varsity schedule should be set, but the younger levels are still signing up for tournaments and there will be changes there. Varsity changes are only if absolutely necessary. Team counts at the younger levels will still be changing and that will affect the schedule. The number of teams will determine how the “district” scheduling is affected. Discussion held on adding non-league games to fill in weekends. Maxine stated that they can schedule any non-league games they wish, but there is still the issue of available ice time and game week ends available. Work with your local schedulers.

Senior Showcase: Todd Stratmoen, Brookings handed out posters to hand in their arenas to make sure information gets out to everyone. He gave the dates as November 16-17th Brookings, with the schedule on their site and information has been sent to all the locals. Fee is \$55/player and will be handled within each association. Registration for the Senior Showcase is being done electronically this year and deadline is 10/15. Link is on the SDAHA website.

Association Reports:

Yankton: Dave Spencer - There is no longer a USD Club hockey team. 8th skating season, numbers are good. Some in-line hockey, one more year on debt being paid off. Norfolk, Nebraska is interested in starting a hockey program, along with Spirit Lake, Iowa starting an arena. Yankton still has good growth, and hoping to have both Varsity and JV boys.

Discussion held briefly on having both JV/Varsity with limited numbers. Additional discussion on changing to the USA age classifications.

Watertown: Vince Foley – 41st year of hockey in Watertown, building project on hold but city is now considering bonds for building. Updates planned in future budget for Zamboni room, boards, etc. and connecting rinks. Initiation hockey program has good growth, but numbers low in 2nd year squirts/bantams.

Sioux Falls: Bryan Kouri – Numbers are good. New ice plans going well, with Scheels donating substantial amount of money, city helping fund the arenas. Fall of 2014 planning for opening of new ice. Lots of support and enthusiasm for the hockey programs in SF.

Sioux Center: Gary DeYoung – Ice in August, working on more open hockey times and developing more interest. Retention issues at JV-Varsity level, and feel they can't offer a varsity level team so will be going JV only. They are using USA Hockey ages so they can field a team at that level and have switched to the USA Hockey ages at all levels. Down about 15 players from last year, mostly at older age groups. Struggling to recruit players, but will be adding a girls jv team this year.

More discussion held on changing in SD to USA ages and how it would affect SD.

Rushmore: Chris Bessette – Improving their rink, working toward two sheets of ice eventually, with new locker rooms etc. Will have three peewee teams (one A, two B), 2 bantams, U-12 Girls, all rest the same as previous year.

Oahe: Tony Leif – Improvements planned include a humidifier, and updated compressors to eliminate problems they have had in the past. In house for Mites/Mini Mites, free registration except USA Hockey fee, then separate travel registration fees for those who want to travel. This is planned as a recruitment tool and working for retention, which is already very good.

Mitchell: Chris Tronnes – Working on second sheet of ice with approval from city council, breaking ground next spring and also improving the older rink with new locker rooms, etc.. They are still taking registrations so numbers aren't final yet. Will only have a varsity team for boys again, with no seniors.

Discussion returned to Sioux Center playing varsity for boys and not JV. Gary DeYoung mentioned the loss of key players. Sioux Falls asked about Yankton playing both levels with the same players and not just having one team. Discussion held regarding criteria for determining whether varsity or jr. varsity or just one level and which level. Per Dan, this is all stuff that the committee headed up by Ben is looking at to try to set up a system that will work for both the small associations and the larger associations. Varsity should be the pinnacle, but should be right for players also.

Huron: Doug Solem – Put in a compressor, got some money from the city. Bantam numbers are low (one went to Watertown) so they are playing only at the Bantam B level. They have ice, and are having registration. Put ice in July to work with compressor.

Brookings: Todd Stratmoen – Just finished registration, and going well. Blizzard is new NAHL team now playing in the Brookings arena and are popular. They have a new boys varsity coach, and are planning the boys varsity tournament – working on details.

Brandon Valley: Bryan Seaver – Would like colder winter so we can keep ice. Planning on 30-40 skaters under the age of 10. Improving the ice rink and parking. In house only

Discussion was held on bringing in teams to play to create interest in the area.

Aberdeen: Mike Carrels – Building addition on to rink with locker rooms being added and loft seating. Another Zamboni added and they are upgrading the Expo building. Numbers are as predicted with 190-220 skaters. Planning a "give hockey a shot" day and planning for 5-10 years ahead. The Wings have been a great draw for their programs.

Past President Report: Tom Hitchcock – Likes not getting all the e-mails, problems that the president receives. USA Hockey will be doing an audit this week, templates need to be worked on and prepared. Some of the things discussed included document retention, policy approvals. Policies will be written instead of understood, and new ones will be sent out for review as soon as they are completed.

Dave Tronnes – Third year of Pro Hockey Celebrity Hunt that raises money for scholarships, which are in their 7th year. Asks for support from locals, get the information out, fill tables at the dinner. They are now their own 501c3 organization. Discussion held talking about what this event does for SD hockey.

Presidents Report: Dan French – Requests names for “Safe Sport”, discussion has been held on the geo-split for Sioux Falls, and the bantams will geo-split for the 2013-14 season. He is asking that the JV committee bring back something for the spring meeting. He reminded everyone about the Northern Plains District meeting in Spearfish coming up the first week end in October. States need to work together. ADM training will be held for coaches from all 4 states at the meeting. Dan asked that Tom Hitchcock head up the nominating committee for President and Secretary for elections being held at the spring meeting.

Dave Tronnes mentioned that ADM will be mandated for the 2013-14 season, so locals need to start working in that direction. What would be used for enforcement was discussed, with no answer being provided.

Gary De Young asked to discuss the two referees, one linesman type of officiating. Dave says that USA Hockey does not like that system. Doug Sorensen is concerned that there are no teaching tools for that type of system and has no way to implement it at this time.

Spring minutes brought up again and approval requested. Motion to approve made by Gary DeYoung, seconded by Bryon Kouri.

Motion passed

Old Business:

Determination of the intent of the \$25 payment for single games to officials: It was requested that the contract be reviewed, and determination made on when this would be a legitimate payment. Gary DeYoung was asked to review how the contract was set up (see copies of contracts) and why it was set up as it is. Discussion was held and examples given of what involved a single game. Several examples included where an official elects to do a single game versus the state asking an official to do a single game because there is no one else. What about when officials are only being offered a single game. In reality, only a few payments are being made for single games. Also, what about those new officials we want to keep involved that are also players and may only be able to do a single game? It is not a major problem, per payments made to officials last year, and amounts only seem to be about 2% of payments made. Discussion followed. No change appears to be needed. If anyone feels there is abuse, contact Doug or Jodi and have them make a determination.

New Business:

Reassignment of state tournaments: After discussion, Huron was chosen to be the site of the Girls Varsity State Tournament in 2013, and Yankton will take the Girls JV State Tournament for 2013. Reassignments had to be made as Brookings now received the Boys Varsity, and Yankton had other events in Yankton during the week end of the Girls Varsity, and could not provide motel rooms.

Motion made to award the Girls Varsity to Huron and Girls JV to Yankton by Gary DeYoung, Sioux Center, seconded by Chris Tronnes, Mitchell.

Motion passed

Sportsmanship Award: Rushmore would like to establish a sportsmanship award for the Girls Varsity State Tournament, to be provided by the Lori Simpson Family, and named in her honor. It would be presented during the opening ceremonies and be a traveling trophy, maintained by private funds. Much discussion on what criteria would be used to award the trophy.

Motion made to approve a sportsmanship trophy for the Girls Varsity by Todd Stratmoen, Brookings and seconded by Vince Foley, Watertown.

Discussion held on criteria to be used, with several suggestions offered. Much more discussion on whether should it be teams, fans and coaches. It was decided to make it an "overall team" award and voting to be done in that fashion, similar to how all-state awards are voted upon.

Motion Passed

Game times for teams staying overnight: Oahe requested a discussion on the timing of varsity games especially on Sundays when the team is staying overnight. Discussion on this included the fact that some associations have media broadcasts set up in advance, and need to have the games that certain times to accommodate the media. Final decision was to take no action, but to explain the circumstances to parents and try to accommodate teams, with the understanding that it is not always possible to have early games especially at the varsity levels. The discussion stated this was mainly a boys' varsity issue.

No action taken.

Establishing a statewide policy for assigning players to developmental teams: This issue was discussed at the spring meeting and a committee was set up at that time to look at Mite and especially Squirt issues. Oahe is requesting that this be pursued further as locals need guidance and help in this area. Dan French will ask the committee to get some information out to the locals. More discussion was held on what criteria should be used for mini mites, mites, and squirt levels. Dan said he will request the committee to "move things along faster" and see if they can come up with recommendations for the spring meeting. The biggest issue to Oahe is how team splits are done, and how it affects players and retention. They are requesting summaries of policies used by other associations. The committee set up to review this is working on the issues, and does have some ideas in writing but is not ready to make a proposal yet. Other associations are also having problems with similar issues. ADM does help with the mite age groups, but the squirts do not have a clear plan in place. Dan will ask the committee to send out something to help the locals.

It was recommended by many that coaches attend ADM clinics. It was discussed that ADM, created for those larger programs like Minnesota, does not fit in all situations, especially in SD, and we need to create our own ADM program for our state.

No action taken, but requested report from committee.

Clarification on play in rules for boys varsity state tournament: Requested rule clarification on whether the state tournament is 8 teams only and how play in games are scheduled. Discussion regarding the state tax issues, and it was clarified that play ins would be held to keep the tournament to 8 teams maximum, with play-in dates and sites to be determined by SDAHA President.

Scheduling when teams dropped: This issue was revisited to determine who would decide if enough teams dropped to make the current division system at the peewee level unnecessary.

Motion made to allow SDAHA President and SDAHA Scheduler to make the decision to change the peewee divisions as necessary by Mike Carrels, Aberdeen and seconded by Doug Solem, Huron.

Motion Passed

National Team Funding Proposal: Discussion on how to help fund National Teams was tabled at the Spring meeting, as the proposal was made by Vince Foley, and he was unable to be in attendance. It was not added to the agenda for the fall meeting, but will be added to the 2013 spring meeting agenda. Proposal asked that a fee be added to player fees to help fund the teams going to the National Tournaments. Discussion was opened again on how it is currently funded, and what happens when players don't raise enough money to pay their way.

Tabled until 2013 Spring Meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Chris Tronnes, Mitchell and seconded by Dave Spencer, Yankton

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.