

### Finance Committee

- 13-14 Budget approved
  - Revenue \$42,000,190, increase of 8.0% (Player registrations up, Officials fees flow through budget, Master level clinic, USOC Performance Grant and Olympic Event Revenue)
  - Expenses \$40,492,447, increase of 9.8% (Men's and Women's International, Officials Development, Coach L5 Clinic and College Grant Program)
  - Net Income \$1,507,743
- Membership fees make up 60% of revenue
- Affiliate Official's Fee Policy – Fees collected via USA Hockey registration will only be disbursed through the affiliate RIC budget. Fees which are not spent will not be accumulated for the affiliate officials.

### Big 6 Meeting

- Lengthy discussion regarding response to associations/programs who participate in non-sanctioned play. Appropriate course of action against such programs. Questions included can an individual serve on a board of USA Hockey sanctioned program and a board of a non USA Hockey program. Can coaches coach in both a USA Hockey program and non-sanctioned program? Much of the discussion was focused on the legal response.
- Screening of officials will be included in their registration process included in the process to get their crest. Minnesota Hockey will no longer be required to screen officials.
- HUDD (Heads Up Don't Duck) – New 7 minute video available. Should be shown to all players, coaches and parents. Heads Up drills should be conducted in practices through the season.
- Discussion of the administrative issues involved with the proposed Progressive Penalty for majors.

### Town Hall Meeting

- USAH Foundation - Advantage Program for non-participant members.
  - Convergence of technologies of the Internet, Social Media and Mobile makes it possible to connect with 12,000,000 individuals who identify themselves as passionate about the game.
  - Launch date is Nov. 1
  - Value proposition offering a variety of products, deals, rewards to the members.
  - Potential new source of revenue for the Foundation/USA Hockey
- SafeSport
  - Full implementation 2013-14 season
  - Online training available. Encourage all members to take the training. Will be required to register as a USA Hockey volunteer – no cost to register as a volunteer.

- Screening (National and county verification) is required of individuals who have regular/routine/frequent access to players.
- Examples of "Co-ed Locker Room" policies are available on the SafeSport website.
- ADM
  - 10U/12U parent brochure is available
  - An age specific ADM video is included in the player registration process.
  - There are currently four "ADM Model Clubs" and based on applications the plan is to increase to nine this season. The concept of High Performance clubs/teams which was part of the initial ADM plans has been abandoned.

#### Youth Council

- Discussion regarding the administration of the "Progressive Penalty" rule. Announced that a feature will be built into the National Game Reporting system which will track and send out notice when a player has accumulate three or more majors. This feature is planned to be available in August 2013.
- ADM Presentation
  - Age appropriate training is appropriate at all levels. (Players are not miniature NHLer's)
  - Competition is important to individual skills development.
  - Being patient with a player's development is critical.
  - Creating world class players starts at 8U by delivering world class programming.
  - Station based practice study conducted by Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, shows how much more the station based practice is efficient at providing more training than a traditional practice.
  - The goal of 8U hockey is to bring a player along so they are "Comfortable on their Skates"
  - 10U/12U ADM focus is on the "Window of Trainability"
    - Strive for 3 to 1 practice to game ratio
    - Delivering a quality practice. Individual skills with high activity. Refining technical skills. Skills with greater degree of complexity and decision making (hockey sense). Team concepts through SAG'a. Body contact training.
    - Reduce roster size for games (smaller is better)
    - Quality skill demonstrations to develop the correct mental image.
    - Underspeed training with exaggerated movements. High volume of reps at reduced intensity will increase success.
    - Let them play half ice to learn the game.
    - Off-ice training should focus on ABC (Agility, Balance and Coordination)
    - Body Contact/Body Checking in practice – Practice plans available. Build into practices or conduct separate Body Contact/Body Checking sessions.

#### Safety Protective Equipment Committee

- Mayo will be conducting a study on the effect of using Fair Play in tournaments and the impact on injuries. Bantam level – Woodbury and Rochester Tournaments

- Concussion Summit sponsored by Mayo Clinic in Rochester will be held in October 8-9, 2013.
- The neck laceration protection study is nearing completion. Results will be included in ISO standard for neck laceration protection.

#### Affiliate Presidents Meeting

- Received our block grant of \$138,980.25 (25% of grant for 12-13 season and 75% of grant for 13-14 season)
- Mite Full Ice Exemptions – 15 of 34 affiliate states did not request an exemption to the cross/half ice rule for 8U for any full ice games.
- Non-sanctioned Play – current guidelines have stood the test of time in their applications. Guidelines will be reissued in August to address some minor issues. Ron DeGregorio has charged Dave Ogreaan and Jim Smith with the task to lead a task team to address the challenge of alternative hockey programs through communication, marketing/branding, education, programming and litigation. We have the best product offering.
- Membership
  - Overall membership is down 1% from the 11-12 season. However, retention is at an all time high and has improved every year for the past five years.
  - Age specific communications can be sent via the national office.
  - Sixteen Minnesota associations were awarded a total of 216 One Goal equipment sets for participating in the 12-13 2&2 Challenge. See attached for comparison of 8U numbers with other states. Minnesota has 21% more 8U players than the next largest state, Massachusetts.
  - Reminder that all first time participants in the THFF events on Nov. 2 will be eligible for free registration regardless of age.
- Fund Raising Opportunity – The Schwan's Cares program will be available in August. A hands free, online ordering program. Association will receive 20% of sales during the active campaign period and continue to receive 5% for one year thereafter.

#### Membership Overview and Workshop

- Minnesota and Wisconsin had the opportunity to share what we have been doing.
- 2 & 2 Challenge for 13-14
  - Welcome back week (Retention)
  - Try Hockey for Free Days (Acquisition)
    - Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - IIHF Girls' THFF – Oct 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Post Olympic – March 1, 2014
  - Transition "Learn to Play" Program (Conversion)
  - Recognition – Gold, Silver or Bronze Reward Levels

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Margenau

## 2012-2013 Season 8 & Under National Recap

### 2012-2013 8 & Under Affiliate Total Player Summary

Affiliate	8 & Under Total	Net Total Growth	Percentage Change	OneGoal Sets
Alaska	1,604	-13	-0.8%	24
Arizona	489	-23	-4.5%	12
Atlantic	4,308	-123	-2.8%	92
California	2,131	+98	+4.8%	64
Carolina	853	-104	-10.9%	56
Colorado	2,152	-99	-4.4%	96
Connecticut	3,654	-172	-4.5%	24
Florida	1,187	+5	+0.4%	20
Idaho	499	+33	+7.1%	8
Illinois	5,160	-317	-5.8%	68
Maine	1,600	-228	-12.5%	108
Massachusetts	13,305	-1,003	-7.0%	116
Michigan	7,880	-564	-6.7%	264
Mid-Am	7,420	-248	-3.2%	108
Mid-West	1,727	-150	-5.8%	72
Minnesota	16,142	-695	-4.1%	216
Missouri	1,883	-5	-0.3%	20
Montana	650	+28	+4.5%	36
Nevada	125	+9	+7.8%	24
New Hampshire	1,635	+76	+4.9%	8
New Mexico	226	-20	-8.1%	0
New York	10,422	-534	-4.9%	132
North Dakota	1,933	+75	+4.0%	56
Oregon	200	+33	+19.8%	28
Pacific Northwest	1,098	+9	-0.8%	64
Potomac Valley	2,490	-104	-4.0%	80
Rhode Island	1,496	-146	-8.9%	12
South Dakota	790	+61	+8.4%	28
Southern Amateur	1,186	-199	-14.4%	76
Texas	1,098	+15	+1.4%	48
Utah	437	-58	-11.7%	44
Vermont	1,361	-114	-7.7%	8
Wisconsin	5,296	-163	-3.0%	272
Wyoming	509	-6	-1.2%	4



## USA Annual Meeting Report

Submitted by: Steve Oleheiser

### Attended the USA Hockey Safety and Protective Equipment Committee Meeting

#### Items discussed in the committee meeting:

1. Discussion about Concussion Guidelines and Education
  - a. Much discussion regarding Mandatory Concussion Management Program directed by USA Hockey... After much discussion with regard to the varying State legislative mandates across the country, it was agreed that a Mandatory program instituted through USA Hockey would be cumbersome to create and enforce. Better to promote expansion of local state mandates to include youth sports.
2. Discussion about Heads Up Don't Duck video and how to ensure that pertinent people are using it and instituting drills into practices. One thought was to incorporate into the Safe Sport Video. As there is some heartburn about the current length of the Safe Sport Video, the committee realized that this was not a viable option.
3. Committee discussed Neck Protection equipment and a requirement that they be part of the current equipment. Given the current failure rate of commercial equipment it was agreed that more studies need to be done. It was also felt that the industry needs to increase the reliability of the equipment before any action by USA Hockey to require players to wear this equipment.
4. Discussion about including Drug use, alcohol use and other activities detrimental to players in the Safe Sport Program. It was agreed that most information currently is directed to adults and the ability of adults to recognize abusive behaviors. There was discussion that some of the future modifications need to include information more directed toward players and their age issues.
5. CPR Training and the use of AED's. Much discussion about the availability of AED's and proper training on their use. The stated goal of the committee is that all rinks in the USA have AED's available. Discussion revolved around development of relationships with local civic organizations, such as American Heart Association to achieve this goal. There were discussions about the possibility to make it mandatory for coaches to be trained in CPR. With all that has been required of coaches in the last 1-2 years it was also agreed that this may not be advisable. There was discussion that to encourage and/or recommend that local associations make available a program to train in CPR and encourage as many as possible to take the training.

6. Mandatory ½ Shields for ADULTS. There was a great amount of discussion about making it MANDATORY for ADULTS to wear ½ Shields in games/practice. With the advent of the possibility that players in the NHL will be required to wear this equipment, the thought was that adults in USA Hockey should also be required to wear them. Members of the committee were reminded that adults are just that ADULTS and should be allowed to decide for themselves if they will wear facial protection. These Adult players are not members of the NHL and being paid to play, USA Hockey is not the NHL. Members and others present were reminded that there are many available options for Adults and others in the way of membership and obtaining benefits obtained by being a member of USA Hockey. Mandating to adults, it was agreed, is not wise.
7. 3' Warning band painted into the ice along the boards. The idea was brought before the board the idea of having a 3' orange warning band around the outside of the playing surface to warn players they are near the boards and if they are looking at the orange band they don't have their head up and are in danger of injury. This WOULD NOT be a NON-Check area, rather only for warning players to keep their heads up. It was agreed that this might not be feasible.
8. Discussion about ramifications of No Checking at the Peewee level and if body contact/checking is being taught at the Peewee level in practice. Many at the table were in agreement that it was not. The question was asked, WHY? One idea was that coaches are practicing in the HERE AND NOW.. They feel that they must get the team ready for the next game/tournament and are not inclined to use time in practice for something that's not going to be used in the game at this level. The attitude of let the next level work on that, prevails. Questions about what we are going to see this year as most players at the Bantam level will have played under the NON-Peewee check rule... This will closely watched and studied.. Even mention of to early to determine if the original change was the wrong thing... Also discussion (obviously) of extending into the Bantam Level....

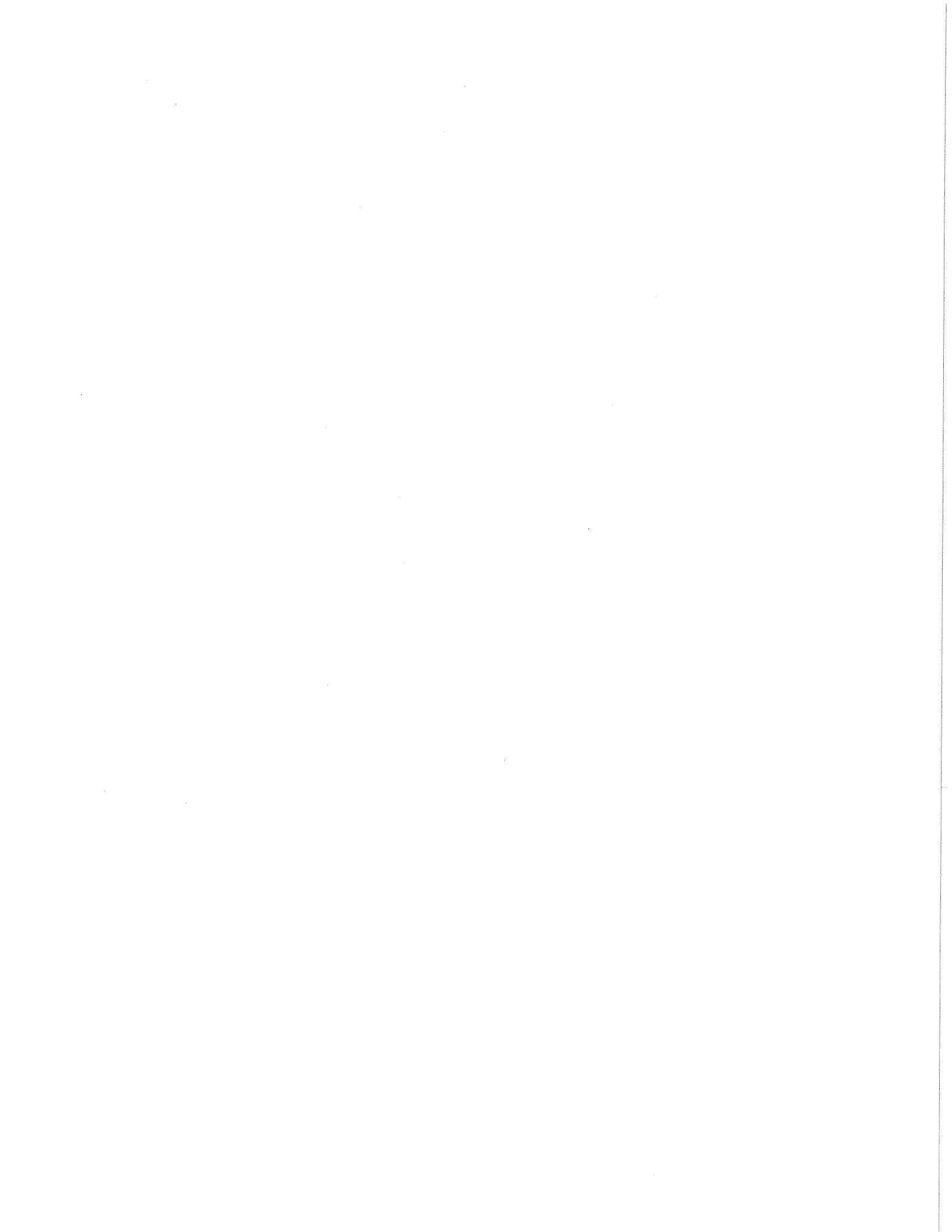
I also attended other committee meetings as a spectator.

1. Rule 34.... Progressive penalties.... Much of what I heard was that other areas of the country were concerned about tracking and timely transfer of information to ensure that the rule was followed. Many in USA Hockey have the same reservation as Mn. Hockey regarding reporting and disseminating the information and the time required of volunteers to achieve proper verification.
2. Safe Sport... Much concern about mandatory viewing of the 90 Minute Safe Sport Video for Coaches, Board Members, and other volunteers..... This was most evident in the Coaches section... It was greatly pointed out that it is getting much harder to recruit Coaches and other volunteers given all the hurdles being placed by USA Hockey and in the coaches, after the previous year,, making it mandatory for them to view the 90 minute set of videos was going to create an up-roar..... USA Hockey needs to remember the necessity of volunteers and the requirements they are putting on these volunteers...
3. Back ground Screening... Here again other areas of USA Hockey are concerned about the added cost involved....

Respectfully

Steve Oleheiser

MN. District USA Hockey Director.





### USAH District Directors Report June 23, 2013

The final number for the 2012-2013 seasons was handed out at the summer annual congress. Overall numbers were pretty flat with the largest decrease at the 6&U age group -4.95%. Adults showed the largest increase at 3.12%. Minnesota's numbers were down 711 total paid players. Our total number of players, coaches and officials was up 184. These numbers showed 99% of all members registered online for the 2012-2013 season. Total affiliates fees distributed to 33 affiliates were \$3,220,484.

Officials play a significant role in the environment that is created for our youth hockey participants. With that in mind a handout was distributed to address concerns, why a good partnership is necessary, what expectations should a youth hockey association have in regards to the local group of officials, and recommendations to create this relationship. USAH provides many tools, videos, and manuals to foster this relationship. If you want to look at this handout let me know and I'll get it to your district for distribution.

USAH in November launched a national online game reporting system as a service to their members and affiliate's free of charge. This system was designed to help affiliates and associations to manage serious infractions, but its benefit will only be maximized with 100% compliance and use in the field. There are some modifications that need to be addressed before getting 100% participation. These modifications will be needed for Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions that was voted in, but delayed until the 2014-2015 season as an example.

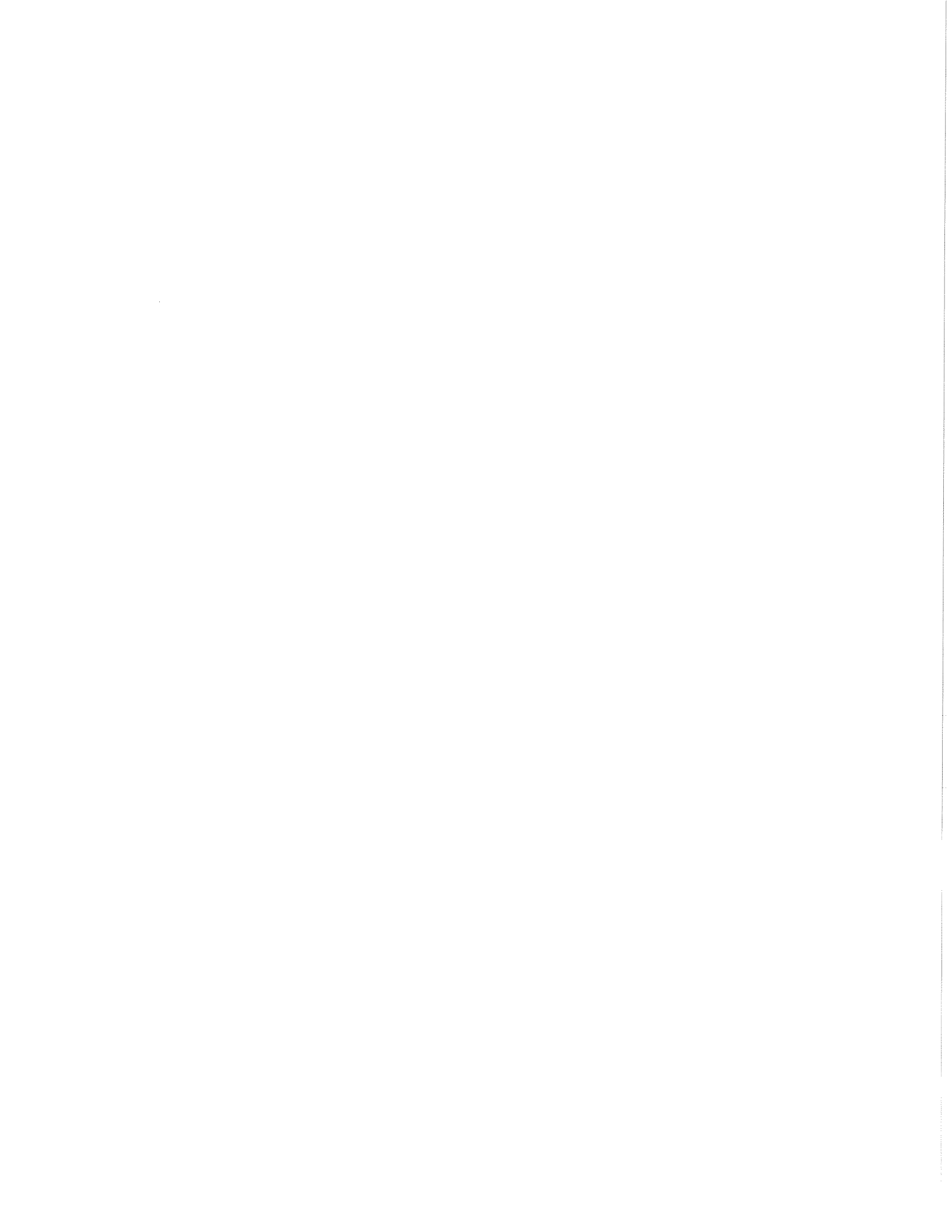
The USAH Advantage Program timeline was introduced at the meetings. The start-up for this program will be funded by the USAH foundation. June 10<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 will be the development phase. November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 is the projected consumer launch. March 31<sup>st</sup> will be the end of season, post – Sochi program review. The program is projected to show a loss in the first year with gains projected in the next two year. This is a social media program with a membership free fee to start and then an annual fee for members. The projection is 36,108 members in the first year.

Rule changes will be reported by President Dave Margenau at the Friday evening.

The nomination committee didn't meet so I have no report. Elections were held and will be reported the USA Hockey web page. The winter meetings will be the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of January in Orlando. The summer annual congress will be June 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs.

Respectfully submitted:

John Perry, District Director, Minnesota District.



## Registration Report for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

USA Hockey Annual Congress June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

- Safe Sport I will work with associate registrars and associations to Help Scott get contact people.
- Roster changes No signatures from players and coaches needed!
- Roster name change from Official Registration/Roster to Official Team Roster
- There columns on the roster w=waiver of liability V column with the D with the v in it is Verified birth certificate, blank, birth certificate needs to be verified C column is citizenship, blank means player is a USA citizen, with the O blank see explanations below under Foreign players per team.
- Try Hockey Fee for a day National Days are 11/2/2013 and 3/1/2014
- Try to have all volunteers and managers register on line. Will need that confirmation number for the Safe Sport Video.
- Confirmation number breakdown first three numbers are the day of the year, 4th number is the year that registration expires the other numbers are random numbers. Example Number - 159400533XXYTU
- XX = volunteer, non paying member
- Paying members will be the first four letters of last name and first letter of first name
- All coaches MUST register themselves for their confirmation number and contact information. (USA Hockey E-mails important information to members)
- Coaches need the confirmation number for
  - Safe Sport Video
  - Modules
  - Clinic information

### Foreign players per teams

- 2 only non USA girls and women
- Youth teams 4 only with the O with a (s) in it. O with a s in it = student visa is approved.
- O with a T in it is unlimited. O with a T in it means transfer is complete.
- Student coach will show up as SC
- Supplements will not print out all coaches this year.

**Accident Claim form is NOT to be posted on any web sites.**

### Membership Development

**USA Hockey Membership Benefits will be e-mailed to all.**

2 by 2 challenge

Grow the game and Try Hockey free

Winter Olympics and NHL playing again! Makes a difference in Numbers!

Web sites . Worth a look at. <http://www.usahockey.com/SafeSport.aspx>.

[http://www.usahockey.com/SafeSport\\_Coordinators.aspx](http://www.usahockey.com/SafeSport_Coordinators.aspx)

<http://www.2and2challenge.com/>

### New for 2014-2015 Season

Rosters will be approved online then

Approved Rosters will be viewable on line.

Working on a teleconference call with All Associate Registrars

Then will be scheduling District/Association registration trainings.



# 2013 - 2014 OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTER

USAH REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE/DATE

Classification Range: 01/01/95 - 12/31/96 Module: MD18

\*/\*\* Indicates player's DOB is not in Classification Range.

CS Roster - USA Form 1-T

LOCAL ASSOCIATION/ PROGRAM NAME: TST0004

TEAM: Tigers

CLASS: MIDGET/18&JUND

TEAM #: TST0004-001

DIV/CAT: AAA / Tier I

PLAYER'S NAME	DOB	W	V	C	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	NO PLAYER SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED
1 ABRAMS, GRACE	* 05/2003	&	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	NEDROW	13120	
2 AKSONDI, RUCHIPHA	* 02/2002	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	NEDERLAND	80466	
3 ALAZIZ, RICHARD	** 03/1967	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	DEARBORN	48124	
4 ALLMARK, HARRIET	* 09/2000	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	leave blank	ORCHARD PARK	14127	
5 AMAECHI, FAITH	* 02/1999	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	leave blank	GROSSE POINTE	48236	
6 AMOS, SYLVAN	** 09/1968	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	KALAMAZOO	49009	
7 AMY, DOUGLAS	** 03/1966	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	HASTINGS	55033	
8 ARTEM, VELMAKIN	* 11/2005	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	leave blank	SUNNY ISLES BEACH	33160	
9 BACIGALUPO, TODD	** 05/1973	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	LITTLE CANADA	55109	
10 BANDEY, MOE	* 02/1999	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	leave blank	MCLEAN	22102	
11 BEAUCHAMP, JEREMY	** 04/1973	&	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	leave blank	CHEBOYGAN	49721	

TEAM OFFICIAL	POSITION	W	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	Lev-Exp-Card	MD18	Int	PHONE
12 GERSHON, MICHAEL	Head Coach	&	54 TOMAHAWK TRL	SPARTA	07871	4 - 12/** - 393358	X		(973) 222-6306
13 BROWN, DANIEL	Coach	&	1101 LAUREL ST APT 410	NASHVILLE	37203	2 - 12/13 - 394917			(615) 519-2688
14 ARONSON, MICHAEL	Student C	&	10708 INDIAN TRL	COOPER CITY	33328	- / -			(954) 931-3570

Team Officials agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey and Affiliate Association. An & in the W column indicates the Waiver/Assumption of Risk is not required. v in the V column indicates the DOB has been verified by USAH, no additional documents are required. An open circle in the C column indicates a Non-US Citizen without a completed transfer. A circle with a S or T indicates a transfer has been completed. S=Student Visa and T=other approved Visa. Individuals listed as a Mgr/Team Rep may not participate in on-ice activities, or be on the bench during games.



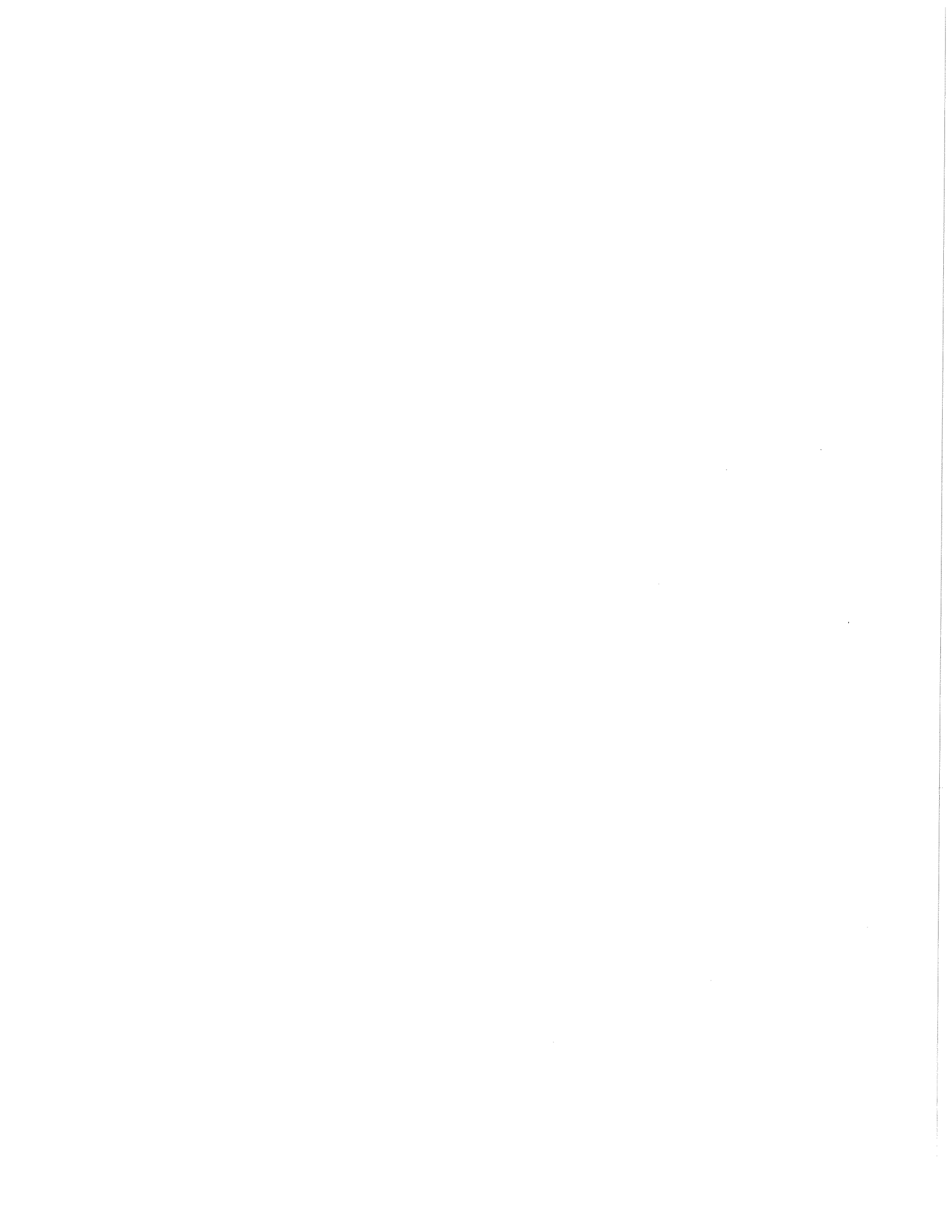
## USA HOCKEY GIRLS/WOMEN'S SECTION REPORT

DOUG FOSTER

1. USA Hockey Female Honor award winner-Minnetonka.
2. Youth Council Voted 12-6 not to return to a 12 U National Championship.
3. National Championship Tournament-WHAM turned in an application to host the 2015 NCT at the Super Rink. This would be for both the Senior Women's and Tier I levels. WHAM has the experience of holding a 60-70 team tournament each year. This would be a 68 team tournament. The following locations are in the running for holding the tournament: Minneapolis, Green Bay, Farmington Hills, MI and Salt Lake, UT. Reservations at the Section meeting was our lack of sending a 14U Tier I team.

The Youth Council has contacted Donna Guariglia, Chairperson of the G/W Section, after the Annual Congress, and relayed that they would accept a recommendation to host in Minnesota. There is a conference call June 30<sup>th</sup> to finalize recommendations for the 2015 National Championships.

4. Women's National Team-Looking towards Sochi.
  - A. World Championships-USA won gold medal in Ottawa 3-2 over Canada.
  - B. Women's National Team/Selection Camp in August: 41 players invited.
  - C. U18 August Festival: August 12-20-Top 30 players.
  - D. U18 August Series vs. Canada: 3 games August 22-25.
  - E. 2013-2014 Residency Program in Bedford, MA. September 2013-February 2014.
    1. 6 games vs. Canada.
    2. 4 Nations tournament in November.
5. Player Development Camps-St. Cloud, MN.
  - A. Girls Select U18-July 10-16, 2013.
  - B. Girls Select 14 and 15-July 19-25, 2013.
  - C. Games: Days 3-5 each camp from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.
  - D. General Comment from Reagan Carey and Hillary Witt to Districts: Be careful Coaches who coach a player or against do not evaluate player.
6. NEWJHL Proposal-New England Women's Junior Hockey League
  - A. G/W Section discussed but has many reservations.
  - B. Youth and Junior Council wants to review.



Minnesota Disabled Hockey Report  
June 19, 2013

### **USA Disabled Hockey:**

USA Sled Select camp will be held in Buffalo, NY the second week of July, 2013. Minnesota will have four players representing us at this event.

The USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section is excited to continue the Coaching Education Program for coaches that instruct and mentor athletes with disabilities.

The Disabled Hockey Section is very appreciative of the efforts of the Coaches Section so far in producing a Disabled Coaching Manual, a Disabled Module and efforts to expand disabled Coach in Chiefs throughout the country.

The Disabled Hockey Section has also successfully hosted a Disabled Hockey Workshop for the past two years. This Workshop is open to administrators, referees, coaches etc. and covers a wide variety of topics. We will continue this Workshop and continue to modify curriculum to meet the needs of our disabled coaches and administrators as well as synchronize the Workshop with the Coaching Education Program. In the future, the Workshop concept is one in which it might be an advanced track for coaches similar to what a coach in typical able-bodied hockey would experience at a Level 4 or Level 5 clinic. We are currently in the infancy of the complete workshop package. This year's Disabled Hockey Workshop will be October 4-6 in Madison, Wisconsin. This Workshop has not charged a fee and coaches/administrator/referees that attend must pay their own travel and food.

Currently, the coaching requirements for coaches in order to coach athletes with a disability are: the head coach of the team must attend a Level 1 (*the typical level 1*) and complete the Disabled Module. While there are other assistant coaches and several volunteers, we have not required them to go to the Level 1 and take the Disabled Module mostly for financial reasons. Disabled programs typically have many more coaches and volunteers than a typical ice hockey program. For instance, the local sled team that I am a part of here in Chicago has 25 coaches. We have roughly 12 to 15 on ice coaches for any one practice as many players require one-on-one attention.

The Disabled Hockey Section recognizes that the current Level 1 that coaches must attend is basic and half of the material is not applicable to those that coach disabled athletes. So, per the suggestion of the Coaches Section, we are developing a Level 1 that is specific to disabled coaches that they would have to attend in place of the current typical Level 1. Chuck Gridley is at the forefront of this development. We are confident this Disabled Level 1 Clinic will serve the needs of our disabled coaches with information that is specific and appropriate to coaching disabled athletes. Chuck is developing content that includes material that is typically delivered in a Level 1 with additional material specific to disabled coaching.

The hope is that this Level 1 would be offered throughout the country similar to how other local coaches clinics are offered. My guess is it would probably be only one or two offered in any one specific area.

What we would like to formally request is that these Level I Disabled Coaching Clinics be offered free of charge. Or, that one coach from a program would have to pay the normal fee but then every other coach in that program would be free of charge. The second option would make the programs have at least some skin in the game and is one that I favor strongly.

The reasons we are requesting the Disabled Coaching clinic be free to all disabled caches except the Head coach of each team are:

1. Organized disabled hockey is in its infancy and we are trying to educate our coaches, administrators, and players the benefits of USA Hockey and the Coaching Education Program.
2. There are no known paid coaches that coach disabled hockey. They are all volunteers. This is different than typical hockey where quite a few coaches can make a good dollar and therefore paying for their coaching clinic is part of the job.
3. We are very concerned about the numbers of participation at these local clinics. If it is not free we will have very low participation. We don't have huge numbers of teams and it would not be an effective use of time to have one participant in a class.
4. Many disabled coaches are new to hockey altogether and we need to educate them. Coaching disabled hockey is difficult and we definitely don't want to lose the coaches and volunteers we have because they don't feel they're prepared. This will in turn cause us to lose players because the players won't have fun and learn from an educated coach.
5. The concept of giving back to the disabled hockey athlete can be very effective for USA Hockey to attract additional sponsors and funds:
6. Because disabled programs require so many coaches both on and off the ice (*particularly Special and Sled hockey*) it would be very expensive to get all those coaches to a Level 1 with the current pricing structure. In most cases, the program is the one paying for the coaches to attend. This would add up and take a hit in any program as they are all constantly fundraising to provide the programming for their athletes.
7. The disabled hockey athlete has significant extra costs with daily living. They cannot afford the same amounts that a typical youth player would pay to be a part of an team/association.
8. The Coaching Education Program for disabled hockey athletes is a work in progress. We don't have an exquisite finished product yet and therefore charging the same amount



for this clinic as compared to a typical Level 1, is a tough sell.

9. The coaches that have paid and gone to a Level 1 already have felt that only half of the material is applicable and we need to earn the coaches trust that our new Level 1 program is 100% applicable.

The Disabled Hockey Section is very appreciative of everything the USA Hockey has done to help open the doors for everyone to play our game. USA Hockey is second to none in its inclusion of the Disabled Hockey Section. Many other national governing bodies and disabled sports organizations admire our efforts and commitment.

### **Minnesota Disabled Hockey:**

#### *Minnesota Warriors:*

#### **MARCH 2013**

March began with the White team players participating in the Cystic Fibrosis Tournament at the Schwans Super Rink in Blaine. The team made it to the final, but ended up losing that one. The Green team had the honor of representing the MN Warriors at the USA Hockey Disabled Festival in Philadelphia, PA March 21-24. It's the second time the MN Warriors were part of the festival and it was nothing short of amazing like the first in Dallas. The team played well in their games against the DC Warriors, Buffalo Warriors, and US Standing Amputee teams. More important than winning or losing was the chance to participate and spectate the great game of hockey. We look forward to another chance to play in that event. The White team played an NHL Alumni game at the Vadnais Heights Sports Center on that same weekend. It was a great event with the Alumni beating the Warriors in a fun game. Both the Green and White teams continued their weekly practices at Richfield and Vadnais Heights Arenas.

#### **April 2013**

April was a quieter month with both the Green and White teams continuing their weekly practices at Richfield and Vadnais Heights Arenas. These practices have been very important in the development of the player's sense of individual skill and team play.

#### **May 2013**

The White team played in and won the Walleye Chop tournament at the Schwans Super Rink in Blaine. The Warriors won all three of their games to take home the hardware. A great example of teamwork was displayed and happy faces in the final game. The dedication and preparation playing and practicing as a team paid off.

#### **June 2013**

The White team played against the NHL Alumni in a weekend event supporting the Detroit Lakes Youth Area Hockey Association. Once again it was a fun event for all the participants and those who showed up in support. The weekend began with a golf tournament and ended with the hockey game, and post-game gathering.

## **Future**

After a busy 2012-2013 for the MN Warrior teams it was decided to lighten the schedule for the summer. We are still doing practices Fridays at Vadnais Heights, and a drop in scrimmage on Wednesdays in Richfield. The organization is working with those in the hockey community to gear up for upcoming events and fundraisers.

### *Minnesota Sled Hockey:*

April until present has been slow with the Minnesota Sled Hockey Association. We have formed committees to tackle the issue of youth transfer to adult team and a coach interview committee was formed and executed. Mike Guggenberger/Chris Gustafson will duel coach adult and Tony Lang was named Youth head coach.

June 22nd, the MSHA is hosting a wine tasting fundraising event in hopes to raise awareness and funds for the upcoming season. That is the big push right now.

That sums up everything since Disabled Festival.

### *Minnesota Special Hockey:*

Matt from the Wildcats was selected as the Special Hockey athlete of the year.

For our away tournament in Alexandria we had 37 Players total. 25 from the metro made the trip.

MN Special hockey was represented in Madison for the annual tournament. Special Hockey continues to recruit and spread the word for the program.

MN Special Hockey was at many local events, including the Let's Play Hockey event with the High School Hockey tournament, Wright Co. special needs conference, Austim walk at Ridgedale and many more. We continue to look for more ways to build MN Special Hockey.

We are finishing up our Member/ Coaches handbooks to be ready for our season opening event in October.

MN Special Hockey is planning a summer picnic at Lake Cornelia Park in Edina.

### *Minnesota Disabled Hockey Committee:*

The Disabled Hockey committee continues to meet and is currently developing a board hand book description along with a committee manual to assist with the development and

governance of all disabled hockey programs in Minnesota. We have one more step in our application for a disabled hockey scholarship and hope to have that out to teams in May.

The Disabled Committee will be welcoming a new member from sled and special hockey this month due to resignations.

A scholarship application is complete and will be distributed to teams in July, 2013 with an award presented to a player in August.

Plans for a coaches and clinic in the fall along with a weekend festival during hockey day in Minnesota will begin planning in June, 2013.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey will be working on incorporating our programs in the Courage Center and will be meeting over the summer to discuss options.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Gillen  
USA Disabled Hockey Director  
Minnesota District

