



PNAHA Summer Meeting

June 24, 2006

Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel & Wenatchee Convention Center
201 North Wenatchee
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

The meeting was called to order by President, Dru Hammond at 9:07 a.m.

1. Sign-In

- Sign-in sheets distributed and on official record with these minutes. Voting delegate sign-in sheet completed with the following delegates present: PNAHA President – Dru Hammond; PNAHA Vice President – Dave Bittenbender; PNAHA Vice President – Steve Stevens; PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer – Kristin Videto; EYH – Chris Raub; IEAHA – David Nieuwenhuis; KVHA – Les Grauer; KCAH – Wes Travis; MAVERICKS – Joel Martin; PSAHA – Rob Kaufman; SJR – Jack Chaney; SKAHA – Kevin Quinn/Steve Cole; SAYHA – Corey Condron; TCAHA – Glen Triner; WCAHA – David Koss; WWFHA – Shirley Williamson; WAHA – Gary Hymer. Associations not represented: Mountain View Amateur Hockey Association (MVAHA) and Yakima Amateur Hockey Association (YAHA).
- Independent Teams – West Coast Hockey (92/94) – Roy “Dusty” Nicholas.
- Non-voting OSHA League members present were Brett Eichenberger – Portland; Ken Evans – Eugene.

2. Introductions

- Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Executive Board, PNAHA Directors and guests.
- Dru Hammond (PNAHA President) asked if there was any objection to moving the Appeal Hearing listed under New Business to 10:00 a.m. and interrupting the agenda at that time to accommodate an early departure. No objections were voiced. Minutes will reflect the hearing in the New Business section.

3. Confirmation of Current Members – Dave Bittenbender

- Dave thanked Jolie Miller (TCAHA) and Cora Friedrich (SKAHA) for assisting in the collection of the information for confirmation of adherence to membership criteria as stated in the PNAHA By-Laws, Article VI Membership, Section 2: Qualifications for Membership, 4. Membership in Good Standing which states, “All Member Organizations and Member Teams must be “Members in Good Standing” with PNAHA and USA Hockey. Each Member Organization and Member Team shall submit to PNAHA each year a copy of its Constitution or Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations (if any), a list of their current officers, and a membership compliance checklist using PNAHA’s current form, all certified by its presiding officer (i.e., the President, owner or designated Team Representative), prior to PNAHA’s spring/summer meeting.”

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Reading of the January 7, 2006 minutes. Kevin Quinn (SKAHA) motion *[to approve the minutes]*, seconded by Brenda Fundak (Mavericks). No Discussion. Motion passed.

5. Nominations for Elections

- Positions open for elections are 1st Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Dru Hammond asked for nominations for 1st Vice President. Steve Stevens (2nd Vice President) nominated Dave Bittenbender for re-election to 1st Vice President; seconded by Kristin Videto (Secretary/Treasurer). No other nominations received. Dave Koss (WCAHA) motioned to close the nominations, seconded by Dusty Nichols (West Coast). Dusty Nichols (West Coast) motioned, *[to accept the appointment of Dave Bittenbender to 1st Vice President by acclamation]*; seconded by Glen Triner (TCAHA).
- Dru Hammond opened nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations. Dru Hammond requested a second time for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations. Dru Hammond requested a third nomination for Secretary/Treasurer. Steve Stevens (2nd Vice President) nominated, *[Brenda Fundak for Secretary/Treasurer]*, seconded by Glen Triner (TCAHA). Steve Stevens (2nd Vice President), motioned *[to close nominations]*, seconded by Dave Bittenbender (1st Vice President). Glen Triner (TCAHA), motioned *[to accept the appointment of Brenda Fundak to Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation]*, seconded by Joel Martin (Mavericks).

6. Treasurer Report – Kristin Videto

A. June Treasurer Report

- Balance as of June 24, 2006 is \$41,133.12. Motion *[to approve the Treasurer’s Report]* by Dave Nieuwenhuis (IEAHA); seconded by Dave Koss (WCAHA). No Discussion. Motion passed.
- The following associations were reported as not in good standing due to outstanding fees: Mountain View Amateur Hockey Association and Yakima Amateur Hockey Association.

7. Special Guests

- Donna Kaufman, USA Hockey Pacific District Director; Nate Alden, YWCA Ice Chalet – Walla Walla; Casey Jorgensen, USA Hockey Attorney; and Linda Haglund, Wenatchee Valley Sports Council.

8. Officer's Reports

A. Coaching Director Report – Rob Kaufman

• **Player Development**

- Rob passed out info on the players who attended the USA Hockey Pacific District Camp and those who moved on. Rob is looking to change the format from our current PNAHA Development Camp process to one that mirrors the way Alaska and California run their camps. These tryouts are open to any youth male player who is registered with USA Hockey for 2006-2007 season and in the following birth years: 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993. Rob will present the new format at the September meeting. He would like to have discussion regarding the criteria for the camp with PNAHA representatives over the summer. The 2007 Camp will be held January 27-28, 2007. Currently it is anticipated that the camp will be held in the Tri-Cities, but other associations interested in hosting this event are encouraged to contact Dru Hammond prior to the September meeting since the camp format will be changing and it could be cost effective to host this event at another venue.
- A cost breakdown of the PNAHA Development Camp was distributed in the packets provided to the voting directors.
- The District Select Camp was held at Kent Valley Ice Centre and everyone was very pleased with the facility. Dru Hammond reported that the Pacific District Directors Bruce Urban and Lynn Beehler-Urban reported that the rink staff and other personnel contributed to the success of this camp.
- Rob also handed out USA Hockey's Points of Emphasis for the 2006-2007 season. The new standard of rules enforcement will allow the opportunity for improved skill development and create a more positive hockey environment for all participants. There is a new emphasis on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and a competitive advantage. Representatives were instructed to take back to their respective associations the message that "referees will be calling the games closer." Coaches are encouraged to adjust their style of play accordingly.

• **Coaching Requirements**

- All Coaches on the ice in minor hockey are REQUIRED to wear helmets on the ice. During the 2006 Annual Congress, USA Hockey's Board of Directors passed new legislation mandating that all coaches and instructors wear helmets during on-ice sessions. The complete legislation, effective at the start of the 2006-07 season, reads as follows: "All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth/High School, Disabled, Girls'/Women's 19 & Under and below programs must properly wear an ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars)."
- Coaching clinic dates will be updated on the website in August. Everett will host Level 1 – 3 as well as Tri-Cities. These clinics should be in early September. For a list of scheduled Coaching Clinics you can go to the Pacific District website at www.pacdistcoaching.com.

B. Supervisor of Officials – Steve Stevens

- Steve acknowledged that the new rules will be tough to accept for some. However, it has proved to improve the game at the NHL level and it is expected that it will improve the game at the youth level as well.
- All the tournaments were successful this year. Steve ran the District Tournament in Las Vegas and stated that the PNAHA teams represented the PNAHA Affiliate well.
- Three officials were selected to go to the Officials Camp; two from Spokane and one from Tacoma.
- Beginning this year all officials over 18 years old will be screened for criminal convictions. Communications have been forwarded to the existing list of officials and they are prepared to conform to policy.
- Steve distributed a revised version of the PNAHA Suspension Guidelines. It is hoped that these Guidelines will provide further understanding regarding match penalties and the punishments that they carry. It is further hoped that associations will adhere to these Guidelines and not look for loopholes to avoid meting out discipline as required.
- Steve gave an update on High School Hockey. Associations were encouraged to keep officiating in mind when developing a High School League. There were too many match penalties in High School Hockey this year. Steve will be addressing with the officials how match penalties work and the reporting mechanisms that are currently in place within the PNAHA Affiliate.
- There will be a Level 4 Officiating Clinic in the Tri-Cities August 18-19, 2006 for local officials.

C. USA Hockey Associate Registrar/Risk Manager – Ed Imes

- No Report

D. League Commissioner – Brenda Fundak

- Brenda thanked everyone for their support this season and presented the final league standings. She apologized for not having a copy available for distribution and indicated that the secretary/treasurer would forward the standings electronically late next week.
- Brenda stated that there were way too many game changes this year. Associations should be providing information regarding unavailable dates when they initially submit game dates. It is understood that tournaments are announced after the schedule is set and she will always work to accommodate requests. However, the commitment to the League comes first. Next season the game change requests will be scrutinized much closer.
- A preliminary team count for participation in the PNAHA League was taken for the upcoming season.
- Rick Ellison gave an overview of the new Tiering Proposal. The AA division will be a national bound division. There will be a tiering tournament approximately the third and fourth weeks of September. Teams not in the league will have to play at least two games versus each of the teams in the AA Level to be invited to the AA State tournament (National bound). Teams will be seeded based on the AA League standings. The team that wins the A Level will have the option to play in the AA Tournament. There will be an unbalanced schedule between the AA and A teams. Teams will play 3 - 4 games when crossing the mountains. West Side teams stated that their preference was to be scheduled with only one weekend off per month. Tri-Cities indicated that they had a desire to be only scheduled for two weekends per month by the league. A long discussion ensued and Dave Bittenbender called for a roll call vote. Those voting to approve the proposal were: EYH; IEAHA; KVHA; KCHA; Mavericks; PSAHA; SJHA; SKAHA; SAYHA; TCAHA; WWFHA; WAHA; WCAHA; West Coast; PNAHA 1st Vice President, PNAHA 2nd Vice President, PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer. Those voting against the proposal were: none. The tiering committee made the suggestion that non-PNAHA members not be included this first year of the tiering process. Lane County, Boise and Portland will need to schedule exhibition games during the 2006-07 season. Those associations will be provided with the contact names for each association for scheduling purposes. The final proposal will be emailed.

E. Women's Hockey

- Dru distributed a handout regarding the Biscuit in the Net Program. If you are or know someone in your association who would be interested in representing PNAHA as a Point-of-Contact to coordinate this program with local associations, please have them submit a resume to Dru Hammond for consideration of this new position.

F. Adult Hockey

- No Report

G. 1st Vice President – Dave Bittenbender

- The West side had two player issues since the January meeting. One suspension was upheld. Please talk to your off-ice officials about what is and is not appropriate behavior. Off-ice officials are also reminded that they are to behave as an un-biased participant.

H. 2nd Vice President – Steve Stevens

- Steve reported that the parents were pretty good this year until High School Hockey started. He reminded the administrators of these programs that it is their responsibility ensure that proper behavior is demonstrated both on and off the ice.

I. President's Report – Dru Hammond

- Dru announced that Casey Jorgenson has been awarded the Pete Anderson Award for Referees.
- Annual Congress Report. Dru requested that Donna Kaufman assist her during this reporting phase of the meeting since they were both in attendance and each had at times attended different segments. This would provide for a more thorough report.
 - Specific wording of the new rule change was discussed regarding the requirement for coaches to wear helmets on the ice. It was impressed that it is expected that associations reinforce this new rule without exception.
 - Questions were fielded by Dru Hammond regarding the Points of Emphasis. She emphasized that penalties such as hooking, tripping, holding, interference and slashing were going to be called with very strict enforcement. She encouraged associations to hold Parent Education meetings to reduce inappropriate behavior in the stands due to a failure to communicate the new rules to parents and fans.
 - The redistricting proposal for South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming was approved to form their own District (North Plains). Minnesota will now become its own District. USA Hockey is now comprised of 12 Districts.

- USAH is focusing on growing recreational hockey. Lynn-Beehler Urban submitted a proposal that would allow a process for those who desire minimal participation. Implementation of this process should result in the growth of hockey by opening up new programs for the purely recreational player.
- The Junior Teams are changing classifications. Within Tier III there may be A/B/C/D Divisions.
- The 2007 District Tournament Dates were distributed. Tie breaker rules will be changing format. Changes at Nationals will include 5 minute overtime and shootouts.
- Midget players will have to make a decision whether they are going to play for a Junior team by December 31. They will not be able to play both Midget and Junior hockey after December 31.
- A handout was distributed regarding an organization called the World Hockey Association. USA Hockey is considering this group as outlaws. Please make sure this group has insurance if your teams consider playing them.
- USA Hockey's Annual Meeting will be January 19, 2007 in Miami. This will be a rules change year so bring anything you may want USA Hockey to consider changing to Dru and Donna to take to the meeting.
- Dru brought back presents to all voting delegates from the Annual Congress meeting.

9. Old Business

- Junior B Study:
 - Josh Reis has volunteered to do the data collection.
- New Members:
 - At the January meeting Mountain View submitted an application to become a PNAHA member. Corey Condron (SAYHA) made a motion *[to accept them as a member]*. Seconded by Brenda Fundak, (Mavericks). Motion passed.

10. New Business

- Appeal Hearing – John McBride
 - John McBride, Midget 18U Coach from Portland was suspended for a year for pulling his team from the ice during a league game at Wenatchee. USA Hockey allows for an Appeal Hearing to be held based on written submissions. Initially, John McBride had intended to present his appeal in person, however, his dear friend of many years, Bobby Freeland was seriously ill and he had his attorney, Brad Copeland notify Dru Hammond on Friday afternoon that he would chose to exercise his appeal based on the written submissions. A packet that contained the written submissions of both John McBride and the Discipline Committee was distributed to all voting members and a 15 minute break was allowed to review the information.

The meeting reconvened after the 15 minute break. Dru presented the rules as provided for by USA Hockey. She indicated that only the evidence and theories explicitly presented for its consideration to the Disciplinary Committee would be presented or considered during this appeal. She stated that this appeal authority may affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease) any decision as it deems proper under the circumstances before it. Dru stated that she would provide 10 minutes for each party to present their case. Dave Bittenbender gave an overview of the hearing and the process followed to come to a decision to uphold the one year coaching suspension. Since Mr. McBride was unable to attend, Dru provided the following statement as requested by Mr. Copeland, "I would ask that the only thing I would like the hearings committee to consider is whether or not circumstances, experience, lack of prior bad situations like this involving John McBride should be taken into consideration to mitigate the punishment. Mr. McBride knew that he was going to be suspended for some period of time when he pulled the kids off the ice. We're not contesting that, I do think a year is a bit extreme under the circumstances. I would ask the board to consider reducing the magnitude or the amount of the suspension in light of what appears to be true heartfelt situation on his hand when he made the decision to pull the kids off the ice. Beyond that, I'll just trust the good judgment of the PNAHA Board." Dru requested that you consider his previous good behavior in forming your response to his request.

Rob Kaufman (PSAHA) made a motion *[to affirm the decision made by the hearing committee]*. Dusty Nicholas (West Coast) seconded. Discussion opened. Dave Bittenbender and Kristin Videto abstained. Brett Eichenberger (Portland) told delegates that he had looked at the evidence and wrestled with it, but he requested that the Board of Directors consider John's longevity in hockey and reiterated comments from John Copeland. Discussion followed on the merits of making a decision of this nature and that other coaches had been presented with various other scenarios but had dealt with this adversity in numerous other fashions. Pulling a team from the ice was considered by most in attendance to be the absolute final solution. Motion passed; 14 yes; 2 abstentions. Wenatchee representatives acknowledged that in the future

they will have a police officer on duty and they are looking at ways to limit access to the locker room areas. Dru thanked the committee and Steve and Dave for their work on the hearing. Dru will notify Mr. McBride of the decision.

- Linda Haglund appeared on behalf of the Wenatchee Valley Sports Council. She made a presentation on a new arena to be built in Wenatchee. It will have two sheets of ice; Rink One will seat 5,700 and Rink Two will seat 650. They will have 22 Luxury Suites and it will be complete in approximately 14 months.
- Chicago Showcase – Our players performed well in the B Pool and a lot of the kids were talked to by various scouts representing Junior teams as well as college representatives. It was noted that the Chicago Showcase continues to be an excellent platform to provide exposure for PNAHA players. Dru Hammond thanked Jon Danks for his continued volunteerism in organizing this team to provide for their continued participation in the Chicago Showcase.
- Pacific District Director Elections – Bruce Urban’s position is up for re-election. He has been re-nominated and nominations are open until December 31, 2006.
- Player Releases. The policy is on the website. Please email a copy to Dru with the player’s name in the subject line when issuing releases. Dru has discussed with Donna the need for a reciprocal agreement with NORPAC and Adult Leagues to get information from each other regarding players who have outstanding financial obligations. Donna confirmed the need does exist and expressed a willingness to facilitate these discussions between PNAHA and NORPAC.
- The District Dempsey Anderson Award for Coaching was given to Howie Hughes, long-time coach of the SJHA Totems. Rick Ellison gave an overview of his contributions to youth hockey. Dru had contacted Cullen Wallace, Alaska State President to obtain a plaque to be presented to Howie at an upcoming SJHA function.
- USA Hockey New Leader Award was presented to Brenda Fundak. This is an Affiliate Level Award. Established criteria mandates that this award be presented to a young, energetic talent within the Affiliate. This award is presented annually to those who work to grow hockey. It can be received only once by a recipient under the age of 45. Dru read the nomination letter and presented Brenda a plaque from USA Hockey.
- Screening/Net Surveys. Dru handed out the details of the surveys requested at the January meeting. The screening process will cost \$21.50 per person. Applicants will go on-line and complete the screening themselves and pay the fee by credit card. Associations are encouraged to consider having the teams reimburse the coaches for this fee. There is an Application and a Disclosure Form that must be completed and signed by each coach/referee/volunteer. Dru will get an update on the background check. The District is negotiating with a national background check company by the name of Acxiom. Please provide the name of a point-of-contact for your association and give their information to Dru. All referees over the age of 18, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and other identified volunteers must submit to the screening process for the 2006-07 season.
- PNAHA Website. The new platform for the website is nearly ready so Dru will not be updating the existing site unless it can be presented in Text/Content boxes since other areas will not migrate. The new platform is much better. Dru is a beta tester and anticipates work to commence in October with the official national launch date set for November 2006.
- State Tournament - Applications for hosting the State Tournaments are located on the website and must be received by Dru by September 1, 2006 for consideration. Please consider using the President’s Day weekend. We would like to consider using this as a permanent weekend for the State Tournament unless it is too close or too far from the date of the District Tournament.
- Dru thanked Kristin Videto for her contributions and for stepping in as Secretary/Treasurer after she vacated the position for the Presidency.

11. Annual Fall Meeting

- The PNAHA Annual Fall meeting will be held on September 9, 2006 at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel & Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, located at 201 N. Wenatchee Avenue. Room reservations can be made by calling (509) 662-4411. Ask for the PNAHA rate. Note that the hotel fills up quickly and Directors are encouraged to make their room reservations prior to departing the facility. The next meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and registrars and coaching directors for each association are encouraged to attend the morning roundtable meetings.

12. Adjournment

- Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA Vice President) [*motioned to adjourn*], seconded by Dave Koss (WCAHA). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.