

Western New York High School Club Hockey League Meeting Report March 13, 2017

Board Members Present: (indicated by an “x”)

X	Steve Ferrentino	X	Sue Koral		Yves Pierre-Louis
	Paul Crissy		Marge Michalowski	X	Dave Saskowski
X	Roger Gmerek	X	Tom Paradowski	X	Paul Galgovich

Teams Represented: (Indicated by an “X”)

Varsity

X	Canisius		Iroquois	X	St Joe’s - Black
X	City Honors/O’Hara		Jamestown	X	St. Joe’s - Maroon
X	Cleve Hill/JFK/Cheek	X	Lancaster	X	St. Joe’s White
X	Depew	X	Olean	X	Team Buffalo
X	Dunkirk/Fredonia	X	Orchard Park A	X	West Seneca East
X	East Aurora/Holland	X	Orchard Park B		Wilson/Newfane
	Eden/Lake Shore/Pioneer	X	Royal-Hartland		

JUNIOR VARSITY

X	Canisius	X	Hamburg	X	Orchard Park - B	X	West Seneca East
X	City Honors/O’Hara		Iroquois/Alden		St. Francis - Red	X	West Seneca West
X	Depew		Jamestown		St. Francis - White	X	Williamsville South
X	Dunkirk/Fredonia		Kenmore East/Sweet Home	X	St. Joe’s Black		Wilson/Newfane
X	East Aurora/Holland	X	Kenmore West	X	St. Joe’s White		
	Eden/Lake Shore/Pion	X	Lew Port	X	St. Mary’s		
	Frontier A	X	Lockport		Starpont		
	Frontier B	X	Olean		Timon		
	Grand Island	X	Orchard Park - A	X	TNT/Niagara Falls		

Referees

	Chuck Sieber		John Jarvis
X	Mark Brennan		

Security

X	Vince Supples		
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Meeting was called to order by Steve at 7:02 PM.

Treasurer’s Reports

- JV – Given by Dave. Report available to all but he may be short as his printer malfunctioned. Thanked all teams that have timely paid and the few that have not – he has had discussions with them. Motion made by Canisius to accept the report with a second by Cheektowaga. All in favor.
- Varsity – Report given by Roger. Reports available for review. He indicates most teams are 100% paid up. A few are not and he is discussing that with them. Motion made to accept the report made by Canisius with a second by Cheektowaga. All in favor.

Rebates – Are being calculated. Those teams who did not help at states will be getting less than those teams that did.

Security – There were a few issues this year but overall – all was good.

Trainers – Fonz indicates all was good so start lining up your Trainers for next year.

Referees – Mark indicated it was a good year, good communication, and thanked us for our business. Fonz felt that there should have been more presence by them at Varsity States as it was needed due to behavior of parents and some people attending. They did meet with the organization and these needs were discussed. It was acknowledged that Mark was at almost all JV States games.

Varsity States

- Fonz congratulated all participants and the winners.
- Thanked Roger, Dave and Vicki for all their help.
- He indicated the abuse by parents and teams towards the League/Board was horrible. The only people who seemed to appreciate all the efforts were those attending from the East.
- East not happy with the Catholic schools due to their past issues with St. Mary's (Long Island).
- Overall the Board need more help.
- These tournaments are supposed to be for the kids but coaches and parents have to start controlling them.
- East Aurora acknowledged that participating in States for the first time was great.
- Verbal and written attacks were horrible even though the games were great.
- Anger was expressed by Fonz – the kids are ruling the roost. He acknowledged similar problems with OP early in the year and dealt with it.
- One team was personally met with already and a coach has been let go.
- We will move forward but be forewarned, as an example, about a modified skater going crazy knowing there is no penalty if he moves up to JV the next season.

Modified

- Sabres will give out parking codes for the kick off tourney and for the rest of the season – permanent passes to Harbor Center will be given out for the entire season not by game.
- No trainers have to be secured by individual teams.
- Although there is playing Easter weekend – there are no games on Easter Sunday.
- Rosters and first payments are due this Saturday.

Super Sunday

- Went well.
- *Front Row* was a great sponsor addition.
- Dinner went better than a Breakfast.
- Games were great.
- Danny Gare was a great speaker and Cody McCormick will probably be back next year with more to say.

Next Year

- We are doing more with less help – JV out of the Rochester Area may be joining us more – ex. Christmas Tournament.
- Given the challenges this year – Fonz has offered to step down – if someone wants the position – speak up.
- He warned that if same issues crop up next year – the police will be involved. He gave an example – a slap shot aimed at him and his staff.
- Sabres have approached us to use Harbor Center for States in 2 years.
- Suspensions with carry over to next year from States.

NEXT MEETING – 4/10/18 – ANNUAL END OF YEAR DINNER.

Super Saturday and JV States

- Report given by Tom.
- Harbor Center but for a small road bump in the beginning was a great venue.
- Good games. Congratulated the participants and winner.
- States was another great weekend and the venue was great.
- He mentioned that the entire two weekends were done with himself, his wife, Sue, Paul, and Marge when she could.
- He will need teams to be on task to assist in running games in the future.

Vicki Gmerek then gave her side of the week leading up to Super Sunday and Varsity States.

- She advised that no one on the Board or the volunteers (few) that we have get paid.
- Parents need to be made aware of this and perhaps the criticism may be curtailed or we should start paying people from team money to do work.
- She added that all parents need to be made aware that there are gates at these games – the verbal abuse that volunteers take on this issue is not acceptable. Coaches need to communicate better with parents.

- Fonz pointed out that a lot of this meeting may have sounded like a venting session BUT parents said horrible things to him this year.

Next Year – Start thinking about your team, how many teams, strengths, ice, etc....

City Honors/O’Hara – Mr. Hurley indicated that he understands the frustrations by the Board but we have to understand that the people in the room are also all volunteers. Tom indicated that nothing is an attack but probably a plea from all in the room to communicate with their staff and parents better. Fonz pointed out if the League loses the Board – they may lose the League. Vicki indicated in general – help is needed.

There is NO MEETING IN MAY.

Extra shirts and programs were given to those who wanted them.

Jim Chojnicki – All acknowledged his years of service and his retirement. He indicated he only does the program for Super Sunday and that the week leading up to that day is just horrible. Everyone should just go to the website and start getting ready for this. He then offered a book as a reference for next year.

Motion to adjourn made by Cheektowaga with a second by City Honors. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Koral