

September 14th, 2024

Attending the meeting as voting delegates were Tony Leif (SDAHA President), Dan French (SDAHA Vice President) Randy Honkomp (SDAHA Treasurer), Dave Tronnes (SDAHA Secretary), Duke Witte (Aberdeen), Brian Reinwald (Brandon Valley), Justin Kirchhevel (Brookings), Deanna Helvik (Huron), Mark Zens (Mitchell), Blake Dunfee (Northern Hills), Nathan Sanderson (Oahe), Dan Laughlin (Rapid City), Ted Gibbons (Sioux Center), Jenn Warren (Sioux Falls), Todd Randall (Watertown), & Brian Wenisch (Yankton).

Also attending the meeting were Jenni Wirkus (SDAHA Executive Director), Jared Ahlberg (SDAHA RIC) Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Mark Bukovich (Girls Development), Stacie French (SDAHA Safesport), Shane Wirkus, Tom Gruenig, Brad Eggers, Jon Kotilnik, Chun Chan, Lucas Deutsch, Josh Gebhart & Vince Foley.

A Quorum was determined and President Leif called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

President Leif welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for an introduction of meeting attendees. Following a review of the agenda, two additions were requested. HHA requested an addition to new business to discuss their Freeze 10 number for the season and President Leif requested to add Playing Rule 10 as a discussion item. Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by WHA to add both items to the agenda and approve as amended, Motion passed.

Spring 2024 Meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by RHA and 2nd by MSHA to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Passed!

Treasurer Honkomp presented the treasurer report with a review of the financials. Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by AHA to accept the treasurer's report as written. Motion Passed! Treasurer Honkomp also gave a review of the proposed budget for 2024-2025 season and noted that included in the budget was funding for SDAHA to hire a full time accountant to assist with bookkeeping and oversight of the financials. Also noted, this is our season to be audited by USA Hockey and that will take place in November. After discussion, a motion was made by SFYHA and 2nd by RHA to approve the 2024-2025 Budget as written.

President Leif gave a brief Presidents report noting he had attended the USA Hockey Summer Congress in June & the Northern Plains District meeting last weekend in Deadwood which were both great events with great discussion topics. He made everyone aware that 2025 is the next rule change year.

Executive Director Wirkus has stepped into the Affiliate Registrar role this season and advised that she had met this week with the association registers in preparation for the new season. Registrars were advised to make sure that they are claiming all of their players & coaches right away to ensure they have the proper USA Hockey certifications and coverages in case of injury. In addition all volunteers & board members need to be claimed and compliant with all USA Hockey requirements to be eligible to participate. Rosters are due at least 7 days prior to a teams first game. The league season starts 11/22/2024 so all rosters should be submitted no later than 11/15/2024. High School verification information does need to be submitted with any High School rosters.

Executive Director Wirkus reported on the SDAHA projected team counts for the season at each division noting that after the play up/down requests are finalized at today's meeting the schedule will be ready to

start with a goal of having it completed mid October so the associations have time to get their times added for SDAHA to have the schedule live before November 1st.

RIC Ahlberg reported that USA Hockey is revamping their modules and that all seminars will be held virtually this year and none of the levels in person. October 31st is the new deadline to be able to register with USA Hockey for an official's number. All requirements must still be met prior to officials being allowed on the ice but they have until December 31st to complete them. Level one officials must register for a session that includes two 3 hour training sessions and they must attend both sessions to complete the officials course. Level one officials will also still have the mandatory ice session and the schedule of those is being worked on currently to ensure all registered officials have an opportunity to attend a class. RIC Ahlberg reminded everyone about the neck laceration requirements. ALL SDAHA players, including those who turn 18 during the season, will be required to wear neck laceration protection. Youth officials are also included in this mandate. The NP District RIC will be sending Jared an inventory of neck laceration protectors and he will be distributing a few to each association to have on hand for official's use. Discussion was held on assisting associations who have a need for new officials gear. A motion was made by RHA and 2nd by WHA to allow up to a \$500 reimbursement per association for officials gear for the 2024-2025 season provided a request for reimbursement with receipts is submitted by January 1st, 2025. Motion Passed!

SDAHA Executive Director Wirkus encouraged associations to continue to recruit new officials in their associations to help keep the travel costs down. Officials request locations they would like to officiate in and set their availability so it's a great part time job especially for players and college students.

VP French asked the delegates to make sure they inform SDAHA by October 15th who their discipline representative will be for the 2024-2025 Season. He noted the video review committee was great last season and they plan to have the same members this season and will work to ensure communication is sent out in a more timely manner. There are a few associations that have players with carry over suspensions from last season and a reminder notice will be sent to the association Presidents who have players that still have a game/games to serve.

New SDAHA Safesport Coordinator Stacie French advised that she will be working on training with the local Safesport Coordinators. Priorities will be working on an audit of association Board Member and Key Volunteer compliance and association locker room, team travel & billet policies.

Cherry Hunter, SDAHA Risk Manager, reminded everyone that the Risk Managers focus is ensuring compliance with background screenings, dealing with return to play forms and making sure everyone has the proper information to complete an insurance claim if needed. She noted that USA Hockey has a new insurance company and members have access to filing their own online report which is more convenient. Background screenings are due every 2 years and need to be completed prior to the coach/official/volunteer/board member starting participation for the season. Cherry noted local association registrars can verify members have completed BG screen but she is the only one who can verify if a member has a pending screening application. Vince Foley explained the appeal process for flagged participants as he is on the review committee. VP French noted that associations need to make sure they are sanctioning any special events to ensure their members are covered under the USA Hockey insurance. Cherry also mentioned that Risk Managers need to make sure they are collecting all return to play forms and filing them for 7 years.

Duke Witte, Growth & Retention, reported updates from the recent NP District and USA Hockey growth meetings. There is a big focus on 8U, disabled and female membership growth. USA Hockey has

programs available such as Try Hockey for Free events and the hat trick growth challenge. Discussion was had on the block grant we apply for annually with USA Hockey and what we currently use the funds for and could potentially request funds for in the future. SDAHA member programs currently have 14 THFF events scheduled this Fall. Treasurer Honkomp noted that we could have future conversations about allocating funds from our per player affiliate fee to a player development fund.

Boys Player Development- Rob Kittay was not present but included a report in the meeting packet.

Mark Bukovich, Girls Player Development, noted that the Girls Development Camp was held last April in Sioux Falls and had 64 players in attendance looking for advancement opportunities to the Northern Plains District Development Camp in Grand Forks. The NPDDC was well attended by those earning invites and SDAHA had 2-2007 players earn invites to the Multi-District Camp at Trine University, 1-2009 player earn a National Camp invite to Trine University and 1-2010 receive an invite to the Pacific District Camp in Henderson, NV along with 5-2010 invites to the Multi-District Camp at Trine.

Coach in Chief- Rob Kittay was not present but included a report in the meeting packet.

Vince Foley reported on High School Nationals noting that the divisions will be changing this year from Pure, Combined and Prep to A, B & C like the other National Tournaments. Vince noted that due to this change SDAHA will likely only be awarded one spot this season. Interest is growing for teams to attend HS Nationals and there is a potential in the near future that the Girls and Boys could be split to separate locations. Conversation was had on SDAHA helping to subsidize the travel expenses and it was recommended that a proposal be brought in the Spring for more conversation on that topic.

Sioux Falls Power- No report

Team South Dakota- Executive Director Wirkus who serves as the Team South Dakota Coordinator updated on the 2024-2025 teams. New this season, TSD has fielded an 18U Youth Team in addition to the 14U and 16U Youth Teams. The Girls divisions remain the same as last season with 12U, 14U, 16U and High School Girls. A recap was given on tryout registrations noting 89 girls and 132 boys had been evaluated. At the Boys 14U level a couple of smaller tryouts were held in an effort to field a Nationally bound team but the end result based on numbers of interested players at the level was a 14U Boys Fall only development team. Executive Director Wirkus updated the BOD on the coaching staff, the Fall schedule for the teams and the TSD Budget. The 2024-2025 Budget for the Boys was projected at \$160,161 and the Girls at \$200,076.

Northern Plains District- President Leif and Dave Tronnes gave a recap of events/meetings from the NP District Meeting that was held the weekend before in Deadwood. They encouraged members of the BOD to attend future events and to bring along the key people in their membership as it was a great weekend of learning and networking.

Siouxland Sled Hockey- No report

SDAHA Hall of Fame Update- Nominations are open now through December 15th, 2024 for the Class of 2025. The nomination form can be found on the sdaha.org website! The 2025 Banquet will be held April 11th, 2025 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Local Association reports were given by all 12 Delegates. Delegates discussed team counts for the 2024-2025 season, rink improvement/building information and growth initiatives.

Old Business:

Gamesheets: Executive Director Wirkus advised that the SDAHA Gamesheets account had been approved and set up. Training will begin with the key individuals that each association appointed in early October. Additional training will be held for scorekeepers, coaches, officials, etc leading up to the start of the season. Associations were reminded to make sure they had ipads ready for the season.

Team South Dakota Committee: Lucas Deutsch spoke about the committee he was asked to chair at the Spring Meeting. This committee helped to structure a plan to hire coaches, select the right evaluators for TSD tryouts and was also asked to help with a plan for future game scheduling, player/coach recruitment, levels of play at Nationals and a TSD mission statement. There was disappointment from the committee on limited involvement and what they had been able to be involved in and achieve. The current committee was disbanded and a Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by MSHA to create a committee selected by President Leif to offer a specific plan for coaching and operating Team South Dakota and to report back to the SDAHA Board of Directors on or before the April 12th, 2025 meeting. Discussion was had on the motion and approved unanimously.

New Business:

Play Down Requests:

1. Yankton Bantams: Yankton submitted a proposal for their lone Bantam team to play at the B level instead of A for the 2024-2025 Season. The Yankton delegate made a motion to adopt the proposal as written and it was 2nd by Mitchell. After a brief discussion the proposal was approved unanimously.
2. Sioux Center Bantams: Sioux Center submitted a proposal for their lone Bantam team to play at the B level instead of A for the 2024-2025 Season. The Sioux Center delegate made a motion to adopt the proposal as written and it was 2nd by Northern Hills. After a brief discussion the proposal was approved unanimously.
3. A motion was made by Sioux Center and 2nd by Yankton to set aside the ineligible rule (4d.iv) for playdowns for one season at the Bantam level. After a brief discussion the motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Peewee/Squirt League Team Placement:

Following the deadline to submit team counts Executive Director Wirkus used SDAHA'S formula to split the Peewee's and Squirts into A/B/C Divisions. Several associations had requests to move either up/down. In an effort to keep the divisions semi balanced and allow the associations' play up/down requests to be considered all associations were given the opportunity to submit a move request if desired to be heard at this meeting. Peewee Move requests included: Brandon from B & C to A & B, Oahe from A to B, Rapid from C to B and Sioux Falls requested that their 12U Girls play this season in the PWC Division.

OHA moved to adopt the Peewee team structure as proposed on the chart in the meeting packet and requested a one year vacate of SDAHA Playing Rule 4d.iv. for the Peewee divisions. RHA 2nd the motion which was then voted on and passed unanimously.

At the Squirt level there were also four move requests to be considered which included Brandon from B & C to A & B, Brookings from A/B/C/A to A/B/C/B, Huron from B to A and Sioux Center from B to A. OHA motioned to adopt all four requests as written which was 2nd by AHA. After a brief discussion the motion

was withdrawn by both parties. OHA made a second motion to adopt the Squirt split structure as noted on the chart included in the meeting packet & 2nd by AHA. Discussion was had on the motion and approved unanimously.

Discussion was had on forming a committee to review our current SDAHA League structure. Treasurer Honkomp was appointed committee chair and will solicit additional members interested in serving on this committee.

President Leif requested to move the Election of a new SDAHA Secretary up on the meeting agenda so delegates would have additional time to cast their votes prior to the end of the meeting. The Secretary position opened up at the Spring 2024 Meeting when Randy Honkomp was elected to the Treasurer position and resigned as the Secretary. President Leif thanked Dave Tronnes for filling in as Secretary for the last few months while SDAHA sought out candidates for this position. Candidates interested in running for this office included Chun Chan (SF), Jon Kotilnek (OHA), & Steve Laufman (MSHA). Candidates Chan and Kotilek were in attendance at the meeting and allowed a few minutes to speak on their behalf. Candidate Laufman submitted a written statement which was included in the meeting packet for review. Ballots were passed out to the members of the Board of Directors and collected and tallied by Safesport Coordinator Stacie French and Girls Development Coordinator Mark Buchovich.

Playing Rules Proposal:

One Playing Rules proposal was submitted by Yankton regarding playing rule 4,d, iv,1 and 10,c,iii pertaining to the verbiage "scoresheet" now that SDAHA is moving to an electronic Gamesheet versus paper score sheets. Yankton made a motion to accept the proposal as written which was 2nd by MSHA. After discussion, the motion failed. The BOD would like to get Gamesheets implemented and see how it goes before making Playing Rule changes pertaining to the scoresheets.

Discussion Items:

Varsity State Tournaments- Discussion was had on the new Varsity State Tournament format of Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Items of discussion included setting the game times each day and a date/time for the Awards Ceremony. Game times were set for 1PM, 3:30PM, 6PM & 8:30PM for Thursday and Friday games and 1PM, 4PM and 7PM for Saturday's Championship games. Discussion was had about the Awards Ceremonies and transitioning the bulk of the awards to the SDAHA Hall of Fame and Awards event instead of a separate Awards Ceremony at the Varsity Tournaments. SDAHA has already transitioned the Scholarships to this event and it's a great event to highlight the players and their achievements. Treasurer Honkomp made a motion for an exception to State Tournament Rule 9 and to merge the High School Awards Ceremony with the Hall of Fame and SDAHA Awards Recognition event. The motion was 2nd by AHA and approved unanimously.

Huron Freeze 10- HHA made a request for a reduced number of players that they must freeze for JV games. HHA has 16 players and 3 of them are goaltenders. HHA made a motion to only have to freeze two players, 1 skater and 1 goaltender, for the 24/25 season and would freeze the same two individuals for the whole season. This motion was 2nd by Brandon Valley and was approved unanimously.

President Leif led a discussion pertaining to Playing Rule 10 and players being disqualified after being assessed 3 penalties. Currently our rules state the player must immediately leave the game and go to their locker room. President Leif mentioned that in other sports the player is allowed to remain on the

bench for the remainder of the game and he would like to see further discussion on this in the future to see if there is any interest in making a change to the SDAHA rules.

Discussion was had on the rolls of key positions in SDAHA such as the Development Directors, the Coach in Chief and the Executive Director. No posted job descriptions currently exist for these positions and a request was made to get these put together starting with the Executive Director with a goal to complete by December 31st.

The Secretary Election results were confirmed and President Leif made an announcement at the end of the meeting that Jon Kotilnek received the most votes and was elected as the new SDAHA Secretary.

Spring Meeting Saturday, April 12th, 2025 in Sioux Falls.

President Leif declared the meeting adjourned at 3:53PM.