

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2019
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Judy Merickel – Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Randy Boysen – Member at Large / Program Development (Girls and Goalies)
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep (via phone)
Darryl James – Squirt Rep
Jon Flynn – House Rep

Absent Board Members:

Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator

Guests:

Shawn Schroeder – Coach-in-Chief, HS Parent, Bantam Parent
Bill Billman – HS Parent
Barb Doggett – HS Parent
Char Nichols – HS Parent
Kelly Walker – HS and Squirt Parent
Amber Zietz – Peewee Parent
Andy Zietz – Peewee Parent and Coach
Robert Whited – Bantam Parent

Meeting Called to Order 5:39 p.m.

Minutes

Sarah moved to approve minutes from September 25th and 19th meetings. Allison seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Andy Zietz felt the evaluation process went way better this year than last year. He was a little uncertain how much value was placed on the evaluators scores at the Peewee division or if the coaches just picked. He had one suggestion for next year – instead of A and B Reps, choose one representative for each age group so that both birth years have a representative. This season at both the squirt and peewee level, the A and B Coach Reps for tryouts were all second-year

coaches. There wasn't a representative in the room who knew the first-year players as well. He also would like to see his son's evaluation scores.

Shawn responded that coaches made themselves available to discuss players score and performance. Darryl said that the squirt level, the evaluator scores really laid out the A, B and House players, with only a few "bubble" decisions needing to be made by the coaches.

Robert Whited suggested the order of the kids should be changed around. The first round go 1 – 30 and then second time go backwards or mix it up somehow. The players who end up skating the drill after the superstars don't look as good as they would if they went after someone else. Shawn thought that was a good idea to run the kids through one way and then run them backwards through it.

Barbara Doggett said she was at the meeting to give her "annual high school parent speech". She is wanting clarification on the thought process or lack thereof surrounding the High School teams' decisions (one team vs two teams). She said the parents knew nothing about the discussions leading up to the decision. She also said the high school parents fundraise \$10,000 per year to cover coaching costs (hotel rooms, travel) for their non-parent coaches. She feels the board doesn't care about high school program like it does the other programs. She asked why the board doesn't sponsor senior night. She said two years ago she organized a fundraiser and certain board members didn't get the word out in enough time. Kurt responded first by asking her to not bring up things that happened two years ago, second that high school team discussions have been going on since spring and all members are welcome to attend the meetings, third that the board is willing and wanting to help the high school program and asked parents to bring a proposal of what they are wanting for senior night. Sarah Garcia also explained the process that was used to make decisions about one or two high school teams. Shawn suggested the board look at setting up a fund or reimbursement or incentive up for non-parent coaches. The board decided to discuss that at the next meeting. Judy pulled out the minutes and showed Barbara that the high school division has been a topic of board discussion and work since April 2019. She stated she felt like it's been the most heavily discussed and worked on item for the board in the last six months. The board has been working to figure out a way to get the younger high school players more playing time. A committee was formed, recommendations made, more discussion, decisions and then more information and different decisions. Darryl asked Barbara to bring her concerns in a less-attacking way to the meeting. Barbara apologized for her tone and way she brought forth her concerns but was glad it led to the board discussing the matters.

Ice Rink

No update from Stan or Brandon.

Registrar – Lance Wilson

Total registered players are at 229. Last season we ended with 249, but Lance expects more 8U and House players to register as well as second session kids. Division reps should send their Canada travel plans to Lance so he can get travel permits approved through the regional registrar. Division reps should also let Lance know when to open their travel tournaments for registrations.

Coach-in-Chief and Tryouts – Shawn Schroeder

We are short on hockey coaches for the girls' practices Fridays at 4:20 p.m. Shawn felt tryout weekend was organized, the scrimmages were good, coaches made good use of Sunday's extra hour to look at bubble kids the way they wanted to look at them. He would like to publicly recognize Rob Smith for his incredible work keeping things organized that weekend. As for improvements for next year, he would like to recruit 5 evaluators and have 2 alternates. This year he recruited 5 and ended up with 4 because someone backed out last minute. He said he would look at having coaches flip the order that kids run through the drills. A peewee coach suggested evaluators be given a form for each session. He will look at that. Lance encouraged everyone to make appointments with coaches to ask questions about performance. Lance also recognized Rob Smith for the goalie evaluations he did. It provided valuable input to decisions.

Hockey Summit

Sarah: Scheduling was a bit "hairy", the home game availability was not great.

Ryan: Bantams went fine, he is waiting to nail down a couple more games.

Kurt: Peewees went fine, got it all nailed down.

Darryl: Squirt B is scheduled but a couple of cities are trying to change things around after the fact. Squirt A only got 12 games instead of 16 league games. Judy expressed concern over the Squirt A team getting their 4 extra "games". Last year the board offered to pay for an extra peewee tournament when the same thing happened to peewees. She suggested the board do the same thing for the Squirt A team. Shawn and Robbie felt we should approach MAHA and ask them for pro-rated bonds back since it says in the MAHA handbook that each division will get 16 league games. Lance and Darryl said they are working on the Squirt A schedule and will report back. A further discussion was had around getting MAHA to not let cities declare more than one team per vision. For example, cities can not declare two B teams, they would have to declare an A and a B, giving the state more A teams to play each other. The board decided to talk more about this issue at the next meeting when Mekell Lybbert, MAHA Rep, was present.

Lance said the symposium had a good presentation on the new body contact clarifications from USA Hockey. Referees will be looking to make sure players are playing the puck first. If they are targeting the body first or targeting someone without the puck or someone who released the puck, then a penalty will be called. Penalties will also be called on team benches if there are any banging of sticks or cheering following body contact. The only cheering should be for positive things such as goals. USA Hockey has a video link on body contact. Shawn said he has viewed it several times and will set up times to show it to the bantam and high school players.

Referees can also remove unruly parents from the stands. Each team should have an off-ice person who polices their own fans. Ryan suggested this be the board reps and team managers as we have done in the past. Parent behavior and abuse of referees is of heightened concern this season for USA Hockey. USA Hockey would like to see newer referees get more experience by shadow-referring younger games. Kurt said HAYHA is encouraging this and will pay newer refs to shadow ref games.

Kurt said Mekell will be sending a MAHA update via email. Helena was awarded the 8U State Tournament.

Safesport – Kurt

Scott Petersen was not in attendance, so Kurt gave a quick update. He reminded division reps to have locker room coverage for all practices and games. There are to be no cell phones out in locker rooms. Reps should remind parents of this at parent meetings. Cell phones should be in pockets or tucked away. Kurt will talk to Scott about new signage. There should also be no sticks in the locker rooms.

Equipment – Randy

The cross-ice boards are here. We do owe another \$500 to the company because of the misinformation Randy was given about the size of the rink. Randy will train 8U managers how to use the new scoreboard at Thursday's practice.

Division Updates

8U: Judy reports the 8U parent meeting is Wednesday and practice starts Thursday. As of now there are 57 termite and 45 mites. We expect a few more registrants. There are 20 termite coaches and 11 mite coaches. There will be seven optional tournaments including Spokane, which is a new one for HAYHA mites.

House: Jon reports 33 house players with a few more registrations likely. He is partnering with Billings to combine 12U house players for tournaments. He doesn't have any parent volunteers (locker room monitors, managers, equipment managers). House has six willing coaches but 2 more are needed. All home games are scheduled.

Squirt Travel: Darryl is still working on getting the schedule pinned down before he sends it out. Practice starts Monday. Darryl would like to acknowledge Jon's warm welcome to the 8 squirt players who tried out and did not make the A or B team.

Peewees: Kurt said league games schedule is finished. Managers are working on tournaments.

Bantams: Ryan is having a parent meeting next Tuesday. Tournaments are lined out. He is recruiting locker room monitors and team managers.

High School: Sarah is having a parent meeting on Monday.

Treasurer – Sarah

There is \$147,558.41 in the checking account. HAYHA pays the rink \$19,191 per month for six months. Mekell bought a cell phone speaker for board meetings so board members who are calling in can hear. Kurt asked Randy to get a lockable file cabinet in the equipment room. Robbie Whited offered to donate one he has.

Member Handbook – Allison

Kurt had some changes for the member handbook. The board discussed the changes and Allison made the changes on her laptop during the meeting. Ryan made a motion to pass the member handbook with the additional changes Kurt had tonight. Lance seconded. Motion passed. Allison will email the revised handbook to the board.

Other Business

Amber Guge volunteered to lead the cookie dough fundraiser again this year. Sarah Garcia asked board reps to manage expectations with their parents regarding cookie dough checks. The cookie dough money generally comes back to HAYHA over Christmas break so Sarah will have checks to parents in mid-January. Cookie dough sales are NOT applied to player fee balances owed. All player fee balances owed are due December 31st.

Ryan asked about thank yous for the following people: Rob Smith – Tryout Coordinator; Paula Holland – Game Jerseys & Scheduler; Nonparent Coaches. Kurt said last year the board all pitched in money and got gift cards for some volunteers. The board will discuss this more at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 7, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Items for Next Meeting:

- Rink update from Stan and second sheet of ice update.
- Senior night proposal.
- Non-parent coach reimbursements/stipends.
- Squirt A and Peewee A getting 12 games instead of 16 league games. What is MAHA doing about this?

Meeting Adjourned. The Board entered Executive Session to name Head Coaches.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____