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**#MASSPROUD**

*MASS HOCKEY ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES*  
MAY 4, 2024 – SeaCrest Beach Hotel at Falmouth

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the SeaCrest Hotel at Falmouth.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 1:18pm.

1. Roll Call

There are 34 voting board members present. 2/3 majority is 23.

2. Board Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2024, seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Awards Recognition

The Dr. Alan Ashare Safety Award was awarded to Tom McGrath, 4<sup>th</sup> VP.

The Ron & Jo DiFilippio Registrar Award was awarded to Matt McDonald, Hingham Youth Hockey Register.

The Milton Kauffman Officials Award was awarded to John Mitchell, District 10 Supervisor.

The Richard “Duke” Kumpel Special Achievement Award was awarded to Paul Crowley, District 4 Director.

The Stephen & Terry Palmacci President’s Award was awarded to Al and Joan Smith, former District 5 Registrars. In memory and admiration of Joan Smith 1951-2024.

4. President’s Report

Stephen Palmacci provided his President's Report at the end of the meeting asking for support for a 4<sup>th</sup> Staff Role in Mass Hockey. This is essentially a database and compliance manager for our organization. A motion was made to move forward with this position, seconded and unanimously approved. He would like to create a committee that is truly focused on player development in addition to that of the one focused on National Development Camp. It is important to participate in committee meetings to grow our game. We need to pivot our organization and consider the implementation of Long Range Committee recommendations through a new committee to be by Jerimah Tabor and Tim McMahon. If want to be involved you can request. Steve asked about board meeting frequency and format and consensus was to keep 2024-2025 the same as past year.

5. Executive Director’s Report



Kevin Kavanagh provided his Executive Director's report. Thank you to Jen and Fiona who do a wonderful job in the office. We continue to grow partnerships in Mass Hockey. Spring is a busy event planning season with state tournaments, player development, and the annual meeting. Thank you to everyone's volunteerism we could not do this without all your help.

#### 6. Committee Reports

Committee reports were posted online prior to the meeting.

[2024 Annual Meeting Reports](#)

#### 7. Treasurer's Report

Chris Holden reviewed the 2023-2024 finance report and the 2024-2025 budget in great detail during the morning session prior to the board meeting.

A motion was made to approve the 2024-2025 Budget, seconded, and unanimously approved.

#### 8. Proposals

A summary of the votes on the many legislative proposals are described below:

Rule Proposal #1 – 2 Game Suspension for Fighting 14U and Younger and 3 Game Suspension for Fighting for Older than 14U: Approved 79%/21%.

Rule Proposal #2 – State Tournament and Beyond Roster Eligibility: Approved 91%/9%.

Rule Proposal #3 – 40% Non-Resident Members Need Tournament Committee Approval:  
Approved 88%/12%

Rule Proposal #4 – Referee Requirements to District Playdown and State Tournament Games:  
Approved as Amended 77%/19%

Amended for days when games can be scheduled: Approved 84%/16%

Amended for National Bound Team games officials Section Supervisor, RIC approval:  
Approved 87%/13%

Rule Proposal #5 – Referee Reports within 48 hours & Level 1 be Shadowed 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Games:  
Approved as Amended 69%/31%

Amended to change from required to recommended for Shadowing: Approved  
77%/23%

We will form a committee chaired by John Murray including assigners for shadowing and on-ice training for level 1 officials.

Rule Proposal #6 – Removal of Hometown Requirement: A motion to withdraw was approved.

Bylaw Proposal #1 – Removal of Alternate Directors: A motion was made to postpone to September, seconded, and approved.

Bylaw Proposal #2 – Ineligible for Re-election for BOD who fails to meet compliance: Approved unanimously.



Amended special circumstances shall be reviewed by the Executive Board to determine eligibility and excusing.

Housekeeping update on language Representatives to USA Hockey Congress approved unanimously.

*See table below for details of rules and bylaw proposals.*

## 9. Elections

Tim McMahon conducted the election of officers.

The following were elected unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions:

- 1st VP Jeff Brown (2-year term)
- 2nd VP Christine Mayer (2-year term)
- 4th VP Tom McGrath (2-year term)
- Clerk Tim McMahon (2-year term)

Election for Director at Large (2 positions, 1-year term each). Candidates:

- Ron Ayers
- Frank Hart
- Jerimah Tabor (2nd of 2 term limit)
- Lisa Wise
- Scott DeLuccia (withdrawn prior to first ballot)

Election for first Director at Large position:

First ballot:

Ron Ayers 21%

Frank Hart 25%

Jeremiah Tabor 46%

Lisa Wise 7% (dropped from consideration for first position)

Second ballot:

Ron Ayers 23%

Frank Hart 20%

Jeremiah Tabor 67% (elected to first position)

Election for second Director at Large position:

First ballot:

Ron Ayers 43%



Frank Hart 39%  
Lisa Wise 18% (dropped from consideration for first position)

Second ballot:  
Ron Ayers 47%  
Frank Hart 53% (elected to first position)

Election for USAH Director 2027 (2 positions, 2-year term). Candidates:

- Christine Mayer
- Steve Rizzio
- David Young

First ballot:  
Christine Mayer 43%  
Steve Rizzio 50% (elected to first position)  
David Young 7%

Election for second USAH Director:  
Frist Ballot:  
Christine Mayer 90% (elected to second position)  
David Young 10%

#### 10. Old Business

Jeff Brown: The deferred rule from March meeting was brought up. Mark Lissner presented a rule to change the 8U waiver reducing number of players (2) to play up on girls' and youth to be equivalent for club. A motion was made to call vote, seconded, and rejected by majority (30%/67%) of the board.

#### 11. New Business

Approval of Referee Rates for 2024-2025 Season as amended.

Referee Registration opens on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mark Sampson is Chet Stewart Award winner this year at USAH Awards in June.

#### 12. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.



#	Proposal Title	Annual Guide	Description	Status	Submitted By
1	Rule Proposal #1	Local Rulings	<p>Any player who is penalized for fighting under USA Hockey Playing Rule 615 (a) or Rule 615 (b) shall serve a 2 game suspension instead of the 1 game specified by USA Hockey at the 14U age group and below. At age groups older than 14U the suspension shall be 3 games. The following shall also apply: 1. This rule is applicable to all players who are participants on a Massachusetts District team 2. This rule is applicable to all players who are participants on teams from the outside of the Massachusetts District participating in league games or tournament games within Massachusetts. A. As Massachusetts Hockey cannot govern players from outside of the Massachusetts District except during games within the Massachusetts District, suspension shall be served the next time they play within the Massachusetts District unless the player received the penalty while participating in a league who has a signed affiliate agreement with Massachusetts Hockey. B. Only players whose next games are either in a Youth National Bound Tournament or Girls District Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 2-S may request to have the suspension reduced to the single game specified in the USA Hockey playing rules through review by the Tournament Discipline Committee. 3. Any player who is penalized for 2nd Fighting Major (Rule 616(f) under USA Hockey Playing Rule 615 (a) or Rule 615 (b) shall serve a 5 game suspension instead of the 3 game specified by USA Hockey at all age groups. Item 1 and 2a caveats listed directly above shall apply. 4. Massachusetts Leagues are reminded that any deviation from the above must be approved by the Massachusetts USA Hockey Referee in Chief</p>	Approved	Christopher Gong



			in consultation with the Massachusetts Hockey Executive Board.		
2	Rule Proposal #2	Teams, Tryouts & Rosters	<p>State Tournament and Beyond Roster eligibility. A Player may only be rostered on one Youth National Bound (as defined by USAH) roster (Tier I or II) B. A Player may only be rostered on one Girls National Bound or Non-National Bound Roster (as defined by USAH) roster (Tier I, Tier II or Tier IIS)C. A Female player 14U and Older may be rostered on a Youth National Bound and a Girls National Bound Roster as Defined by USAH Rules on declaring which National Bound team she shall be eligible on (USAH Rules Section III Team Membership &amp; Registration Part E). 15U, 16U and 18U/19U declarations shall be by November 1.D. A Player may only be rostered and eligible to participate in one non-National Bound Youth State Championship tournament (Tier III, IV or V)E. A Player may only be rostered and eligible to participate in one non-National Bound Girls State Championship tournament (Tier III, IV or V)F. Players may play on teams that compete in both National Bound State Championships AND Non-National Bound State Championships unless specifically prohibited above (See B above)G. For the purpose of this definition, players rostered on teams competing in the Girls Tier I, Tier II or Tier II-S tournaments are eligible to play on one Non-National Bound State Tournament team at the Girls Tier III or IV level AND one Non-National Bound Youth team at the appropriate age level 7. 15 Only, 16U and 18U youth level teams/players, players rostered on a Youth National Bound 13U Pure, 14U Tier I and 14U Tier II teams and all Girls/Women teams/players participating above the Girls/Women Tier III level shall not</p>	Approved	Peter Giuliano & State Tournament Committee



			be subject to these Hometown Program roster requirements.		
3	Rule Proposal #3	Hometown Program Player Movement & Rosters	Any team who has more than 40% of their rostered players as non-resident members must receive roster approval from the Mass Hockey Roster Committee who shall review the specifics as to why the roster is non-compliant with the 3 player non-resident member limit in order to participate in Tier III, Tier IV and Tier V and Girls/Women's Tier III & Tier IV State Championships prior to any district playdowns. Any teams receiving automatic entry or an unopposed entry into the aforementioned State Championship Tournaments must have approval from the Mass Hockey Roster Committee prior to December 31.	Approved	Ron Ayers
4	Rule Proposal #4	A Game	All District playdown and State Tournament games are under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Hockey and must be officiated by Massachusetts Hockey registered referees, unless otherwise approved by the Massachusetts Hockey Referee-in-Chief and/or the Massachusetts Hockey Referee Supervisor. These games can only be assigned by the Referee -In- Chief, Referee Coordinator and District Referee Supervisors. Districts are not recommended to schedule playdowns games on Wednesdays or Saturdays or during the following months (December, January & February). For all National Bound State Play-in games those officials will be approved by the Section Referee Supervisors prior to the game's assignments. National Bound State Tournaments will be assigned by the Section Referee Supervisors, Referee-In-Chief, Referee Coordinator or an Assigner approved by the Referee -In- Chief.	Approved	Kevin Donovan & John Murray



5	Rule Proposal #5	Referees	<p>USA/Massachusetts Hockey (Minimum Level of Registration shall be a Level Zero Official), complete SafeSport and background screening and agree to be subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by both USA Hockey and Massachusetts Hockey. Assignors shall be required to report to Massachusetts Hockey when requested, any information relating to any officials assigned by the assignor to officiate USA Hockey sanctioned games in Massachusetts. Furthermore, Assignors shall be required to report to Massachusetts Hockey on efforts to grow and develop new officials and provide game opportunities. Any registered assignors who assign officials for USA Hockey sanctioned games that do not have current USA Hockey certifications may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension of assigning privileges and monetary fines. Any leagues or programs that use unregistered assignors or non-certified officials may be subject to disciplinary action. All New Official (Level 1) will be recommended to be mentored/shadowed for their first 5 games. The Assignor's will be recommended to first schedule new officials with a mentor/shadow before scheduling other games.</p>	Approved	Kevin Donovan
6	Rule Proposal #6	Hometown Program Player Movement & Rosters	<p>Organizations recognized by Massachusetts Hockey may: A). Have open tryouts and are not subject to any geographical restrictions. B). Rosters will be comprised of a majority of Massachusetts residents.</p>	Withdrawn by Dan Esdale	Dan Esdale
8	Bylaw Proposal #2	Board of Directors	<p>One-third of the Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors. Each member in good standing shall have only one vote, regardless of the number of positions held. A member is considered in good standing with a valid</p>	Approved	Robert Joyce



			<p>USAH/Mass Hockey Membership, Background Screening, compliant SafeSport Certification, and accurate Conflict of Interest filing. All of the aforementioned administrative requirements shall be completed prior to November 1 of the current season/fiscal year or shall be ineligible to vote on any matters for the balance of that season and subject to removal from their position. Any elected Members of the Board of Directors that who fail to complete all administrative requirements for eligibility or fail to satisfy the 50% meeting attendance requirement while serving as an elected director during a season shall be ineligible for re-election to hold a seat for the next season. No proxy votes shall be allowed. Alternate Directors may vote in the absence of a Director from a District/Division if registered, indicating the Director being replaced with the Clerk prior to the meeting being called to order by the presiding officer. Once a Director is replaced he/she is ineligible to vote during the current session of the meeting. All actions of the Board shall be subject to majority of the votes cast unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws. The presiding officer shall vote only to break a tie. The President may surrender the Chair to vote from the floor. In order to remain in good standing and eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, a Director, Alternate Director, member of the Executive Board or Director Emeritus must attend at least 50% of the scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors since their last election during the year prior to the Annual Meeting of which at least one of which must be an in-person meeting.</p>		
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9	Housekeeping	Bylaw VII	All references to "USA Hockey Directors" in Bylaw VII should be changed to "Representatives to USA Hockey Congress."	Approved	Rules Committee
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