

**Rocky Mountain District
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2020
Renaissance Sea World, Orlando, FL**

In Attendance:

Servaes, Mark	District TX	Director Vice President
Pashkowski, Geoff	District AZ	Director Director at Large
Smith, Kathleen	District	Director
Day, Jill	District	Secretary/Treasurer
Reinhard, Ken	District	Referee-in-Chief
Corona, Alfredo	District	Disabled Rep
Reckell, Tim	District AZ	High School Section President
Rogers, Jim	AZ	Treasurer
Haley, Herb	AZ	Safe Sport
Kanai, Randy	CO	President
Heinrich, John B	ID	President
Enegren, Mark	ID	Safe Sport
Tirocke, Joanne	ID	Secretary
Reid, Lucas	TX	President
Radke, Derrick	UT	President
Radke, Wendy	UT	Safe Sport
Urban, Bruce	USA Hockey	Director at Large
Bonnett, Joe	USA Hockey	ADM Manager
Mannix, Heather	USA Hockey	ADM Female Hockey

Absent:

Lewis, TC	District	Director
Lehto, Mike	District	Coach-in-Chief
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager

Thompson, Darla	District	Registrar
Emerizy, Neil	District	Webmaster
Wenner, Rick	NM	President

Geoff Pashkowski called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. A quorum was present to conduct business. Introductions were made.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2019 meeting in Colorado Springs were reviewed. Kathleen Smith made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written. Mark Servaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jill Day requested that everyone put her email, jillv8@comcast.net, in their safe senders list in their computers so her emails are delivered and not sent to junk mail.

George Atkinson introduced himself and is running for Vice President of Youth Council to take the place of Dave Klasnick, who passed away. He outlined his experience with hockey. He is not a current member of the council and believes he could help move forward the goals of USA Hockey. Mark Servaes commented on George's help in Texas. Geoff Pashkowski asked him what his stand was on the proposed legislation of not allowing playing up a division in the girls' programs. He said he wasn't completely familiar with it but have had similar rules in Michigan.

Referee-in-Chief

Ken Reinhard reported that 118 seminars have been held this season. Recruitment is not the issue. Retention is the issue. There is a big hole between registered and completed. Many did not return this year. Youth officials make up about 30% of our group, nationally it is 40%. Ken would the local supervisors to work with the incomplete to get them completed. This year to date there have been 34 game misconduct penalties assessed under rule 601e3 for use of language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game. He personally reviewed each one, and 21 of them were upheld. There have been 85 game misconducts issued for Abuse of officials. This is the number one reason officials leave (in all sports). The cumbersome registration process and communication issues are also a problem. There was discussion on how to improve the quality of our officials and about evaluations. Ken expressed his thanks for the great support he receives from the Rocky Mountain District.

USA Hockey ADM

Joe Bonnett reported that the ADM regional managers' have been focusing on coach development. It is a slow process, especially with body checking changes. They are dedicated to player safety. Joe believes our player development camp with Pacific and Northern Plains districts is the best camp in the country! It is good for the players and for coaches, too. He is concerned that the changes in the Coaching Education Program, Rocky Mountain District isn't getting to contribute because Mike Lehto hasn't been replaced. Joe was told that the Rocky Mountain District has submitted names but USAH has not accepted our nominee. Mike Lehto believes our choice is THE ONE for our district. Joe will see what he can do to help. Approval was given for Jim Rogers to serve as our Coach-in-Chief at this winter meeting.

Joe introduced Heather Mannix as a new ADM Manager of Female Hockey. She expressed her excitement of being part of USA Hockey.

Keith Barrett from Vermont also running for VP of Youth Council. Talked to the district directors. His tech is more communication on the phone rather than send a text or email. So, he has tried to contact each voting director to start a process he feels is necessary for the Youth Council.

Affiliate Reports

Arizona Tim Reckell reported that the new adult learn to skate program was full within 2 hours the league registration opening. Players could not have played hockey before to be in this program. The newest challenge is how to fund the increase in background screening. Arizona has paid for all background screening, but the increase is going to make that impossible. The Safe Sport Rep has been trying to come up with something to help. They also need help to improve their officials. There is only one official evaluating and those evaluations were not being used to help improve the

officials. Adult summer tournament sells out very quickly. Coaches program is great. Coyote One Step program for disabled going so well they are about to form their own association. Alfredo says USAH is receiving way too many grant requests for disabled. Only should be two official groups.

Colorado Randy Kanai reported that their overall goal has not changed – grow the game. The biggest area to grow is girls and disabled. Avalanche support is great. Working toward having all areas of disabled covered. 14U national bound girls' team next year under Team Colorado will vote in February. Mile High Mites working well. This is causing a lack of ice. Randy Kanai up for reelection in February. Almost two seasons now with no word on a safe sport issue that went to Center of Safe Sport. Casey Jorgensen, USAH Legal, says CAHA cannot do anything about it. Kathleen Smith will bring it up in the Legal Council meeting.

Idaho John Heinrich asked if other affiliates use blue pucks for mites and squirts. The response was just for mites. Teams have said they won't come to Idaho for squirt games because they use blue pucks and are trying to go cross ice. Idaho has no Tier I teams. They are very concerned about the increased cost of screening. NCSI will be the screener. They held a bronze goalie camp in Boise. RMD District visited the state meeting in May. Numbers are good. They want to grow the girls' program and are sending two representatives to the Empowerment Summit. Discussion of Tier 2 boys' teams.

New Mexico - No Report

Texas Lucas Reed is the new President of TAHA. Dallas hosted the USHL North American League event. Talking about creating a grant program for 10U half ice programs to begin. Dallas going for it, but need all areas to take it on. Year 2 of learn to play moving out to many outlying areas. Hosting 2020 HS nationals. Blind hockey starting this year. They are sending four representatives to the Empowerment Summit. (pig races sidebar).

Utah Derrick Radke reported that they are holding a Try Sled Hockey for Free event in February. They have combined 2 girls associations into one. Darla Thompson came to Utah and held a mandatory registrars meeting. They also held a mandatory safe sport meeting for all associations. Utah changed screenings to every two years, and it caused a lot of duplicate screening costs. There was a lot of push back over the second screening invoice of \$18. Don't know if Utah will continue to pay for screenings and then bill the associations, or just make everyone pay their own.

District Reports

Geoff Pashkowski reported that the Girls' Women's Committee is increasing the Tier II Girls' tournament from 16 to 24 teams in 2021. Nine of the twelve districts will automatically get 2 team spots at the National Tournament, and the Rocky Mountain District is one of those. (It hasn't been officially announced yet.) He doesn't support sending a 2nd team due to the current caliber of teams in the district. Not one district team has made it to the crossover round in the last 5 years. Legislation has been submitted to stop girls from playing up in older divisions, and to change the number of games required to go to national championships. Derrick suggested that something be put in the District P&P to determine how the 2 national bound teams would be determined.

Kathleen Smith noted that since the decision of how the teams made it into the High School National tournament caused a lot of problems in Utah. They felt Utah didn't get in on purpose and want the state to hold them a tournament. Just because you are eligible doesn't mean that you have a right to go. Tim made comment, Derrick made comment (first come first serve online) HS nationals no longer best of the best. Used to be presented to the District to determine instead of first come, first serve. It was requested that Tim Reckell take this issue to the High School Council meeting. There was more discussion about increasing the teams from 16 to 24. A fine could be put in place for those that don't go. Kathleen also noted that the Legal Council is taking the background screening out of Bylaw 10 and will just have it in Safe Sport screening procedures.

Mark Serveas reported that the Nominating Committee has been pretty quiet. He did attend the 16U Tier 2 Nationals and attended the RMD tournament and camp and the National Select Camp in Buffalo, NY.

Alfredo Coronado – Arizona is growing in special hockey. Texas has added blind hockey and have pretty much every discipline of disabled hockey. Doris, in Colorado, is doing a lot with every discipline of disabled. They are working on sled hockey events in Idaho and Utah.

District Fees and Budget

It was noted that the district currently does not have an approved budget. There were not enough email responses received to approve it. USA Hockey has requested that a District Director attend at least one affiliate meeting each year.

That will require funds in the budget. Kathleen Smith said she is trying to get a CPA to meet with a committee to turn over camp books and start including it in the District budget and accounting. CPA pricing is about \$3000-\$3500. There was much discussion of increasing the district fees to the affiliates. There were several recommendations presented. The District is trying to get the legal fund up to \$100,000 and is currently at \$47,000. Twenty-Five cents per registered player is earmarked to go into the legal fund each year. Mark Serveas made a **MOTION** to increase the district fee from \$1 to \$1.50 on the youth player count currently being provided by USA Hockey from April 1 to January 31 each year and no increase on the \$0.50 per adult registered player effective with the 2020-21 season. Kathleen Smith second the motion and it passed unanimously. Stars offer hotel connections for director coverage. Tim Reckell made a **MOTION** to approve the 2019-20 budget with increasing the January Winter Meeting in Orlando from \$2,000 to \$3,300, adding \$2,000 additional for a CPA accounting fee, and deleting webmaster travel of \$1,000. Randy Kanai seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It was noted the balance of the CPA accounting fee would come out of the income from camp account.

District Player Safety

Doug Ritter introduced himself and his background. He shared a power point presentation. He said concussion management is the center of this new position in USA Hockey. He noted that concussion protocol must be as good as the affiliate's state regulations. Doctor, player, parent, and coach must all sign return to play release. Tracking this is going to be cumbersome to implement. It is critical to change the mindset of everyone. He is proposing that each affiliate put a plan in place that meets the USAH and state requirements. Each Affiliate needs to assign a representative for him to work with. Find a model association in each affiliate to be responsible for the new process. Mark Serveas asked why each affiliate should do it instead of just the District. The answer is because each state has different requirements. This needs to be done before next season. Please identify someone by March 1st and send the information to him. It was asked if a District consistency could be created and then add state requirements for back to play. Arizona has a plan and was asked to send it out to the other affiliates.

Policies & Procedures

Geoff Pashkowski handed out the new proposed policy and procedures. The revised bylaws adopted in 2014 deals with elections, officers, meetings, duties, and the other items at the beginning of the old policies, so they were deleted. The new policies start at the Affiliate Jurisdiction and go forward. Section 3 District Fees were added. Tournament policies were changed in board meetings through the years, so these policies have been combined and added in Section 7 and 8. These policies and procedures do not have to be voted on tonight because it is for next season. Please review and be ready for passing in June meeting. Send any changes to Geoff as soon as possible. There was much discussion on time frame for district tournament fees in Section 10. Forty-Five days was changed to 75 days in item 5 and 7 in Section 10.

District Tournament

The district tournament is March 12-15, 2020 in Arizona. The tournament format was discussed, and a poll of affiliate teams was taken. Every affiliate will be participating in at least one level of the tournament this year because New Mexico is sending a girls' team. The tournament fee was discussed, and it was suggested that it should be based on how many games they play and price of officials. There could be 3 different fees. Fee recommendations need to be sent to the host ASAP. Fees will be from \$1400 to \$2300 based on number of games and official rates. Kathleen Smith made a **MOTION** to approve the rates as presented by Tim Reckell (see below). Mark Serveas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. These fees must be accepted by Mike Mulhall first.

Girls 14U Tier II \$1,700	Youth 14U Tier I \$1,800
Girls 16U Tier II \$1,400	Youth 15U Tier I \$1,900
Girls 19U Tier II \$2,100	Youth 16U Tier I \$1,900
Girls 19U Tier I \$1,400	Youth 18U Tier I \$2,300

Player Development Camp

Mark Serveas reported that the camp will be the same as the last couple of years in Dallas. Allocations have not been determined yet. Camp date is May 8-10, 2020. Fee is \$295 for 15, 16, 17

Boys 14 camp is June 13-19, 2020 and the fee is \$725 per player. They have a coaching internship program to help coaches increase their level of coaching through camp attendance. They would like 10 interns on three teams. He will contact the affiliates to get names. Prefer Bantam or higher-level coach of a competitive team.

Girls camp is June 6-10, 2020 and the fee is still \$670. This will be the 6th year of the camp. Matt Cunningham will be one of the coaches again this year and they are working on getting other coaches signed up. The allocations have been determined for the affiliates. Please send name to Geoff of contact information.

District Director Elections

TC Lewi's and Mark Serveas' terms are up for election. Nominations are open until March 15th. Send nominations to Darla Thompson along with a letter from the nominee agreeing to the nomination and their biography. If there is more than one candidate, Darla sends out voting instructions.

There was no other business.

Kathleen Smith made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Lucas Reid seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day, Secretary/Treasurer