



Minnesota Hockey Officials Association
2024 Fall Meeting
Courtyard By Marriott, Mankato MN
September 14th, 2024

- Meeting called to order at 9:38 AM by Tod Plackner, MHOA President.
- Minutes recorded by Brian Thul, MHOA Secretary
- Roll Call was taken by Brian Thul

MHOA Board Members

President-Tod Plackner Present
North Vice President-Nick Biondich Absent
South Vice President-Mike Mannin Present
Secretary-Brian Thul Present
Treasurer-Kurt Hyster Present
District 1 Supervisor-Paul Marshall Present
District 2 Supervisor-Jason Sturm Absent
District 3 Supervisor-Matt Olsonoski Present
District 4 Supervisor-Scott Kuhl Present
District 5 Supervisor-Ryan Szymanski Present
District 6 Supervisor-Michael McCullough Present
District 8 Supervisor-Paul Moen Present
District 9 Supervisor-Ryan Swafford Absent / Mark Zallek Present
District 10 Supervisor-Mike Mannin Present
District 11 Supervisor-Anthony Podominick Present
District 12 Supervisor-Chris Kavanaugh Present
District 15 Supervisor-Mac Nelson Absent
District 16 Supervisor-Ron Laituri Present
WHAM Supervisor- Chelsea Ray Present
Adult Hockey Association Supervisor (AHA) - Unfilled
MHOA Past President-Scott Kuhl Present
USA Hockey RIC-Steve Tatro Present

MHOA Appointed Positions

MHOA Female Development Coordinator- Melissa Doyle Absent & Stefanie Soukup Present
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Evaluation Coordinator (South)-Unfilled
USA Hockey, MN District, Prospects District Development Coordinator- Skip Trumble
USA Hockey Evaluation Coordinator-Bruce Carlson Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (North)-Emil Makinen Present
MHOA Mentor Coordinator (South)-Ryan Swafford Absent
MHOA Seminar Coordinator-Mark Verplaetse Present
MHOA Camp Director-Dave Weisjahn Absent
MHOA Seminar Technical Advisor-Mark Verplaetse Present
Data Base Coordinator-Glen Toewe Absent
Game Report Coordinator-Ryan Swafford Absent
Webmaster-

Guests:

2024 MHOA Fall Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda,

- Motion to approve the agenda by Kavanaugh and seconded by Hyster. The agenda was approved by a voice vote.

2. Reports

Secretary-Brian Thul distributed the minutes from the Spring meeting via email earlier in the week for review, the group had no additions or changes. Chris Kavanaugh made a motion to approve the MHOA 2024 Spring Minutes and Anthony Podominick seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Evaluations Report: Bruce Carlson

No change since last fall. Bruce will send a Google Document out to any supervisors who need the form. This will allow for continuity within the state.

Treasurer-Kurt Hyster

Kurt shared the financial information with the group. MHOA stayed within budget for the year, which was important due to the dues collection mechanism. Leslie fund paid out over \$2,000 in reimbursement for educational opportunities. The scholarship fund is over \$10,000.

Kurt spoke about missing dues from USA Hockey Registration in the early part of summer.

The proposed budget is \$29,000 with room to increase revenue with increased registration.

Kavanaugh made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Marshall. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Mentorship Report - Eric Olson

Eric shared the form with the group to review.

There was discussion about what the definition of mentee. 1st, 2nd and 3rd year officials. Under 18 years of age. Eric can support supervisors with reports of officials who are involved with the mentoring program. Mentors should fill out the form for any contacts that they deem significant.

Eric needs an updated list of Mentor Coordinator. Supervisors should provide their Mentor Coordinator with their current Mentor Coordinator.

Supervisor Reports-

District One-Paul Marshall

We will begin skating in November and the district is meeting.

District Two-Jason Sturm

District Three-Matt Olsonoski

We are doing well. Retention numbers are good at this point. We are working with the district to tighten up verbiage regarding Game Sheet and Ice Times for exhibition games.

District Four-Scott Kuhl

District Five-Ryan Szymanski

2024 MHOA Fall Meeting Minutes

Our focus will be on our younger and mid-level officials. We need to increase their games in order for them to develop. We are able to conduct on-ice clinics during squirt and U10 games. This was a great way to develop on ice skills along with information in the stands.

District Six-Michael McCullough

Seminar season is just beginning. We are looking at our registration numbers to make sure we retain our officials. Currently we have 85 new officials. We are going to flip our shadow referee protocol, and the mentee will mimic the mentor official. We will focus on Q&A sessions on rules and the rule book.

District 8-Paul Moen

The Godfather of District 8 shared that we will be lowering the minimum age for officials and have added a position to oversee the officials during mite games. Our mentoring program is going well, and this will continue. We will be hosting two state tournaments. We lost some senior officials and those are big skates to fill. Our new level 1's receive a \$200 stipend if they work 20 games.

District 9-Ryan Swafford / Mark Zallek

We currently have 400ish officials in Arbiter. We will continue to promote the 3 official system to promote officiating development. Using it at the younger levels helps build confidence. There are some communities where numbers hinder this plan. We will continue our mentor program.

District 10-Mike Mannin

We hosted the DOS with 47 participants. The staff did a great job, and the participants had positive comments. We are promoting abbreviated on-ice, in-class, and Q&A. We have over 40 new officials. We will be using 3 officials for U15 games.

District 11-Anthony Podominick

First "Official" meeting as Supervisor

-Working closely with Nick and the NEHOA Board on how to mentor officials more. We have a decent gap in our pool from experienced to newer officials. We hope to have more engagement this season with our group in D11.

-District 11 is hosting seminars on the following dates:

Level 1- Sunday, October 13th- Time 9:00am- 3:30pm

Level 1- Sunday, November 10th- Time 9:00am-3:30pm

Level 2- Wednesday, October 16th- Time 6pm-9pm

Level 3-4: Wednesday, October 30th- Time 6pm-9pm

October 13th and October 16th are the only 2 currently open to register for.

-I am hoping to put together videos and training from local games to distribute to D11 officials, for educational purposes throughout the season.

District 12-Chris Kavanaugh

We are seeing an increase in new officials. Our schedulers are doing a great job using our new officials. The district is supporting our development program. Chris is working on finding a successor and believes he has a great candidate.

District 15-Mac Nelson

District 16-Ron Laituri

Seminars start this week! Thanks to Mark V. for all his help. Our goal is to increase Mentoring Program documentation.

WHAM-Chelsea Ray

We are adding a division, and leagues are expanding which will allow us to develop our officials in the three-official system. We have a new scheduler, Carlye Veer, and I know she will do a great job. We will continue to recruit officials to support our organization and develop.

AHA-Unfilled

North VP- Nick Biondich

South VP-Mike Mannin

New State Tournament pricing has been approved.

Off-season rates have been submitted. We are re-thinking this program. Cooperation from one coordinator puts a huge burden on the scheduler.

MHOA Scholarship golf tournament went well. We were 4 teams short but raised a record. \$11,043.00. The new revenue stream is hole sponsorships. This is where we need to concentrate on continuing growth. Mike shared who sponsored the holes.

Districts 6 and 16 will supply crews for the Great 8.

USA RIC- Steve Tatro

Steve shared several pieces of information with the board including his budget. He discussed seminar honorariums and shared clarification from USA Hockey regarding this issue. Steve shared there is a discussion about moving to online seminars and is very concerned about this change, especially for our level 1 officials.

Below are the camp participants from MN.

Northern Futures – Sault Ste. Marie, MI	3014940	William	Hardwick	whardwick27@gmail.com	Warroad	10/6/2005	18
High-Performance – Amherst, NY	2496881	Grant	Hendrich	grantreferee@gmail.com	Minneapolis	6/25/2001	23
Northern Futures – Sault Ste. Marie, MI	2973317	Evan	Kostohryz	evankosto05@gmail.com	Moorhead	11/18/2005	18
Northern Futures – Sault Ste. Marie, MI	2715989	Finnian	Mclaughlin	finnianjmclaughlin@gmail.com	Andover	1/6/2004	20
Western Futures – Colorado Springs, CO	1380010	Blake	Murphy	blakemurphy33@gmail.com	Detroit Lakes	12/7/1992	31
Women’s Futures Camp – Oxford, OH	3299807	Lainey	Olson	laineyolson33@gmail.com	Minnetonka	8/5/2005	19
Eastern Futures – Keene, NH	3282334	Daniel	Stumpf	danieljoseph.stumpf@gmail.com	Stillwater	7/30/2005	19
Western Futures – Colorado Springs, CO	2730075	Justin	Swenson	jswens1012@gmail.com	Buffalo	10/12/2003	20
Women’s High-Performance – Oxford, OH	2842552	Kaelyn	Szymanski	kszymanski1022@gmail.com	Sauk Rapids	10/1/1997	26
Northern Futures – Sault Ste. Marie, MI	2786337	Kyle	Weiss	kbweiss15@gmail.com	Brainerd	12/25/1998	25

USA Hockey’s Learning Platform will change and Registration will open April 1st.

President Report – Tod Plackner

MHOA Female Development Coordinator – Stef Soukop & Melissa Doyle

Melanie and I are in year one with role and our priority will be to established relationships with the supervisors to identify female officials who aspire of advancing in their officiating skills. Working with schedulers to provide development opportunities.

Matt Olsonoski asked if there would be an introductory letter. Stef shared they will be sending a monthly communication to all female officials. The first communication will be introducing themselves and sharing how they will support officials.

We are working with Krissy L. working on developing the role throughout the state. We are excited to promote female officiating throughout the state.

New Business:

- **Neck Guard Enforcement**
All officials must strictly enforce the mandated rule change regarding neck guards.
- **Fee Collection Update, Uncollected Dues and Logistics**

See Kurt's report.

- **Official Conduct**
MHOA was notified of a serious incident involving an official working in a MN Tier Game. The group discussed the seriousness of the situation. MHOA believes our officials must be held to the highest standards and this conduct will never be tolerated. The official swore at the benches and coaches during the game. MHOA will continue to pursue an appropriate resolution to this situation.
- **MHOA Service Award**
Do we need another nominating mechanism, webpage?
- **MHOA On-Ice Seminar Plan for Level 1**
Some districts are providing on-ice opportunities for level one officials now that USA Hockey has removed the requirement. Districts shared their current plan. The board believes this is an important step in the development process.
- **MHOA Scholarship Golf Tournament (Classic at Maddens)**
See Mike's Report!
The board publicly thanked Mike Mannin for his countless hours supporting the MHOA Scholarship program. This tournament is a huge success because of him.
- **State Tournament Assignments (Host Sites) (Room Assignments) (Fees)**
The finalized list will be coming from MN Hockey and Tod will communicate with the supervisors.
- **Goal Judges at State Tournament**
Tod believes that all state tournament games should have goal judges to ensure the best on-ice experience for the players.
- **Tier 1 Playoff Supervision (Plymouth)**
The playoffs are October 4th, 5th and 6th. We need more help with supervision of this tournament to spread the wealth.
- **Roving Evaluator Opportunity**
Mark and Mike will be supervising the Big Pumpkin Tournament. Mike is looking for another weekend for supervisors.
- **MN Wild Seminar**
There are 102 first year officials registered for the event. This is a great event, and Mark is looking forward to another seminar that hopefully propels our young officials forward.
- **Wild Spotlight**
We will continue to participate in this exciting program. Two games a month will highlight two MHOA Officials at the Wild game.
- **Wild Official Appreciation Night (Two Dates and Logistics)**
We need to provide two dates for MHOA Officials to attend a Wild Game at a discounted rate. The Minnesota Wild will provide \$5.00 a ticket to MHOA's Scholarship Fund.
- **Website**
Scott asked members to review the webpage and let him know if you need any updates or content added.

Old Business

- **Scholarship awardees invited to MN Spring Meeting**
Attendees will still be invited.
- **Scholarship Timeline**
- **Service Award Timeline**
Applications will be accepted until March 1st. Applicants will be notified by March 15th.
Brian update form on Webpage.
- **MHOA Development Camps**

2024 MHOA Camp Session 2 – Summary

2024 MHOA Fall Meeting Minutes

Instructors for this year's camp

Steve Tatro, Nick Biondich, Zach Carson, Hunter Mottinger, Andy Dokken and others guests on a daily basis.

12 campers in camp this year, first full camp in last few years.

Feedback from instructors

Good competition amongst the campers this year

All campers' efforts were good.

Instructors indicated that campers ranking at end of camp for final day game.

assignments were a difficult process.

All campers were given a final day game assignment – 6 worked ½ game each in the consolation game

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kuhl and seconded by Kavanaugh at 1:43 PM

Once approved these minutes become part of the official record for the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Thul

MHOA Secretary