

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2018
6:00 pm at the Helena Ice Arena**

People Present

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Judy Merickel – U8 Rep and Secretary

HAYHA Members Present:

Darryl James – Member of Discipline Committee
Adam Senechal – Squirt Coach and Member of Discipline Committee
Caitlin Senechal – Helena Ice Arena Pro Shop
Stan Senechal – Helena Ice Arena Manager
Bob Richards – Coach-in-Chief
Shawn Schroeder – Former Bantam Rep, Coach for many years

Board Members via speaker phone:

Ryan Lilletvedt – PeeWee Rep and Vice President
Robbie Whited – Bantam Rep

Board Members Absent:

Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Justin Steckelberg – U8 Rep

Call to Order at 6:12 pm

Minutes

Sarah moved and Lance seconded the passing of June's meeting minutes. Motion passes and Judy will post to the website.

Public Comment

None

Helena Ice Arena Update – Stan Senechal

Stan said the rink had to purchase a new compressor. They also poured a concrete pad outside. He is going to clean the floors once a week this year. He plans to start compressors by August

3rd and be skating by August 20th. Early ice is \$190 per hour. Oren said he would sell the rink if the buyer was the Helena Youth Hockey Association. The property tax bill is over \$30,000 per year. Stan will charge HAYHA the same ice rate as last year -- \$250 per hour and we will have the ice from 5:20 – 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday. He said house league games would be best on Fridays at 5:15 or 5:20 when the Bighorns are out of town. He is going to lease out the concessions to an outside party. He is also going to oversee the janitorial this year and hopes to make improvements.

Coach-in-Chief Update – Bob Richards

Bob sent an email to all last year's coaches, except for U8 coaches. He is finalizing the coaching application and would like to add the mission statement. Lance is going to put the coaching application on the website, so coaches can complete it online.

Tryouts

Bob suggested sharing the evaluator's ratings with parents and kids as a gauge for skill level at the beginning of the year. Adam would like to spend time with Bob to talk through what the tryout should look like on the ice – a plan that is best for the evaluators to see all aspects of the players' skills.

The board and guests also discussed the head coaches' role in determining who makes A or B teams. The policy states it is the evaluators decision to rank players in the top third, bottom third and then middle third. The middle third is known as "bubble players". Bubble players could go either way, A or B, and the evaluators depend on the head coaches to then decide about the bubble players based on what they have seen, player attitude, work ethic, etc.

The board discussed having two back to back hours of tryouts if the squirt numbers are over 30 kids. The coaches will need to split kids evenly as possible between those two hours, so the evaluators have half the A players during each of the hours.

High School – Sarah

Sarah reported the following numbers for high school – 26 total players if all come back.

HS Birth year 2000 – 1

HS Birth year 2001 – 4

HS Birth year 2002 – 6

HS Birth year 2003 – 15

HS Bantam birth year 2004 – 7 (this is listed because they would be eligible to tryout for a U16 team)

The board discussed options for creating a high school and U16 team, what tryouts would look like, whether there would be cross rostering, how that would affect fees. *After lengthy discussion Robbie moved HAYHA create a High School and U16 team, Judy seconded, motion passed.* Bob, Shawn, Sarah and Robbie will meet to hash out the specifics surrounding, fees,

travel, game numbers, practices, tryouts and more and will come back to the board in August with this recommendation.

House League – Judy and Bob

Jon Flynn has stepped forward to be the House League Coordinator. Kurt, Judy, Bob and Shawn will meet with him in early August to get things rolling. Craig Reinhardt is willing to be an assistant coach with the house league and his employer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, will offer a matching grant for his volunteer hours.

Warm Up Proposal – Caitlin Senechal

Caitlin Senechal presented an option for ordering warm-ups through the rink's pro-shop. They are Under Armor warm-ups and are \$27 cheaper per outfit than the Bauer ones from the past. And, there is no additional charge for players to get their name and number on the warm-ups if they order by the October deadline. Plus, players can try sizes on in the pro-shop before ordering to make sure they are getting the correct size. *Lance made a motion to allow Caitlin to handle the sales of warm-ups to HAYHA families and Sarah seconded. The board passed the motion.*

Treasurer Report – Sarah Garcia

The only expenditure has been the board liability insurance premium. Dustin, Sarah and Kurt are working on getting the signature card updated at the bank.

Disciplinary Committee and Bylaws

Mekell, Darryl and Adam presented the disciplinary recommendation document to the board and it was discussed page by page. A few changes will be made from tonight's discussions, and Kurt will email the full document to all board members for review. Kurt is going to check with John Bloomquist to see if he is willing to make necessary changes to the bylaws and review the proposed disciplinary document. He will see if he can do this either pro-bono or at a reduced rate.

Equipment Rental

The board decided equipment rental will remain in house for a variety of reasons – welcoming to new families, coaches and managers get to know kids during the equipment rental process, extra equipment is readily available when families forget things, and more. Dustin is getting three bids and Lance suggested they be presented as X, Y and Z, instead of the names of the local stores, so the board can make an unbiased decision on who to purchase additional gear from.

Scheduling and Jerseys

Kurt is going to check with Paula to see if she is willing to do scheduling again. She is willing to do jerseys again. Mekell reminded Judy that the U8 program needs size large practice jerseys. The house league will also need practice jerseys.

MAHA Report – Mekell

These were the main highlights from the MAHA meeting:

- TSL will remain same this season as last in all age divisions.
- Changing from Pointstreak to SportEngine this year. Will save significant amount of money. There will be training and additional info as season gets closer.
- Hockey Summit Oct 5 - 7 in Bozeman. Coaches training available.
- Discussed State Tournaments & MAHA grants. Helena will likely submit application for Mite Festival again.
- Discussed High School Hockey & numbers around state. Discussed 5 cities who will have enough for possibly two teams/discussed possible options.
- MAHA President indicated that all programs should review and work on disciplinary policies, with disciplinary steps etc. Should also review their handbooks. Indicated there have been increased incidents past few years and encouraged programs to take a look at all their policies.
- Discussed Helena's 12U House League Program & encouraged other programs to work towards this same goal.

Website

Lance had website training from Sport Engine and reports a lot of potential uses beyond what we are currently using.

Hockey Registration Fees

Judy suggested that because the ice fees are staying the same, we freeze the registration fees. *Lance moved and Mekell seconded to freeze the fees to be the same as last year. Motion passes.*

Credit Card Fees and Online Registration Payments

The outgoing treasurer, Dustin Ryser, suggested we stop charging extra on the website for credit card payments. It amounts to around \$4,000 per year (\$1.50 per transaction plus 3%). The board also discussed making it mandatory that everyone pay on-line to avoid such large account receivables. *Sarah moved and Mekell seconded that people can only pay on-line and HAYHA absorbs the credit card fees. Motion passes.*

Registration Deadline and Member Handbook

Registration deadline is tentatively set for either September 14th or 21st. The board will decide at the next meeting. Kurt suggested that the member handbook be re-drafted to merge with the disciplinary policy before the season starts.

Meeting adjourned 10:18pm.

The next meeting is tentatively set for August 1st. It will be a call-in meeting.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____