



**NED Minutes - April 25, 2025 - Manchester, NH
Presidents and Directors Meeting**

Attendees:

Directors: ~~Chris Washburn~~, Cheri Bonawitz, Richard Oliver, Sarah Fraser
Affiliate Presidents: Matt Roy (NH), John Cioffi (VT), Dawn Bryson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME),
Andrew Giuliano (RI)
NED Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin/Interim Director), Kim Gaines
(Secretary), Mike Federico (Treasurer), Matt Bain (Player Safety)
Guests: N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSION 4/25/25 - called to order at 2:25pm / adjourned 5:35pm
updates shared during general session

Regionals (Richard Oliver):

2024-25 went fairly smoothly. Discussion around eliminating Youth 12U T3, Youth14U T3 for 2025-26 season (or continue to offer). Ongoing conversations around appropriate competitiveness within each tier. Also consider having all tourneys as 6-team tourneys (CT 2, all others 1). Richard to work with Mike McCullough and Kim Gaines to add date deadlines and additional structure around the current process. Currently looking at Mar 13-15 for NED Regionals weekend.

*******NH makes a motion for all New England Regional tournaments to host a maximum of 6 teams - VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

Futures (Ray St. Pierre):

Kim Gaines (NED Admin) & Matt Roy (NH President & Host) did a fantastic job hosting the event with a stellar crew of volunteers. Players and families had a good time, well attended. Discussion around appointing a Futures Camp Administrator. Conversation around Rhode Island hosting for 2025-26 – looking at last two weekends of March 2026.

*******NH makes a motion for New England District to appoint a Futures Development Camp Administrator beginning in 2025-26 with a stipend of \$2,500/year - VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

Player Development - Girls (Cheri Bonawitz) & Boys (Sarah Fraser):

*Girls tryouts went incredibly well, just shy of 300 attendees, great facility (in MA) to host the event. Select 14s will find out if they made the NED team early May, the other ages will find out near the end of May.

- Need more input and support from Girls Directors from each state
- Visit the website for additional education (will be announced May 22)

*Boys event went very well, and efficient having everything in one location with the 3 age groups. The level of play at the 17 group was not as strong as the numbers really drop off at the oldest age group.

- Exciting initiatives upcoming for testing, new swag and excitement
- Website has all advancing players

*Consider a value proposition to the parents that may include education modules and increased communication.

Player Safety (Matt Bain):

Introduction and what's been observed this season. It was very concerning when there were 0 concussions reported this past season. Neck laceration requirements have good exposure and decent follow through.

Treasurer notes (Mike Federico):

Final 2024 financials will be shared – loss not as large as we thought it would be - (\$43k). Able to recoup some funds before finalizing and properly accruing multi-year purchases going forward. Majority of money will remain in the new money market account and transfer as needed to the checking account. Good financial state. Futures was incredibly successful and camp costs are still rolling in. EOY financials are being sent to accounting firm to file 990.

Ref-in-Chief Mtg (Barry Zalcman)

The goal is to remove the ref affiliate fee across all districts (NED has been reducing every year). This has been used by the NED RIC for the district assigning system (currently 3 states); hotel rooms for New England Regionals; other development opportunities. Other districts use it for miscellaneous expenses like background screenings. Affiliate Fee has historically covered approximately \$20k that NED RIC has been able to use to cover items listed above.

TOPIC – Currently 3 states (CT, VT & ME) are on Arbiter, and 2 states (NH & RI) are on Horizon. BZ would like to continue to support all the ref scheduling and would like to see everyone on the same platform. CT would like to move forward changing to Horizon, ME & VT need to bring back to their boards and group will have a plan by June meeting. Each affiliate will determine how their affiliate fee is paid and payment will go through NED.

TOPIC – 2025/26 will continue to support a ref affiliate fee within the NED, with the goal of having the fee sunset for the 2026/27.

TOPIC - RIC asking for \$5,000 to cover 2 ref camps that took place this past season
Northeast Camp – 10 attendees (of 24) from NED, discussion to follow

TOPIC – Revisit Futures as a ref development opportunity

New RIC in VT – Alex Bergeron (Mike Hickey has moved on). Registration numbers up 14% 2nd year in a row (second largest increase in the country). Review of rule changes for the upcoming year. New website coming soon for evaluator website, ready 8/1. Discussion around minor officials wearing armbands – pros/cons - don't think anyone has taken advantage of it in our district. Working to get more in person seminars for the lower level

*******NH makes a motion to pay the NA3HL \$2,500 to cover the NED's attendance at their development, training camps – ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

GRANT PACKET DEADLINES – May 15

*KG to resend template and instructions

FALL MEETING – Rhode Island – October 17-18

GENERAL SESSION 4/26/25 - called to order at 8:05am / adjourned 2pm (CT 1st - VT 2nd)

*President Reports

- ME (Mike Keaney): Numbers back up from prior to COVID, good season. Some board transition this upcoming season but a lot of great volunteers. Mike Keaney will be stepping down ahead of upcoming elections.
- NH (Matt Roy): Numbers good, season went fairly well; parents continue to be an issue. More teams at the higher levels with high numbers of match penalties. Successful end of season goalie camp
- VT (John Cioffi): Decent year, more discipline than prior years, executive board re-elected. Wants to be more transparent about player development. Hosting a leadership symposium May 4. A few new board members.
- RI (Andrew Giuliano): Good season, initiative to make sure 8U players are registering under USA Hockey and participating as they should with their organizations. Goalie clinic this summer.
- CT (Dawn Bryson): No real big issues, match penalties & parent behavior continue to be the biggest conversations and unraveling on the “girls” side. New board members added since elections. Girls T1 and T2 issues to work through.

*******VT makes a motion to accept the Fall 2024 minutes as written. – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

Youth Council (Richard Oliver):

- NPDJ under construction

Registrar (Mike McCullough)

- 1700+ approved rosters, appreciation to affiliate registrars
- Numbers sent to directors and presidents via email
- Tier 1 Moratorium and updated details/timelines to follow

Risk Manager (Kevin Fascetta)

- 170 COIs throughout the year (most at the beginning of the year)
- All tournament hosts should be requesting a COI once they are sanctioned
- 68 injuries reported with the majority related to shoulder injuries; no details on what was paid out
- Conversations with carriers at Congress about the potential for additional coverage
- Parents need to fill out accident forms prior to requesting additional insurance support
- Annual Policy runs 9/1-8/31

Coach-in-Chief (Larry Rocha)

- Appreciation to volunteers for seminar support throughout the season
- Temporary cards are now only issued at the national level, need to apply directly and no longer direct those inquiries to the district CICs
- Discussion around in person and virtual clinics
- District CIC has significantly less control over the logistics of maintaining a staff
- Coach Developer Academy (CDA) program while has benefits had some serious hurdles (scheduling, eligibility, in person)
- More conversations at the annual meetings to make sure we're not losing qualified contributors

Special Presentations:

- Matt Bain – Player Safety - stop the bleed
- Jason Guerriero – NED ADM – upcoming season, ideas, availability, benefits

Elections – directed by Kim Gaines

- Ray St. Pierre (District Administrator – 1 year) - ME / CT – Kim to cast one ballot
- Mike Federico (Treasurer – 3 years) - ME / CT – Kim to cast one ballot
- Chris Washburn (Director - 3 years) - RI / VT – Kim to cast one ballot

June 6, 2025 follow-up to spring meeting during Annual Congress in Denver

Tournaments (Richard Oliver)

Mar 6-8 with at large on the 9th is not going to work; Due to unique Nationals Schedule for one year NED will host non-national bound 13-15 in March and national bound in early November. Aware game counts will be tricky. Allocations have been added to Sharepoint matrix.

November exact dates tbd

Girls T2 – 14 – Rhode Island

Girls T2 - 16, 19 - Maine

Girls T1 – 14, 16, 19 - Connecticut

Youth T1 – 15O, 16U, 18U – New Hampshire

March 6-8

Youth T1 – 13O, 14U - Connecticut

March 13-15

Girls T2 – 12U - Vermont

Youth T2 – 12U – Rhode Island

Youth T3 – 12U - Vermont

Youth T3 – 14U – New Hampshire

Finance Review (Mike Federico)

Futures 2026 – group discussion

*******VT makes a motion to appoint Kim Gaines as Futures Camp Admin – ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) *******

Rhode Island will host – week Mar 27-29

Rosters in by Feb 1

Reminders:

*Need grant packets asap

*States should schedule ADM dates with Jason asap

*Fall Meeting – Oct 17 in Rhode Island / noon meeting