



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

January 6, 2025 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:04 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci: Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025. Shared a couple clips from Mass players on US National at World Juniors. There are 9 females from Mass Hockey on US National Team at World Juniors.

2. RULES PROPOSAL PROCESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Christopher Gong: Email with template and deadline for submission to be sent shortly.

3. ELECTION NOMINATION

Tim McMahon: The following positions will be elected this year: President, 3rd VP, 5th VP, Treasurer, 2 at-large positions on EBoard, 1 USA Hockey Director, and 3 USA Section Representatives: High School, Girls/Women's and Disabled. The deadline to submit names to the nomination committee is February 20, 2025. I'll share the list 1 week prior to the March meeting. Nominations from the floor will close at the March 3rd meeting. Elections will take place at the annual meeting.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Not present but will send financial statements later.

5. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the November 4th, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

6. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Jerimah Tabor: After several sessions, the committee has created a proposal for an 8 district plus club and girls/women Mass Hockey governing board. Kevin Kavanagh shared a map and data regarding 8 districts and how state tournament would work. Each district would have 5 directors with a 2-year term vs 1 year term today, possible staggered. This change would impact some current active BOD as well as vacancies in some districts. This plan will be further discussed over next several months to refine it and then would be voted on at the Annual meeting but could not go into effect until the 2026-27 season.



7. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Adult, Jen Dematos: Not present, no update.

Legal Counsel, Christine Mayer & Bob Joyce: Discussion about arbitration. Reviewing discipline guidelines. Safesport has updated billeting policy and locker room policy have been posted online. Should we consider a rule change to signal locker room monitor on the roster. Fiona Doull can send updated posters to programs regarding locker room policies.

Bob Joyce: USA Hockey is talking about fee increase structure by age group of about 12%. There is going to a hold on new Tier 1 programs until the process can be determined. Vertical integration process is the proper way to substitute from lower-level teams. 22 player rosters will be permitted. There are more than 300 rule proposals to be voted on at the winter meeting. Worked on an agreement with MassConn for players from Tolland County and Hartford County to meet the plurality rule for Mass players in Mass State Tournament.

Girls/Women's, Mark Lissner: Tournament packages came out for Nationals.

Membership, Kevin Kavanagh: Next call on Jan 14th. Kevin Erlenbach has not been replaced yet. Looking at have a national program services conference.

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: Switched 16U and 17U camp dates because it conflicted with NHL draft.

Youth Counsel, Tom McGrath: Sent rules package to BOD via email.

Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: Not present.

Risk Management, Steve Gear: Fill out the form completely if you need Insurance Certificate. Injuries are down at this point last year. USA Hockey will not pay claim if game is played by non-USA Hockey Rules i.e. High School Hockey Rules.

Safety, Nicole Siglin: Re-Introducing medical coverage for USA Hockey sanctioned events.

Officiating, Kevin Donovan: 2338 total officials registered - 2011 took a seminar and of those 2187 are complete. 4/1/25 registration is scheduled to open. At nationals looks like there's 129 officials interested, working on selecting about 40 and all 14U Tier I & II will use the 3 official system while all others will use the 4 official system.



Registrar, Peter Giuliano: Working on National Bound Tournaments. Coach temp cards will have to go to National CIC and cost \$150. There is a link online.

Coaching, Paul Moore: Not present.

Adaptive, Ray Leblanc: At the Canton Sportsplex last night showcased deaf discipline. Adaptive Day Feb 23rd at Lovell Rink showcasing all disciplines. If you want to help contact Ray.

High School, John Murray: Not Present.

ADM, Jim Maimone: No update.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: The Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame will be held at Seacrest the 1st weekend of May. Tournament time is approaching so we are finalizing scheduling. New partnerships with Dream Big Hockey and 200 By 85.

Jen Dematos: Not present.

9. REFEREE COORDINATOR REPORT

Gene Binda: Things are going well. Getting new officials into games.

10. VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH)

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: No update.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: No update.

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: No update.

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: Coaches not wearing helmets again, 30-day suspension.

Rules, Christopher Gong: See above.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: Joint meeting with ADM and Player Development to work on programs together. Added 15yo girls to regional camp.



Adaptive Hockey, Ray Leblanc: See above.

ADM, Jim Maimone: Jason ran a body checking clinic last week at Andover. There are several more scheduled. Looking for more volunteers to help.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee, Dan Esdale: First weekend of May at Seacrest. 25 nominations have been submitted. Fiona is working on packages for the committee.

Sportsmanship, Tom McGrath: Mid-February application will be available.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Long Range, Jeremiah Tabor: No Update.

Safety, Tom Smith/Nicole Siglin: See Above.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Player Movement, Mark Lissner: Approximately 35 requests this season, all but 2-3 approved.

DEI, Christopher Gong: Awarded grants to Grow the Game with DEI to Falmouth Youth Hockey for \$6K, Holyoke Hockey Club for \$6K, and Pass the Torch CCM Jerseys up to \$1K. Still under consideration is Belmont Youth Hockey application.

12. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. Jeff Hampton: playdowns underway.

Dist 2. Rob Lynch: playdowns underway.

Dist 3. David Young absent. Sent along: Playdowns are going as planned. Most divisions are in the semifinal stage or further. All should be completed by 2/1/25. Welcome to our new Director elected in at last District meeting Nick Valentino.

Dist 4. Paul Crowley: playdowns underway. Meeting next week.

Dist 5. Gary Gates: playdowns underway. Directors' elections in March.

Dist 6. Ryan Scott absent. Peter reported: no playdowns. Some teams entered.

Dist 7. DJ Briggs absent. Peter reported: no playdowns. Some teams entered.

Dist 8. Brian Paul absent. Peter reported: playdowns underway.

Dist 9. Felix Costanza: playdowns to be completed by Feb 10th.

Dist 10. James Donovan: playdowns to be completed by Feb 13th.

G/W. Mark Lissner: all good.



Club. Jean Ann Nigro: all good.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:52pm.