



**NED Minutes - October 14 & 15, 2022  
Presidents and Directors Session**

**Attendees:**

Directors: Chris Wasburn, Cheri Bonawitz, Tom Regan, Richard Oliver, Sara Fraser (at Large)  
Affiliate Presidents: Matt Roy (NH), John Cioffi (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI)  
Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Jake Strong (Treasurer), Barry Zalzman (RIC)  
Guests: Keith Barrett (VP Youth Council), Mike Hickey (VT RIC), Bob Greemore (VT Registrar), Ed Rodham (CT Girls Director), Kate Smith (RI Registrar)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION 10/14/22** - called to order at 12:55pm / adjourned 4:50pm (1st RI, 2nd CT)

**GENERAL SESSION 10/15/22** - called to order at 10:48am / adjourned 11:20am (1st RI, 2nd ME)

**\*President Reports**

- ME (Mike): 16U/18U season underway, referee issues are still the same specifically up north. More than ever - parents and related issues are problematic. The Annual Guide now includes language about ejected parents or players getting an automatic 30 day suspension.
- NH (Matt): volunteerism is beyond abysmal, looking at all types of options to resolve. SafeSport and game reporting issues already piling up.
- VT (John): split season underway with youth programs starting this upcoming weekend. The annual meeting the last weekend of August had low attendance but still felt beneficial. Sanctioning of games with Canada/Quebec changes is a current hot topic. Biggest change - first real regionalizing to date, (4) organizations became (1).

- RI (Andrew): 16U/18U season underway, lots of game reports already and parents out of control. Support is stagnant, harder and harder to get people engaged. SafeSport is quiet right now but internal player/coach code of conduct issues are significant. Dealing with a big “supplemental discipline” issue
- CT (Chuck): Similar to other states. The (bad) behavior starts with the coaches and attempting to hold them more accountable. Otherwise business as usual (not always happy with the usual). Neck protection - voted unanimously - wear it whether in or out of state, self policing.

\*Officiating Task Force Update - K. Barrett

Report out on the Task Force (names can be found on USA Hockey). Ongoing meetings that continue to be outstanding conversations drilling into different aspects of the issues. Discuss lots of approaches including “culture keeper” having someone in the stands. Attempting to better develop the coaches training to help their relationship. Looking at ADM model to see how the game/practice ratio has hurt the referee/staffing concerns. Lots of marketing options to come. The timeline is to wrap up the report for the January meeting.

\*Financial Report - J.Strong (see attachments)

All current with external audit and tax prep. Work to improve sanctioned tourney fees process with USA Hockey with the help of Mike McCullough. All camps were successful and profitable. Need to review block grants - CW proposal, considering the current cash balance, disburse back to the affiliates by doubling block grant.

**\*\*\*\*\*ME makes a motion to double the amount of the upcoming USA Hockey annual block grant that goes to the affiliates based on allocation determined by USA Hockey registration numbers to be paid out in April of 2023, and reported on the 2024 grant form. – RI seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***

\*Tournaments - R. Oliver

Dates and hosts have been determined, the committee will work through allocation numbers, confirming fees, preferred ref numbers, swag and more over the next couple of months. Dates and details will be updated to the NED matrix.

\*Boys Player Development & NED Tryouts - T. Regan

First player development call coming up later this month. Committee has been restructured. Would like to get a NED representative at each state’s tryout, need names by the end of December for camps.

\*Girls Player Development - C. Bonawitz

Small profit this past year but had an overall great experience. Discussion of curfew policy to suggest open doors at the lodgings and would like more guidance around cell phone use. April 14-17, 2023 in Northford. Hope to have a full female referee staff. Looking at a new site selection for Nationals Development Camp.

\*Futures - J. Strong

2023 to be hosted by Maine in Portland, March 24-26. Hotel block setup for NED/USA Hockey staff, working on participant blocks. Finalizing ice blocks. Blocking space for all on ice and off ice needs. Rosters delivered by Feb 15. Will figure out swag vendors (new Maine contact vs. Vermont's vendor). Refs would like to use it again as a development camp.

\*Youth Council - R. Oliver

Highlights - 22 applicants for Nationals hosting, including 5 new locations - hosts will be announced soon. Championship & Host guidebooks will be available soon. Women's leadership conference in Seattle, WA Nov 18-20, capping the event at 40 participants. Leadership will continue to discuss a 13O Championship for 2024. There is a new national disabled rep. Need to work more with locals on disabled development and organizing district opportunities.

\*Legal & Governance - T. Regan

The new appeals process is now in place. An affiliate appeal doesn't go to the executive committee, it now goes to a National appeals committee who will hear in 3-person panels. Post Congress, the billeting policy is still being discussed. Governance changes will be fully implemented after the next winter meeting. Took a little longer to finish assigning committee members but almost done.

\*Rules Committee - S. Fraser

There is a questionnaire being circulated at the President's meeting later this month.

\*Finance Committee - C. Washburn

Nothing to report, no meeting since Congress. TR adds, USA Hockey is more or less tracking on budget for last year, no financials released yet for this FY.

\*Tryout Task Force - K. Barrett

After listening to a plethora of complaints regarding timing and what happened when affiliates did/didn't abide by the rule, Youth Council put together a task force to meet every two weeks to discuss. They are making headway but right now focused on the rule that is describing T1 & T2

in the annual guide and are considering splitting them with different requirements. More information to be shared at the President's meeting later this month.

\*SafeSport Section - Ray St. Pierre

Website is experiencing some serious technology issues. Make sure everyone is checking their expirations. Need to figure out referees eligibility as it typically happens mid-season right now, encourage everyone next to do it at the beginning of the season.

\*Registrar Section - Bob Greemore (VT standing in for Mike Mc)

Tier 1 conversations about allocations and assignments. (2) teams from NH were grandfathered in and need to reevaluate remaining teams. Travel permits with Hockey Canada and Hockey Quebec. Going to stay the course and continue to honor travel permits for now.

\*Referees Section - Barry Zalcman

24% increase from last year, but still down 20% from 2018. Turnover rate for Level 1 is 50%, big push around communication and development - get personalized email from Barry, instituted an email newsletter, instituted a buddy program with senior officials. Continue to utilize district camps to continue referee development. Game reports are astronomical, a lot of fighting, specifically game misconducts in the last 5 minutes of the game. Asking the affiliates to instate an additional game penalty to this scenario, to be discussed.

\*Old Business

N/A

\*New Business

- Technology / T. Regan - 3 main issues - system has lots of gaps, platform is not on the cloud, integration with SafeSport. Conversation takes up 25% of every executive committee meeting. Hired a new head of IT but will take time to make changes
- Spring Meeting / R. St. Pierre - travel to RI - May 5&6, 2023
- Electronic Game Sheets / C. Wilkerson - discuss the merits of this tool

**\*\*\*\*\*ME makes a motion for Ray St. Pierre to fulfill Tom Regan's vacant directorship position and finish out the term – CT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***