

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING  
 MINUTES  
 JUNE 7, 2018  
 Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO

In attendance:

Lewis, TC	District	Director
	District	Director
Servaes, Mark	TX	Vice President
	District	Director
Pashkowski, Geoff	AZ	Director at Large
Smith, Kathleen	District	Director
Day, Jill	District	Secretary/Treasurer
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Thompson, Darla	District	Registrar
Reinhard, Ken	District	Referee-in-Chief
Corona, Alfredo	District	Disabled Rep
	District	High School Section
Reckell, Tim	AZ	President
Rogers, Jim	AZ	Treasurer
Jerome, Donnalee	AZ	Registrar
Haley, Herb	AZ	Safe Sport
Rogers, Justin	AZ	CEP
Gibson, Larry	AZ	CEP
Koshiol, Sherri	AZ	Secretary
Kanai, Randy	CO	President
Craven, Anda	CO	Registrar
Heinrich, John B	ID	President
Barnes, Kevin	ID	Vice President
RifelJ, John	ID	Member Development
Wenner, Rick	NM	President
Firman, Terrence	NM	Safe Sport
Hall, Reggie	TX	President
Graves, Bettepat	TX	Registrar
Radke, Derrick	UT	President
Urban, Bruce	USA Hockey	Director at Large
West, Emily	USA Hockey	ADM Manager
Bonnett, Joe	USA Hockey	ADM Manager
DePauw, Natalia	USA Hockey	Member Services
Gibson, Andy	USA Hockey	Member Development

Absent: None

TC Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 am. Introductions were made. There was a quorum to conduct business.

**Minutes**

Geoff Pashkowski made a **MOTION** to approve minutes of the January 11, 2018 meeting in Orlando, FL as written. Mark Servaes seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention from John Heinrich who hadn't had time to review the minutes.

### **District Director Terms**

Geoff Pashkowski was reelected as a District Director. Kathleen Smith's District Director term is up next year.

### **USA Hockey Personnel**

Dr. Alan Ashare joined the meeting to remind us to keep pushing the Heads Up, Don't Duck program and reach for a no injury season. There are glass decals that can be put on the doors and boards at the rinks, so players see it as they enter the ice. There are many resources on website. Jamie Campbell and Steve Laing of the Pacific district, who received the Excellence in Safety Awards this year, are a great source for what is working in the management of concussions.

Joe Bonnett reported that the ADM program is progressing very well.

Natalie DePauw says she is available for any help needed from Member Services.

Andy Gibson with member development reported that the NHL Learn to Play is a growing market. Try hockey for free will be November 10, 2018. We are in the third year of Club Excellence. The Hockey Director Track four-day session is scheduled September 6-9, 2018 in Las Vegas for the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Districts.

### **Affiliate and District Reports**

Texas Reggie Hall reported that the number of tier organizations have been reduced from two to one with a rigorous application process. Hopefully, the program will work its way back to two organizations in the future. They have modified the Tier II state tournament format. This year, the second adult state tournament grew from 8 to 16 teams. The affiliate fee for adults was eliminated to try to increase the number of adult players. Mite Jamborees have been a problem with all Mite programs being run by rinks and not travel associations. New policy does not allow mite teams to travel outside the affiliate and have limited the number of jamborees that can be attended. Reggie said it was not pre-determined ahead of time of who was going from tier one to tier two.

Colorado Randy Kanai noted that Colorado struggle with the adult leagues and asked for input from all of the affiliates. Most affiliates are 50/50 in USA Hockey vs non-USA Hockey registered teams. The NHL learn to play program is making progress. Retention rates are high. The Evolution double rink and association is closing. High School and disabled programs are good and growing. Avalanche received a large grant from the NHL and will be pushing the growth of youth hockey.

Idaho John Heinrich reported that their Junior team is disbanding. They are working with the Coeur d'Alene Association to bring the Tier 1 team under USA Hockey instead of Canada. Idaho would like to find a way to benefit from the grants given in the NHL.

Arizona Tim Reckell said they do have Mite travel and it is hard to get them to stop traveling! They held a unique Jamboree with the help of the Coyotes. (It was noted that these kind of good ideas and successes should be sent to the youth public relations representative at USA Hockey). Arizona has passed a state law requiring high school opioid education and the Arizona hockey board are working on a presentation for use by high school hockey.

Utah Derrick Radke, newly elected President, thanked Kathleen Smith for her many years of service and continued help on the board. Utah structures the number of Tier teams based on a percentage of Utah's USA Hockey player count. There is an application process. The board has created a pyramid to show how to grow the youth base in Utah Hockey. Adult league is growing rapidly and has received financial support from the state board. Disabled hockey is starting to grow.

New Mexico Rick Wenner, newly elected President, says that disabled and youth are growing, and the adult program is strong. A New Mexico association had the third highest number of participants in USA Hockey during the Try Hockey for Free weekend. The biggest challenge is to get the associations within the affiliate to work together instead of individually.

Referee-in-Chief Ken Reinhard reported that 110 referee clinics were held during the season. There was a seven percent increase in completed registrations over last year. The biggest challenge is late sign ups and missing the seminar. Level 1 is still the biggest growing group and highest percentage of incomplete registrations. Each higher level has a lesser number of incompletes. There was a discussion of the hardships that would be created if the officials were required to meet the Safe Sport locker room requirements. It could decimate the program of under 18 officials.

Coach-in-Chief Mike Lehto has not been replaced yet. Many people that have been asked to take the position have declined. If you have any recommendations, please send names to the district directors immediately. There are currently Level 4 coaching clinics scheduled June 22-23 in Dallas during the NHL draft, Aug 11-12 in Colorado Springs also with instructor training, Sep 8-9 in Salt Lake City, and one proposed in Spokane WA mid Sept.

### **Hot Topics**

TC Lewis would appreciate any input on the proposed legislative changes. Council elections are also taking place.

Geoff Pashkowski has a concern of the girls' issue to allow 12U to play up and would appreciate input. There is also a proposal to allow the district tournament entrance fee to be determined by the host. This could eliminate the concern of spectators of gate fee charged and 4-man vs 3-man officials at national tournaments. The tournament entrance fee would increase to about \$1,400 if both of those items were covered in the fee. Youth Amendment #3 proposal is trying to clarify that a player only plays for one team playing for a national tier tournament spot. These and many other proposals will be voted on during the Board of Directors meeting at the end of congress.

Geoff Pashkowski made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:00 am. Kathleen Smith second the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting will reconvene at 12:30 pm.

TC Lewis reconvened the meeting at 12:35 pm. A quorum was present to conduct business. (Randy Kanai was not in the afternoon session.)

### **Memo of Understanding (MOU)**

Kris Knauss, Pacific District Director, started a discussion of the creation a memo of understanding between the Pacific, Rocky Mountain, and Northern Plains Districts regarding the multi-district camps. Percentages of participation could be adjusted each year based on prior year registrations. The Pacific District has vetted the MOU and now the RMD needs to review it and make any suggestions.

### **District Reports Continued**

Registrar Darla Thompson that the following were approved this season in the Rocky Mountain District; 1,758 rosters, 237 transfers of foreign-born youth, and 173 tournament sanctions. She said that the Safe Sport platform has changed. Now there are three modules to go through before a certificate is issued. She attended registrar meetings in Arizona, Texas, and Oklahoma and will be in Utah in August. Disabled rosters are processed through the national office and not by the affiliate registrars.

Disabled Alfredo Corona reported that Colorado is growing the program in all types of disabled hockey. Arizona, New Mexico and Idaho need disabled reps assigned. The disabled program in Arizona is not USA Hockey registered. He is working towards getting registered under USA Hockey.

Geoff Pashkowski noted that if a guide book change passes it will eliminate multi over time periods now just one full period and then a shootout. He attended the Girls Tier 2 National in Buffalo, NY, and the Girls Tier 1 and women in Anaheim, CA.

Kathleen Smith reported that the legal counsel has a proposal to allow an affiliate to charge up to \$250 for an appeal if it passes. The affiliate must update bylaws and P&P if the affiliate is going to charge the fee. There is also a proposal revising the conflict of interest policy. Trans policy is still in committee.

Mark Serveas says the nominating committee has not been active. He is excited about the NHL draft in Dallas this month.

TC Lewis still participates on the national tournament committee, still doing national camp.

### **District Tournament**

District Tournament used two rink locations to help the schedule. There was no push back on new policy for selecting ad hoc teams. There is still discussion on not giving every affiliate a spot in the tournament and only allowing competitive teams. Utah doesn't want to make the determination that their tier 1 team would not be allowed to participate, wanting it to be a district decision. The district could use a My Hockey Ranking to determine participants. Texas feels that the affiliate should make the determination and not the district for fear of legal consequences. The district tournament will continue as is for at least another year. Possibility of new higher tournament entrance fees might weed teams out anyway.

The 2019 District Tournament is March 14-17 and the National Tournament is April 3-8.

Mark Serveas took a poll of what teams there could be for the 2019 tournaments. There was also a discussion of who would be submitting request to host the tournaments.

### **Financial and budgeting**

Jill Day, Treasurer reviewed the handouts. Last year expenses and balance sheet were reviewed with discussion of the income and legal reserve fund. The proposed budget was reviewed, and the following changes were made. The District Web Master travel to the Annual Congress will be reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000. The individual second place medals will be eliminated to keep the budget the same. Tournament travel budget will remain the same and tournament hosts will be asked to cover the district directors' hotel rooms. TC made a **MOTION** to approve the budget as amended and to allocate the Affiliate Playoff Travel budget of \$2,000 to the Girls' Showcase Team if it is not used for the Playoff. Geoff Pashkowski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A revised budget will be

sent out. TC Lewis requested that a bank statement matching the balance sheet be included with the financial reports.

**Next Meeting**

A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm CDT. Tim Reckell will send out the meeting request. The four district directors will come up with an agenda and then request affiliate input.

**Player Development Camps**

The boys' player development camp in Dallas was the smoothest ever. No complaints were received. The addition of the first day morning practice with pro players was great. There is discussion of moving goalies from team to team to give them more exposure in game action. The boys' 14 camp was also very smooth. Always looking at ways to improve. Looking at increasing the strength conditioning. Girls' camp starts this Saturday afternoon. There are 291 girls 33 coaches 14 team leaders, and a few staff this year. The largest camp yet. All staff have been background checked and safe sport certified.

Officials working the camp are also being trained. It works to keep the volunteer base in place for more than 2 years at a time. No one heard any complaints in their affiliates. Tim Reckell made a **MOTION** to keep the district camp in Dallas for two more years. Kathleen Smith seconded the motion and it passed with one negative vote.

Kathleen Smith made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 3:00 pm. Mark Serveas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jill Day, Secretary/Treasurer