



MAHOCKEY.ORG

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#MASSPROUD

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

BOARD MINUTES

March 3, 2025 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at the Sheraton Needham Boston.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:05 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci: Steve is not going to be running for reelection.

USA Hockey has placed a hold on Tier 1 teams. Mass Hockey will not be issuing any new tier 1 codes.

Redistricting: Request for any further comments. KPW is questioning how they can have teams travel to the Cape in the proposed new district. Braintree is nervous about traveling through Boston to get to a playdown game.

Steve discussed the amount of financial reserves Mass Hockey has saved. He would like to spend some of the reserves down and increase the amount of money that Mass Hockey sends back to programs that are thinking out of the box and to support try hockey for free. There is not going to be a fee increase this year. One option could also be to put money in the USA Hockey foundation to help those who need financial help to participate.

Guest Speaker: Molly Hynes (molly.hynes@sportsengine.com), East Coast Account Manager, from Sports Engine. They acknowledge some of the problems that programs have experienced with their platform. They have made adjustments to the staff and responsibilities of the Account Managers. Every program should have an account manager and should be receiving emails from the assigned Account Manager. Here to say anything that is bad, bring it to them so that they can consider making changes. They provide free websites for the programs. The Mass Hockey website is an example of their premium template. They are implementing some changes to the financials tools of the platform relating to a program's registration process, providing more flexibility. A beta platform will be released soon. Now each guardian / parent will have access to the player's profile. Pro tip: Sports Engine account can be accessed from a mobile device in the web (not through a mobile app).

Mass Hockey has been using Sports Engine for at least 13-14 years.



2. RULES PROPOSALS

Christopher Gong: Have not received many rules proposals (maybe 4 total). If you have any, get them in.

3. ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Jeff Brown: Announced the nominations and conducted nominations from the floor (three requests for nominations from the floor for each position):

- President - Jeremiah Tabor (2 year)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- 3rd - Steve Rizzo (2 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- 5th - Christopher Gong (2 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Treasurer - Chris Holden (2 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Director at Large - Frank Hart (1 year each) (2nd Term), Kristin Balboni
 - No nominations from the floor.
- USAH Director 2028 - Bob Joyce (3 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- HS Section - John Murray (3 year) (Incumbent)
 - Mike Bonish nominated from the floor, with a second.
- Girls/Women's - Mark Lissner (3 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Disabled - Ray Leblanc (3 year) (Incumbent)
 - No nominations from the floor.

All nominees are members in good standing as outlined in our bylaws. Elections will take place at the annual meeting.

4. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Discussed some of the details of the year-to-date financials that were sent to the board members (attached). SOME HIGHLIGHTS

The license plate income is down.

Subsidies have about thirty different programs that are participating this year.

5. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the February 4th, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.



6. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Jerimah Tabor: Kevin Kavanagh requested additional comments from anyone relating to the proposed redistricting.

7. USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Adult, Jen Dematos: N/A

Legal Counsel, Christine Mayer & Bob Joyce:

Christine Mayer:

SafeSport: They are still trying to reach out to people to explain how valuable SafeSport is. The SafeSport website uscenterforsafesport.org has a great deal of resources that can be utilized by our members. There is an on-line database for each sport that members can access. Let the districts, parents and players know about this great resource.

Bob Joyce:

Nothing from legal. Discussed the large numbers of complaints made to SafeSport that are not really SafeSport issues and delays in those complaints filtering through SafeSport at the national level.

Discussion about the types of issues that should go directly to SafeSport and those that should be filtered through the programs.

Girls/Women's, Mark Lissner:

Final girls' tournament this coming weekend.

At large selection call will be either 3/17 or 3/18. Expecting a couple of teams to get at-large bids.

Membership, Kevin Kavanagh: Nothing to report.

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: Covered a Youth Council call for Tom McGrath. Discussed a change in site for the girls.

A lot of discussions regarding the Tier 1 issues.

Discussed staffing the player development camps and creating consistency.

Cam Earl has completed 12 goalie clinics for the year. Cam is working with Ray Leblanc to set up an adaptive goalie clinic.



Youth Counsel, Tom McGrath: See Steve Rizzo's report above.

Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: See Steve Rizzo's report.

Risk Management, Steve Gear: All quiet.

Safety, Nicole Siglin: Neck laceration protection proposal passed. Starting in 2026-2027 the neck protection is going to be required to be HECC certified (same as helmets) starting in the 2026-2027 season).

The medical waiver process is open and ends 4/30/25.

Officiating, Kevin Donovan: The new learning platform is under construction. The registration platform is scheduled to be open 4/15/25. Want to start seminar beginning in April and through the summer.

Registrar, Peter Giuliano: Nothing with registrars. The portal is still awful.

Coaching, Paul Moore: Report given by Kevin Kavanaugh. Temp cards are no longer available.

Adaptive, Ray Leblanc (not present): Adaptive Day Feb 23rd at Lovell Rink showcasing all disciplines.

Additional information provided by Bob Joyce. Discussed adaptive programs that have taken place. Mass Adaptive is going to be running the national blind classic in November in Wellesley.

Bob Joyce, USA Hockey Executive Board: Report given of items the e-Board has been discussing, including the transgender ban. Mass Adaptive is working on Hosting the Blind Classic in November, 2025. Volunteers will be needed.

There was an individual in a program who was charged with a crime involving children who advertised that they worked in partnership with Mass Hockey. A cease and desist letter was sent and the ad was taken down.

High School, John Murray: High school tournament is at the end of March in Irvine, California. Two girls' teams and one boys' team are participating.



ADM, Jim Maimone: No update. Discussed trying to get a collaboration session going.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Hiring process under way to replace Jen Dematos. One offer has been sent out and we are awaiting a response.

Tournament season is underway. Thank you to those who helped at the tournaments held so far. Three more weeks of tournaments to come.

Hopefully the new 8 team district format will increase participation.

Jen Dematos: Not present.

Fiona Doull: Five inductees for the Mass Hockey Hall of Fame:

Christine Mayer;

Bill O'Neil;

Mike Grier, Holliston;

Duke Walsh, Cambridge; and

Tony Marmo, Legend.

9. REFEREE COORDINATOR REPORT

Gene Binda: Report given by Kevin Donovan: Tournaments are scheduled. Evaluation tool is in progress.

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

Jeff Brown, 1st VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: Nothing new to report that was not already discussed.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: No update.

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: No update.

Christine Mayer, 2nd VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: See 5th VP report.

Rules, Christopher Gong: See above.

Steve Rizzio, 3rd VP, Operations

Player Development, Steve Rizzo:



Adaptive Hockey, Ray Leblanc: See above.

ADM, Jim Maimone: Discussed preparations for next year. Thank you to the programs that have participated in the body contact programs this year.

Tom McGrath, 4th VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee, Dan Esdale: See above.

Sportsmanship, Tom McGrath: Sportsmanship Scholarship applications are due by April 3, 2025.

Christopher Gong, 5th VP, Planning

Discipline is still very busy. 14U and younger two game suspension for fighting. Three games for Midgets. Those rules apply to games conducted out of state.

Lots of match penalties. Five complaints of racial abuse have been received.

Long Range, Jeremiah Tabor: See report provided by Kevin Kavanaugh above.

Safety, Tom Smith/Nicole Siglin: See Above.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Player Movement, Mark Lissner: Twenty-six waivers processed. Twenty-three approved and three denied (16 girls / 10 youth)

DEI, Christopher Gong: Money paid out to 2 programs bringing in non-traditional players.

12. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

Dist 1. Jeff Hampton: all good

Dist 2. Rob Lynch absent: Reported they are working on their elections.

Dist 3. Rocky Morrison: Trying to recruit candidates.

Dist 4. Paul Crowley: March 12, 2025 meeting and elections.

Dist 5. Gary Gates absent: Peter reported first election in 2 years to be held 3/9.

Dist 6. Ryan Scott absent. Peter reported: All quiet.

Dist 7. DJ Briggs absent. Peter reported:

Dist 8. Brian Paul absent. Peter reported: Elections upcoming.

Dist 9. Felix Costanza: Elections upcoming.

Dist 10. James Donovan: Peter reported: Nothing to report.



G/W. Mark Lissner: Five directors elected and returning.
Club. Jean Ann Nigro: All quiet. Ready to complete elections.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:20 pm.