

Call to order: Monday, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Michele Gifford, Amanda Rittel, Erin Roberts, Beth Stewart, Belinda Fortin, Jani Byers, Sabrina Pfeifer, Sean O'Reilly

Absent: Matt Crowley, George Marko, Jeff Cline, Chris Jones

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Jani moved to approve, Beth seconded motion. Motion carried

Ice Center Programming and Facility Update:

Parts ordered for one Zamboni. Another net installed from Hockeyville proceeds.

Olympic Ice will be down for approximately 1 month (July)

Genesis last day operating in Ice Center is April 26.

Grow the Game:

59 kids signed up for Little Thunder, 4 currently in WYHA

In 2021-22 (29) players transferred from Little Thunder to WYHA

House League:

No Update

Communication Notes:

No Update

Apparel:

Discussion of online store for apparel. Will work with rink to determine strategy for tracking WYHA apparel.

Dean of Coaches:

Feedback from coaches on 2021-22 season

*In general, good season with no major issues.

*Need better communication and focus on house players. Discussed in previous board meeting that adding a house committee will help.

*In particular, getting house rosters more accurate and checked will help to ensure all families are on sports engine for communication purposes.

*HS house having additional JV kids double roster or drop in will help develop both JV and house. Food for thought.

*HS house getting them a few games during the year will help motivate them. House committee action.

*Having some players practice 'up' at U10/12/14 after Christmas helps development.

*Goalie development set up separate roster for better communication.

*Keep but re-think the house development hour. Which ages to include, how to split the ice time, etc.

Tryouts/Coaches

*Propose tryouts Aug 2, 4, 8, and 10. 2 hours per team.

*Call for travel coaches in mid-May with deadline of having in place/approve at June meeting

*New Dean of Coaches approve at June meeting

Summer Development

*Riley W camp tentatively Jul 24-29.

*Goalie camp Jun 17-19.

*Ryan Maclean camp TBD.

*Wed afternoon development classes (8 wks) Jun/Jul put on by WIC.

*Thu evening drop in/development for Junior/HS Varsity in summer

Marketing / Fundraising:

Need to make decision on Shop with Script, continue and transition to new administrator or close-out

Registrar:

No Update

Travel Coordinator:

No Update

Tournament:

No Update

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Try-Outs
 - Aug 2, 4, 8, and 10
 - Each age group will have 2 hours each
- MWAHA sent letter outlining rules for playing teams that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey.
 - No MWAHA teams will be allowed to play games with any teams that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey
 - Failure to comply will result in fines and possible suspension
 - Letter attached to minutes
- MWAHA League Meeting – June 25, 2022 – Des Moines, IA
 - Michele will attend to represent WYHA

Executive Session

Treasurer:

No Update

SafeSport:

No Update

Next Meeting Agenda:

Dean of Coaches nominees

Adjourn: Amanda moved to adjourn, Erin seconded motion. Motion carried



TO: Association Presidents and MWAHA Board of Directors

28 March 2022

FROM: Shawn Spencer

RE: AAU and USA Hockey

As the season winds down, I find it necessary to issue a formal notice to all board members regarding the rise of AAU hockey and the disruption that is being caused throughout the affiliate. I felt compelled based on multiple instances of affiliate membership being placed at risk, often without their knowledge or consent, over the course of the 2021-2022 season.

In June 2021, I advised the board of directors that affiliate teams playing games against AAU teams were voiding their insurance through USA Hockey, given the games were unsanctioned. Beyond that, most often, these teams are rogue factions that refuse to follow the rules of sanctioned association as well as USA Hockey. This season, no less than 4 associations allowed their teams to play against AAU teams, thus putting associations and teams that respected the policy at a disadvantage.

As a result, I find it necessary that in the future, affiliate teams that play under the association banner found to be playing an AAU team, will be considered non-compliant and fined accordingly, with possible sanctions and suspensions. I am not an advocate of imposing heavy fines that make the cost of hockey even higher for membership. However, my reminder at the beginning of the season did not have the desired effect. Although no one intentionally sets out to violate policy, claiming a lack of knowledge or understanding is no defense and we must all be vigilant to protect our membership.

For those that remained compliant and did not allow AAU teams to circumvent the governance of USA Hockey and MWAHA, thank you. I understand it can be difficult to monitor numerous teams. For those that made the mistake, please ensure your association has controls in place to avoid it in the future. For all, thank you for another good season of youth hockey for MWAHA.

Respectfully,

Shawn Spencer, President MWAHA

Cc: Executive Council