



**Minnesota Hockey District 3
Monthly Board Meeting – Minutes
Plymouth Ice Center
Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

x	Nicole Brodersen	District Director		Association Reps
x	Mark Brandt	President/Scheduling	x	Mike Melsha ACYHA
x	Shelly Johnson	Administrator	x	Kristi Duis Delano Area
	Aric Stienessen	Treasurer	x	Reid Paul Hopkins
x	Cheryl Myers	Social Media/Comm.	x	Bill Robeck Mpls & Hockey Operations
	Shelly Slattery	Registrar	x	Brad Butler Mound Westonka
x	Neil Olson	BHRA President		Tim Donelon North Metro
x	Matt Olsonoski	BHRA Supervisor		Kelly Greene Orono
x	Mike Anderson	BHRA Scheduler	x	Steve Fischer OMG
x	Chad Nicholls	Tourney Coord.	x	Paul Steenerson OMG
x	Kendra Verbeten	HP/Tier 1	x	Todd Dvorak St Louis Park
	Josh Hicks	Coach-in-Chief	x	Nicholas Cook Wayzata
	Ron Warren	Griev. Comm. Chair		
	Rob Roy	Girls Coordinator		Guests/Alternates Present:
x	Diane Margenau	Membership Devel.		Michelle Jirik - SLP tourney coord.
	Greg Gibson	Metro League		Catie Boyum – SLP president
	Todd Larson	Metro League		Bob Larson-Hopkins
				Kitty Marinoc -new North Metro rep
				Danny Heinzman -North Metro

- **Call to order TIME:** 7:08
Went around and did introductions. Number of new people present.
 - February Minutes: Motion to approve: Kristi Seconded: Steve
Minutes approved
- 1. District 3 Director Report-** *Thank you to all for all the hard work during district playoffs. Pass on a thank you to all the volunteers within your associations as well. Playoffs are a big undertaking. Thank you to the officiating crew. We have a very strong officiating crew. We have a total of 15 teams (including 4 Jr Gold) moving on to state tournaments.
- *The Association Leader Conference registration is now open. The cost is \$30 (which is refundable). The conference is April 25 in St Louis Park. Encouraging board members and reps from associations to attend, especially with it being in our district. There will be breakout sessions and lunch. More info is on the MN Hockey website.
- *Looking to next season-
- Background screening will be \$30. Associations should build cost into registration fees. Consider utilizing coaches more as locker room monitors to reduce costs of screening. Some associations already do this. Wayzata

has been doing this and it has reduced safe sport issues and gives coaches better control with the players. Wayzata enforces as a requirement.

*Several levels during playoffs have multiple brackets. When two brackets are needed, we wait until season plays out to see how to have the most competitive brackets. This year, tried to put associations with multiple teams at a level in different brackets so not playing each other. Cheryl added that the default is every other team in the standings and alternate the brackets. In the past have done pool play when had 12 teams. We should be thinking about how we use the team declarations and competition committee decisions to make sure teams are properly placed. This is an open conversation and there is no definitive or perfect answer.

2. **District 3 Administrator Report-** Moving on to organizing the annual banquet. Still need RSVPs and for folks to indicate meal choice as directed in the invite so I can keep track of choices. Starting calendar for next year- booked the monthly meeting space at PIC. Email sent to BP for space/ice on behalf of Neil for officials' meetings.

3. **District 3 President Report-** *Started to meet with different groups to start working on the 2020-21 season. Will be scheduling a meeting with the ice schedulers in the next few weeks to start working the scheduling process next year to make it go even smoother. It is important that your association has an ice scheduler that can attend meetings when we have them or send somebody else from the association to take notes on different items. *One of the issues that we ran into at the 12U B girls league this year was that D6 has 13 minute periods and D3 has 12 minute periods. as we plan for next year, we need to come up with a solution for this so the it is the same no matter which district the games is being played. 12A had six teams and we kept it a D3 league. Could we look at 12 minute games for Peewees and 13 for 12girls? Hour clock is not usually a problem in girls' games. How do people feel about different times for boys and girls? We will continue to work with D6 for 15girls and AA leagues. Nicole added that this makes team declarations that much more important as we make decisions about what to do.
*We will likely do an orientation for new reps later this summer. D3 reps should be the communication person between D3 and your association. It would be a good idea to bring minutes from D3 board meetings to your association board meetings and review important points and dates.
*Met with the referees last night. We will be working on continuing to do a better job of scheduling back to back games. There will likely be about three ice scheduler meetings before next season.
*Still need suggestions for a replacement for D3 treasurer.

4. **District 3 Treasurer Report-**

5. D3 Associates Reports –

- Supervisor of Officials: BHRA would like the associations to consider the following changes to game officials. - BB1 games will now be officiated with only 2 officials. This would free up more refs. This level was changed to 3 officials many years ago when the level of hockey was better and it was a good training ground for newer officials at the 3 man level. Now the district has the BA which can be used for official development. Probably more importantly this will also free up officials to work other games during on high use times and weekends. -BAA games we would like the District to consider using the 4 official system. This level is the highest and best hockey the district has to offer, why not give it the best officiating system we have to offer. BHRA would like District 3 and High School Hockey League to consider providing an administrator or security for all Jr Gold and 16u games for fan control. All off-ice activities can't be police by the on-ice officials. Some type of solution has to be found. We will also discuss with the High School Hockey League representatives.

Mike A indicated they will be reviewing the fee structure in May. Likely looking at a 6-10% increase in fees. Will be adding a tourney meeting in late April as well. Paul asked what is driving the increase. Mike said it is a supply and demand issue. We are losing officials. Neil offered that we are also competing with high school games that pay refs a lot more. Last year there was no increase. Mike also added that there was a seven year period without increases (2008). Paul asked how D3 compares to other districts. Mike said statewide it is an issue and Neil shared that a poll indicated refs leave because don't want to deal with the abuse from fans-it isn't worth it. There are other factors too, but that is number one. Summer pay per game is a lot more as well.

Bill asked what are the changes for tourneys regarding officials? Mike A said we just need to get back to basics on how to set up tourneys. Some are trying to do too many games with limited ice and end up falling behind in games. There will also be no games scheduled the Saturday of the weekend district tourneys start next season. Nicole suggested this could be a good weekend for lower levels to schedule out of town tourneys.

Mike M would like to see one document that includes blackout dates etc,

- Registrar: no report
- Coach in Chief: no report
- Membership and Development: no report
- Jr Gold: *Completed 56 game JGSHL Playdowns at PIC *Qualified for State Tournament: St. Louis Park JGA, OMG JGB Crimson, Wayzata JGB Blue, OMG JG16

- Girls League Coordinator: no report
- Grievance Committee: no report
- Scheduling Coordinator: see President's report
- Tournament Coordinator: D3 tourney season has ended for 2019-2020. Good luck to those teams moving on to State! **The 2020-2021 fall tourney directors meeting is scheduled for 9/23/20, 7pm. SLP Rec Center. Also, meeting late April/early May and will be inviting association presidents, tourney coordinators, association reps. This includes associations hosting mite jamborees.**
- Social Media/Website: no report
- HP/Tier 1: *Explanation of the HP spring program:* The High Performance program is a feeder system for USA Hockey National Camp. Limited numbers actually make it to national camp, but HP in general is a chance for kids to skate with the best players in the district and the state. D3 has a lot of highly skilled/qualified players. Efforts have been made this year to go deeper and make sure that kids that deserve to be invited are included. The program is based on the geographic boundary of D3. We do have kids that played in other districts but live in D3, and they must try out in D3. We also try and make sure we are not missing eligible players that are playing high school. The High Performance nomination process is slightly different for boys and girls. For the boys, a nomination meeting is held with coaches from applicable boys' teams. As a starting point for possible invitations, this year all AA players got invites. Next year that will likely change. If an association is hosting an AA team but not an A team (next level is B1), then AA invites may not be automatic. Approx 70-75 boys get invited. At both the nomination meeting and the evaluations, coaches provide input and advocate for players. This is why we want each and every association to have a coach attend the meeting and evaluations. Goalies have a goalie only tryout prior to the full tryout. Our main goal for tryouts is to make sure players get a fair and high quality tryout. With goalies it can be challenging when there are large numbers of goalies. To accomplish this, we will not be taking all goalies to the full tryout. In order to provide ample time and opportunities for evaluators to "see" goalies, it is not logical to have 10+ goalies cycling in at a scrimmage. So, after the goalie-only tryout we will not ask all goalies to move onto the three scheduled tryouts. We are looking at taking 6-9 and will communicate this to families ahead of time. Those not invited to the full tryout will be refunded their money. Diane asked who evaluates goalies. Kendra indicated we will have D3 coaches and external evaluators that are specifically trained and knowledgeable in goaltending.

The girls' nomination process happens similarly to the boys, but happens via email with coaches ranking their players. Input is sought from coaches at the youth and high school level (more age eligible girls play HS than do boys). We run one session per age group of girls due to the lower number of eligible players. We have the same commitment to providing a high-quality tryout on the girls' side and expect coaches to participate in evaluations as well.

Email went out asking coaches to express their interest in coaching HP. Coaches for applicable teams are expected to participate in the evaluation process. If a coach cannot attend, there is nobody to advocate for players from that association. There are still some associations where the coaches have not indicated that they will be present for evaluations. Asking all reps to review the coaches currently signed up and make sure you go back and talk to your coaches about having someone from your association attend the tryouts.

Tier 1 and Tier 2: A committee is meeting on March 22nd to plan the off-ice portion of the Tier 1 program. There will be both pre-season and in-season off ice training. Tier 2 14 boys will mirror Tier 1 this year with the same type of schedule, including national championships. New this year, MN Hockey approved a Tier 2 program for 14U girls, but there is not a lot of support for it from other districts.

Visits were made to teams to promote and educate players/coaches/families about the HP and Tier 1 programs. The feedback was very positive. Thanks to Shelly for organizing and attending a large number of the meetings.

We will take COVID 19 seriously and make some changes on how we have players mix and mingle before tryouts and follow all of the safe practices identified by USA Hockey and MN Hockey.

- Hockey Operations: Participated in Hockey Director Conf Call in late Feb to discuss game limits, rest limits, tournament length, etc... Thank you to each of the 7 associations that provided information on practice/game info it was very helpful having detailed info to share to the committee Will be setting up a D3 hockey director call in next few weeks to discuss the aforementioned items as well as the Model Association program MN Hockey has in place that provides grants for associations that meet certain criteria Please keep me updated if your Hockey Director changes over the course of the offseason.

6. D3 Association Representatives:

Armstrong Cooper: End of season. Taking applications for open board positions. Planning for next season and budget.

Delano: **Looking for a 12UB goalie for next season.** Head of HDC-Anthony Reynolds is stepping down, Marc Hawkins to fill the role. Registration coordinator has asked how D3 is going to handle the \$30 background screening fee. District tournaments were successful - couple of questions raised - 3rd place trophies and medals for girls' teams? *Mark B said an oversight, will be getting the trophies.* conflicting information on website and in the binder for the Squirt/10U level as to the number of time outs and the length of the penalties.
Nicole added that Anthony has done a great job!

Hopkins: Season has wrapped up. Fun and exciting season for many of our levels. Looking forward to next season and summer planning. District 3 has fined our Squirt C coach Mike Bauterbaugh for not participating in the District 3 end of year tournament. The penalty they assessed is a six game suspension. District 3 has also decided to fine HYHA \$10,000 for not participating in this tournament. HYHA appealed these penalties to MN Hockey Grievance Committee last month. MN Hockey has decided to uphold the decision made by District 3. HYHA is very disappointed and frustrated in this decision. We had great confidence in MN Hockey in that when sensible adults looked at this situation a reasonable solution could have been made. We are exploring our options to appeal this outcome to USA Hockey. Diane asked who made decision regarding the fine? Mark indicated that he and Nicole made the decision. Diane indicated that she thought it was a lot of money and an abuse of power. Mike M asked if bylaws can be changed and Mark said they can as people can bring proposed changes forward and the board votes on the rules each year. Bob Larson (Hopkins) asked that people look at if the bylaws support MN Hockey's mission statement.
Nicole added that was it not in Hopkins statement is that the consequences for not participating in playoffs was shared prior to the decision to withdraw from playoffs. Mike M added that we need to be careful about the authority of the D3 board. Mark said the MN Hockey gives district directors authority within the districts. Paul suggested a possible proposal that those decisions are brought forward to the full D3 board. Bill wanted to know where the money from the fine will go. Nicole shared that is still being worked out. In the past, such money has been used to help remedy the concerns or problems, sometimes donations have been made, it gets put back into supporting youth hockey. Mike M shared that when ACYHA as fined \$25,000, money was

put back into the association to change the culture and make improvements within the association.

Minneapolis: Hosted Bantam A and Peewee C D3 Tournaments - all went well. End of Season festivities planned for this weekend at Parade Successful year overall for our entire association on the ice 15U B and PWA competing this weekend in state tournaments Will wrap up season and begin planning for next season at next week's board mtg.

Mound-Westonka Working on a new girls' co-op agreement with Orono, Considering a lease option for a dryland training facility for the association.

North Metro: no report

Orono: no report

Osseo Maple Grove: The D3 tournaments we hosted went very well. We had to hire additional help (not covered by volunteer hours) to fill all necessary shifts. Our Association is asking if D3 reimburses for any of these hours/cost? Nicole said should be adjusting requirements for volunteers when planning ahead for tourneys.

St Louis Park: no report

Wayzata: D3 tournaments went really well at PIC for BAA, PWAA, U12B2, and BC, great hockey in the district! We finished up our year with a great Mite Madness tournament last weekend with Chaska / Chanhasen and Edina participating against our Advanced Mite and 8U teams. We'll be meeting in May to restructure our registrar volunteer position into a committee and would be interested in meeting with other associations on our concept and how it aligns to those associations that have it split into committee. We are also looking at overhauling our sponsorship model. WYHA will reach out to a few associations on past interactions with sponsorship consolidators.

7. **Old Business:** 1) talk to associations about minimum players on a bantam team...suggestion of 13 skaters. Need to talk about this. 2) take forfeit out of district rules. Shouldn't be an option, have to prioritize league games. 3) Ideas about goalies? Every weekend there were a lot of goalie sub forms. Why so many? Need to figure this out. Network to know where to find goalies and what can we do to build goalie programs?

New Business:

1. Mound Westonka-Are the D3 patches changing for next season, is there a phase in period? Nicole said we are looking at different

designs. If we have new design, fine to use jerseys with old logo if reusing the jerseys.

2. Mark noted last month that Aric will not be returning as treasurer next year and we need to recruit a replacement. Cannot be a voting member of an association board.

Adjorn TIME: 8:41pm Motion to adjorn: Bill Seconded: Mike M
Meeting adjourned

APPROVED