

CHE Annual Meeting 2022

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Sunday, May 22, 2022
Meeting Location: Online via Zoom
Presiding Officer: David L Fryer Jr, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

The Commissioner called to order the 2022 Annual Meeting of College Hockey East at 9:10 PM.

Officers present (2): Dave Fryer (Commissioner), Jamison Roth (Associate Commissioner)

M3 teams present (6): Cal U of PA, Duquesne, Indiana U of PA, Kent State, Pitt-Johnstown, Robert Morris

M4 teams present (3): Case Western Reserve, Robert Morris, Saint Vincent

W2 teams present (4): Buffalo, Mercyhurst, Pittsburgh, RIT

Inactive teams present (2): Penn State Altoona, Pitt-Greensburg

Member teams absent (2): Cleveland State (M4), Oswego State (W2)

Prospective teams present (2): Carnegie Mellon, Wooster

Roth stated that 12 voting members are present, plus the Commissioner.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Previous Meeting Minutes

Roth submitted the minutes from the 2021 CHE Annual Meeting. No revisions were suggested.

Motion to approve the minutes by Cal U of PA, seconded by Indiana U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0.

Roth submitted the minutes from the 2021 CHE Preseason Meeting. No revisions were suggested.

Motion to approve the minutes by Cal U of PA, seconded by Robert Morris.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0.

Financial Report

Fryer stated that invoices have been sent for the 2021-22 season and are due on May 31st. Mercyhurst is still owed for W2 playoff costs, and no stipends have been paid to-date for 2021-22. The CHE will look to move money into escrow once checks are deposited. There were no questions on finances.

Current account balance: \$556.48 (no 21-22 deposits)

Expected account balance: \$22,500 (minus W2 playoff costs and staff stipends)

Fryer then presented a tentative budget for 2022-23. The expected increase in teams will reduce the dues, but an increase in divisional teams in playoffs would increase the costs.

Season Review

Fryer gave a review of the past season, starting with a statement on the passing of Cal U player Branson King. As part of external affairs, he cited the continued battle between the ACHA and CHF, plus the need to evaluate USA Hockey and AAU for insurance purposes. Fryer talked in details about officiating and the continued shortage of officials, of which we can help by improving working conditions. Our contract with PIHO must also be renewed, and we will need to increase pay and consider travel fees with that.

Regarding internal affairs, Fryer cited a concern about some unrealistic expectations of the Commissioner position. He emphasized the importance of league standards and sustaining our membership, especially with the continued departure of teams. Fryer also reminded teams that EMTs are a requirement for all games and should be budgeted for accordingly.

Fryer recognized the team award winners for 2021-22:

- CHE W2 champion: University of Pittsburgh
- CHE M3 champion: Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- CHE M4 champion: Case Western Reserve University
- Kaleina Cup: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

NEW BUSINESS

Membership

Allegheny has withdrawn from the league in M4.

Oswego State (W2), Penn State Altoona (M4), Pitt-Greensburg (M4), and Wooster (M4) are currently inactive but are looking to restore their teams to our league. Robert Morris intends to add a W2 team, and Cal U is considering adding a M4 team. All others would be new members to our league as either new teams entirely or existing teams that would join us.

Several new schools are interested moving their team into our league.

- W2: Brockport, Niagara, Ohio State, West Virginia
- M3: Akron, Rowan, West Virginia
- M4: Carnegie Mellon, Chatham, John Carroll

Fryer stated that all prospective members have been vetted by the League Office. A list of those teams was provided to the membership in advance of this meeting, and no one expressed any significant concern about accepting any of those teams. Fryer presented how the new teams could fit into each of our divisions. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled with the members of each division to discuss scheduling, alignments, and playoff formats once all participating teams have been finalized.

Per our by-laws, the League Office would take care of accepting any prospective member that meets membership requirements, and the teams in each division approve the entry of any new member into its division. So Fryer presented a motion to grant pre-approval for entry into the applicable division of any prospective member that is accepted as a new league member.

Motion to pre-approve divisional entry, en bloc, of any new league member by Commissioner, seconded by Indiana U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0.

Scheduling

Roth presented the timeline on which we will operate for 2022-23 scheduling:

- Teams sorted/finalized: June 10
- Schedule Matrices: June 20
- Scheduling period: thru September 15
- Schedule submissions: September 15
- First date for games: October 1 (a team wishing to play prior must get Commissioner approval)

Roth explained other important dates for scheduling and reminded all teams to be a “good neighbor” when it comes to scheduling. Roth also emphasized the need to establish start times during scheduling.

ANNUAL ORDERS

Proposals for Governing Documents

Fryer presented a rule modification to Policy Governance. The modifications would extend the standard period for changes into September and allow for the League Office to perform off-season “housekeeping” of wording and layout of the Game Policies without changing the intent of any rules.

Proposal: *See addendum for “Policy Change Procedures”*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Pitt-Johnstown.

The motion passed, 12-0-1.

Fryer presented a change to the Financial Policies. The revision removes the team deposit section since summer payments are difficult to process. In turn, a monetary obligation is added for team that withdraw from the league late in the process.

Proposal: *See addendum for “Team Deposits/Team Withdrawals”*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Cal U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0-0.

Fryer presented a rule change for Officiating Systems. It only adjusts the requirement for M4 from the 2-referee system back to the 2-1 system. The high number of DQs this season was a concern for just 2 officials to handle, and the 2-1 system allows for better development of new college officials.

Proposal: *See addendum for “Officiating Systems”*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Robert Morris.

The motion passed, 12-0-1.

Fryer introduced a new rule change for protocols. The intermissions without an ice cut would be reduced from 3 minutes to 2 minutes, and the wording for when the clock starts during an intermission with an ice cut was generalized to provide some flexibility.

Proposal: *See addendum for “Intermission Protocols”*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Mercyhurst.

The motion passed, 11-1-0.

Fryer presented a change to the overtime rule so that the CHE is in line with the ACHA and NCAA. The proposal changes M3 and M4 from 4-on-4 to 3-on-3; W2 would remain 4-on-4 since that is still the ACHA W2 policy for overtime.

Proposal: *See addendum for “Overtime Manpower”*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Cal U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0.

Fryer presented a new rule for "First-Year Cooperative Programs." This rule was previously approved in the CHE but was not put into our new by-laws. It is relevant again with new programs attempting to form in the region, which allows first-year teams to use players from other schools, with clear restrictions and requirements. This was used by Mercyhurst to start its W2 team in 2017.

Proposal: *See addendum for "First-Year Cooperative Programs"*

Motion to approve the proposal by the Commissioner, seconded by Cal U of PA.

The motion passed unanimously, 13-0-0.

Fryer cited a few areas of consideration for future proposals, including the structure of league officers, registration requirements, and items in the Game Manual. Teams are encouraged to read the Game Manual and offer ideas for the fall meeting.

Commissioner's Election

Roth was established as the Supervisor of Elections. Roth opened the floor for nominations for CHE Commissioner. Cal U of PA nominated Dave Fryer, who accepted the nomination. No other nominations were offered.

Motion to close the nominations by Cal U of PA, seconded by Saint Vincent.

The motion passed, 11-0-1.

Roth then conducted the voting for the election in accordance with the by-laws.

Motion to elect Dave Fryer as the CHE Commissioner by Saint Vincent, seconded by Mercyhurst.

The motion passed unanimously, 12-0.

League Officers

Fryer stated that he now has an open period to obtain and appoint league officers, and anyone who is interested in any league-level role should contact the Commissioner.

OPEN FORUM

Fryer stated that academic requirements are reinstated back to the standard rules, with no continuing adjustments for COVID implications.

Tasks for the summer include scheduling and reviewing the governing documents. Contact the Commissioner if you are interested in being a league officer.

Derek Connor reminded all M3 teams that they all need to be registered with the ACHA.

Tom Holowaty said that former CHE Commissioner Mike Kaelina is struggling with health concerns and invited everyone who knows Mike to reach out to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Jamison Roth, CHE Associate Commissioner

Minutes approved on: *currently unapproved*