

SDAHA Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2022

Attending the meeting as voting delegates were Tony Leif (SDAHA President), Dan French (SDAHA Vice President) Jeff Scheel (SDAHA Treasurer), Duke Witte (Aberdeen), Tom Gruenig (Brandon Valley), Justin Kirchhevel (Brookings), Mark Zens (Mitchell), Nathan Sanderson(Oahe), David Bender (Rapid City), Jeremy Van Den Berg (Sioux Center), Adam Gorra (Sioux Falls), Adam Lalim (Watertown), & Brian Wenisch (Yankton).

Also attending the meeting were Jenni Wirkus (SDAHA Executive Director), Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Rob Kittay (SDAHA CIC/Boys Development), Vince Foley (USA Hockey HS Section), Jared Ahlberg (SDAHA RIC), Eric Sabers (Mitchell President), Dave Tronnes (HOF Committee Chair), Shane Wirkus (Watertown) & Chris Weber (Brandon Valley).

A Quorum was determined and President Leif called the meeting to order at 8:58 AM.

President Leif welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. President Leif noted that he had received all of the signed Conflict of Interest forms and had determined no conflicts were sighted amongst the voting members.

Oahe made a motion to approve the meeting agenda which was seconded by Mitchell and approved by the BOD.

Spring 2021 Meeting minutes were reviewed, motion by Brandon Valley and 2nd by AHA to approve the minutes as written. Motion Passed!

President Leif gave a brief Presidents report which recapped the Northern Plains District Meeting that was held in Deadwood in August and noted that the NP District had just transitioned from a C-Corp to a Partnership. An election was held during that meeting to fill one vacant Director position and a second position for a new Director since the District has surpassed the 20,000 mark of registered participants. Rob Kittay was recognized as being one of the elected Directors for our District. President Leif asked for a Motion of Agreeance to reaffirm the District Partnership, Motion by SC and 2nd by AHA. Motion Passed!

Treasurer Jeff Scheel reviewed the 8/31/22 Year End Financials. Motion by WHA and 2nd by Yankton to accept the Financials as written. Motion passed!

Treasurer Jeff Scheel presented the Budget for the year ending 8/31/23. Discussion was had on the budget with the Player Development fund balance being a big topic. A motion was made by OHA for the 2023-2024 Budget to increase the USA allocation to \$11 per player and to move the \$1.75 that is currently allocated to the Player Development Fund to the General Fund. The motion was seconded by BISA and approved unanimously. A Motion was made by AHA and 2nd by WHA to form a committee to review the Player Development fund for possible suggestions on uses for these funds in the future. Duke Witte will chair this committee and plan

to report back to the BOD at the Spring Meeting with potential ideas. Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by Mitchell to accept the 2022-2023 Budget as written. Motion Passed!

The SDAHA registrar was not present at the meeting and no report was provided. SDAHA Executive Director Jenni Wirkus recapped some registration reminders and noted that the Registrar would be sending them out to the association Registrars and Presidents.

An official's report was given by the new RIC Jared Ahlberg. Jared spoke on the green arm bands for minor aged officials and provided 2 sets to each association. Details on this program will be sent to the associations prior to the season, a press release to all SDAHA and a voice recording will be made for each local to play prior to the puck drop of games. Jared noted that seminars were starting the next weekend! He is working on a google form where coaches will be asked to provide their feedback on the officials from their games.

Points of emphasis for the season that will be conveyed at the officials seminars will be:

- \*Pregame meetings w/ coaches & officials
- \*Body Checking
- \*Retention of Officials & mentoring
- \*Abuse of Officials

SDAHA Executive Director Jenni Wirkus reminded associations of the importance of recruiting officials and getting the information out in their associations on the upcoming officials seminars.

SDAHA Girls Player Development Director Shelby Edwards was not in attendance but submitted a report which was included in the meeting packet.

Rob Kittay spoke on the Boys Player Development side and recapped this year's Development Camp. Rob noted that the 17 camp will be changing to a team camp and 9 players will now be able to advance vs 3. The 2023 Development Camp will be held April 21-23 at the Scheels Iceplex.

Coach in Chief, Rob Kittay reminded the delegates/presidents to please pass along all of the emails that SDAHA sends to them from him in regards to coaching clinics and curriculum for the coaches. A discussion was had about coaches preference of in person vs zoom seminars and delegates noted that most of their feedback from coaches was that zoom was their preference. Discussion was had on players not being able to attend the Development camp and if they should continue to be reviewed to move forward to the District Camp. The current policy states that they can register and pay for the Development Camp and then send in a statement of why they cannot attend with their hockey resume stating why they should be allowed to move on to the District Camp. No motion was made for changes to this policy so it will remain as is!

Growth & Retention representative Curtis Egan was not present at the meeting.

No formal report was given on High School Nationals but a reminder was given to the delegates that if their Youth HS Team was interested in participating if eligible they needed to let SDAHA know by October 15th. The 2023 HS Nationals will be held in Wayzata, MN!

Executive Director Wirkus reported on Team South Dakota. All 7 teams, 2 Boys and 5 Girls, are currently competing in their Fall Qualification games. It was noted that one of the two TSD Trailers was stolen in August from the Scheels Iceplex. A police report was filed but it has not been located at this time.

Cherry Hunter, SDAHA Risk Manager, handed out a copy of the Safesport Handbook to each of the members of the SDAHA BOD and encouraged them to get the information to their locals. Cherry also discussed a few registration issues and advised associations that these issues put their membership at risk and they should work to make sure everyone is following all of the proper processes.

Vice President/Discipline chair Dan French reminded associations of carry over suspensions from the 2021-2022 Season. Reminders of these will be emailed to the associations prior to pre-season games starting. Any association wishing to make a change to their discipline representative should notify SDAHA by October 15th, 2021. VP French also reviewed Bylaw 10 and discipline rule 410 with the BOD.

Executive Director Wirkus reported on scheduling for the 2022-2023 season. Anyone needing to make any last minute changes to team counts or blocked weekends was told to do so prior to the end of the weekend as the schedule would be ready to start adding games on Monday.

Matt Tobin, Sioux Falls Power, was not in attendance at the meeting but submitted a report which was included in the meeting packet for review. Conversation was had regarding Power 13U and it was noted that the majority of these players lived in MN. It was advised that SFYHA discuss concerns of this with the Power as they fall under their Affiliate agreement.

Local Association reports were given by the 10 Delegates in attendance. Delegates discussed player numbers compared to last season, team counts, fundraising details, rink updates and aspirations for the season.

Old Business:

Executive Director Wirkus discussed the Dave Stahl Scholarships. For 2021-2022 Seven scholarships were requested and all were approved. These included 3 scholarships for registration, 1 for goalie gear and 3 for the NP District Camp. Total allocation for last season was \$2,435.

The Allocation budget for the 2022-2023 Season is \$5,500. There were 18 scholarship requests during the month of August from a total of 12 families. Three families had multiple requests for their player/s. Of the 18 requests 11 were for registration, 4 for Gear and 3 for camps. The scholarship committee met early September and the decision was made to allocate 70% of the funds for the Fall requests and hold 30% in reserve for requests that arise during the season and for the Camp requests in the Spring. The committee approved all 11 families

registration requests along with the 12th families request which was for gear only. The total funds allocated was \$3,820 leaving \$1680 in reserve for the remainder of the Season. Huron will be hosting Dave Stahl Day again this year and it will be December 17th, 2022. All associations were encouraged to take part in this day in their own associations to help contribute to this fund to make sure anyone in SDAHA with the desire to play hockey can get assistance with any financial hurdles that arise!

Executive Director Wirkus discussed the Friends of SDAHA Scholarships, 13 were awarded for year two with amounts totalling \$16,000. SDAHA will be doing the Commemorative Puck again this year and information will be sent out soon to the associations so we can get the pucks this year prior to Christmas. Hockey Day South Dakota is January 14th, 2023 and we will partner again with the Stampede and will raise money for the scholarships through tickets for that day's games and also the chuck a puck. Anyone having ideas/suggestions to raise scholarship funds is asked to please reach out to Jenni.

#### New Business:

Dave Tronnes, Chairman of the SDAHA HOF Committee, gave a powerpoint presentation to the BOD on forming a HOF for SDAHA. A HOF Charter and sample Nomination form were included in the meeting packet and discussed. A Motion was made by WHA and 2nd by SF for SDAHA to accept the HOF Charter proposal and move forward and prepare to induct the first HOF Class of 2023!

Executive Director Wirkus presented a proposal from Riverfront Broadcasting (KCCR) to be the main radio/video partner for the Varsity State Tournaments for the 2023-2025 Seasons. This proposal is a commitment for them to broadcast/stream ALL 11 Varsity Tournament games for both the Youth and Girls Tournaments for the next 3 years. The proposal requests an investment of \$3,000 per tournament per year from SDAHA. SDAHA would solicit primary sponsorships for each of the tournaments to cover the \$6000 annual cost. This proposal would give KCCR primary partnership of the tournaments but does not give KCCR sole access to the tournament and allows SDAHA to have Midco and other broadcasting partners that are available during the tournaments to also be in attendance. A motion was made by WHA to approve the proposal and 2nd by AHA. Motion passed with an 11-0 vote with OHA abstaining.

A Discussion was had regarding rostering for the 2022-2023 Season. Associations were reminded that all rosters need to be submitted to the SDAHA registrar a minimum of 7 days prior to needing them. The SDAHA league season begins 11/18/22 so all associations were asked to have all of their league rosters submitted no later than 11/10/22. All High School Rosters must ONLY contain High School players. If your association has any non high school students (8th Graders) you will not be able to use a HS roster you will need to use a 18U Roster. For associations using HS Rosters (note:all associations confirmed they were going to use a HS roster and that none of them had players younger than HS) verification is needed and associations will need to submit a list from the school/s confirming that players are enrolled. One list from each school listing all of the names of the high school players enrolled there is due

by 11/10/22. In addition, the school will need to provide us a list again in January at the start of the second semester verifying that the students are still enrolled. This is a USA Hockey ask and helps us to verify high school eligibility of players (and that we are using the proper rosters) and their enrollment. Players who graduate early at semester time are not eligible to continue hockey after their graduation date.

A lengthy discussion was had on using the USA Hockey roster stickers that come directly from each registrars portal with the team roster information. These stickers mirror the roster which makes them very accurate and helpful in avoiding potential roster violations. A motion as made by Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by Brandon Valley to strongly encourage the use of the USA Hockey Stickers for scoresheets. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Proposals:

A proposal was submitted by Watertown Hockey and included in the meeting packet for a review of Player Transfers. President Lalim requested discussion on the current policy during the meeting but asked for No Action at the Fall Meeting as WHA would like to have time to review the policy further and potentially bring an alternate proposal to the Spring Meeting.

The second proposal was submitted by President Leif for the Per Diem to be adjusted to mirror the State of South Dakota's policy. This proposal would change breakfast from \$8 to \$6, Lunch from \$10 to \$14 and Supper from \$12 to \$20 making a maximum of \$40 per day vs the current \$30. A motion was made by OHA and 2nd by Mitchell to accept as written. Discussion was had in regards to Team South Dakota as the coaches are the primary users of the Per Diem in SDAHA. TSD does their budget in the summer and did not plan for the increased expense and would prefer the change to happen at the Spring Meeting in 2023. Motion passed unanimously and the rules will be updated as follows:

iii. Per Diem: \$40 per day. Paid as \$6 breakfast, \$14 lunch, & \$20 supper (Example: \$20 Friday night, \$6, \$14, & \$20 Saturday, and \$6 & \$14 Sunday = \$80/weekend)

One playdown request was received at the Bantam Level requesting to play Bantam B vs Bantam A.

BVHA would like to petition to play down to the Bantam B level for the 2022-23 season. They have 20 players, 8 returning players and 12 players moving up from Pee-Wees. The Bantam A team in 2021-22 finished 8th out of 9 teams in league standings with a record of 3-13. They scored 31 goals and gave up 101, for a -70 goal differential. Four of the top five scorers from the previous season will be moving up to varsity/JV or have transferred to another association. The players moving up from the Pee-Wee level will not provide much depth to support a Bantam A roster. The Pee-Wee A team in the 2021-22 season finished 8th of 9 in the league standings with a record of 2-12-2 and placed 8th in the state tournament. The Pee-Wee B team in 2021-22 finished 7th out of 8 teams with a record of 2-10.

A motion was made by WHA and 2nd by SF to approve the petition of Brandon Valley to play in the Bantam B division. Motion Passed unanimously.

Spring Meeting: Saturday April 15th, 2023, Sioux Falls, SD

Meeting was adjourned by President Leif at 3:55 PM.