

**Soo Michigan Hockey Association
Monday July 31, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
Big Bear Hospitality Room**

1. Meeting called to order at 5:37 pm
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Chris Lane, Renee Labadie, Heather Klever, Tim Labadie, Joe Esson, Mark Kavanaugh, Diane Maleport
Absent: Cheyenne Holappa informed the board at our last meeting regarding her absence tonight. Dan Crimin, Dennis Eby & Shaun Schummer all sent an email to the board letting us know they would not make the meeting. ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.***
3. **Approval of agenda:** ***Motion made by Heather, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.***
4. **Approval of meeting minutes from June 19, 2023:** ***Motion made by Renee, seconded by Chris. Motion approved.***
5. **Director Reports**
 - a. **President** – Mark attended the MAHA meeting. He just mentioned that score sheets will be changing over to electronic. There were no other changes that will affect us.
 - b. **Vice President** – Renee wanted us to know that she is waiting on some rentals to be returned. She has reached out to those parents. Renee is also putting in an order for socks.
 - c. **Treasurer** – Cheyenne was absent. (Heather spoke on her behalf)
SHMA Income Statement as of July 31, 2023, was handed out.
Cheyenne requested that the board make a motion to issue refunds for those that paid to try out for Squirt AA and refund the Sports Engine fee of \$2.20 each for their inconvenience. There were only five players that registered for Squirt AA. –***Motion made by Renee to issue refunds, seconded by Tim. Motion approved***
Cheyenne also wanted to let the board know that an issue did come up with the payment plan. A 6U parent initially signed up for the 7-payment plan on July 5 and paid \$104. On July 24 they decided to pay the remaining balance of \$160.50. Sports Engine charged them the whole fee of \$14.50 they would normally collect for themselves but only kept \$9.65 and gave SMHA the difference of \$4.85, the parent ended up paying \$254.85 instead of \$250. Cheyenne does not know why Sports Engine did this. Cheyenne reached out to the parent to tell them she was going to issue them a credit and they told her to keep the \$4.85 as a donation.
 - d. **Secretary** – Heather let the board know that the following businesses have confirmed their sponsorship for the upcoming 2023-24 season:
Soo Builders * Wicked Sister * Fairview Construction
Central Savings Bank Lock City Home Center
***Indicates travel sponsorship**
Heather did mention to the board that Jerry McDonald (Elk's Youth Committee) contacted her regarding the sponsorship fee. He said that the Elk's Youth Committee could afford to pay \$600 towards sponsoring a team but could not afford the \$900.
Motion made by Heather to request they Elk's Youth Committee pay \$600 for their sponsorship fee, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.

Mark let Heather know that Federal Employees of Chippewa County Credit Union was interested in sponsoring a team. Joe let Heather know that MCS Flooring was also interested in sponsoring a team this season. Heather will send letters to both businesses tomorrow. Heather also requested that if any board member was contacted regarding sponsoring a team that they direct them to her as she will get their information and see that they are given proper paperwork. The board agreed.

e. Coaching Director – Dan was absent.

The board did decide on a date of August 14, 2023, to request applications for house coaches and have them due back by August 25, 2023.

Diane did mention that she will send a copy of the house application to Cheyenne, so it can be posted on the website.

f. Travel Director – Dennis was absent.

The board did discuss if there was going to be a Squirt AA team this season, with not enough players registering. Parents in the audience spoke up saying that they felt the numbers were so low for try-outs, was due to the coach. The board thought that the coach should be removed from his position of Squirt AA coach, and it be reposted immediately to try and find a coach. Chris Lane did mention that someone had reached out to him with interest in the position.

Chris made the motion to have Travis Pavlat removed as the Squirt AA coach, seconded by Renee. Motion approved.

Heather made the motion to have the Squirt AA coach position posted immediately to have the position filled (August 4), seconded by Joe. Motion approved.

g. Tournament Director – Christ mentioned that he has registered for 2024 Cabin Fever Tournament and here are the 2024 fees for that tournament:

*** Squirt \$850 * Peewee/Bantam \$950 * Bantam/Midget \$1050**

Chris is also looking in to having flyers made up for the tournament.

h. Bantam/Midget Director – Joe had nothing to report, except that he has been in touch with Jason Payment and he is still waiting to hear on whether he is going to consider his team a JV or Midget BB team for the 2023-34 season.

i. Squirt/Peewee Director – Tim had nothing to report.

j. HIP/Mite Director – Shaun was absent.

It was mentioned by someone that U8 parents are registering their players under U6 to pay cheaper registration fees.

k. Ice Scheduler - Cheyenne was absent. (Heather spoke on her behalf)

Cheyenne received the Pullar schedule, all 2023-34 practice schedules are now available on the website.

Cheyenne has reserved what ice she could at the Pullar and Big Bear for Cabin Fever weekend. She noted that the Soo Eagles are in town both Friday and Saturday nights, so the tournament will lose those hours. She is waiting to see what Soo High is using that weekend for their showcase to see what hours we have there. She has not yet contacted LSSU to see what is available. (Damien Whitten was present and did comment that they have split games that weekend with FSU and will be away on Friday and home on Saturday.)

Cheyenne also said she did reserve ice for districts. She is not sure if Diane or Chris have put in for them, so she could have the dates wrong? I mentioned to both Chris & Diane to let Cheyenne know what dates they would like for her to reserve. **(Mark mentioned that the dates should be picked by the end of August)**

- I. **Registrar** – Diane did attend the MAHA meeting and this year game sheets will be going electronic. There will be an iPad at all rinks for the association to use (2 at the Big Bear). Every coach and manager will have an access code to view games sheets.

Diane said that she will be releasing players if they have no financial obligations with SMHA. Before Diane releases a player, she will double check with Cheyenne and Renee to make sure there is no financial obligations or unreturned equipment or jerseys.

This year absolutely no player will be on the ice and playing for a team for which they are NOT rostered with. MAHA will be periodically checking rosters and players before playing games. If a player is on a team that is **NOT** rostered, they team will forfeit their games, be sent home and they coach will be suspended for one year. Travel rosters need to be completed by Tuesday September 5, 2023, if a player is **NOT** on the roster, they will not be allowed on the ice. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Diane also said that each team **WILL** have a locker room volunteer that will have to have a background check and complete safe sport. This person(s) will be noted on the roster and will be required to monitor the locker rooms for their team. There will be absolutely no cell phones in the locker room this year, dads in girl's locker rooms, moms in boy's locker room, bullying or horseplay in the locker rooms.

6. **Old Business** – nothing to report.

7. **New Business** – Level 1 & 2 Ref Clinics are scheduled for September 9, 2023, from 9 am – 3 pm

Cheyenne requested that a motion be made to pay for the 1 hour of ice for the ref clinic by SMHA. ***Motion was made by Tim, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.***

Cheyenne did want the board to know that they Big Bear is donating the Hospitality Room for the ref clinic (5 hours).

It was discussed during the public comment with regards to having a set date for tryouts. The board mentioned on how this has been an ongoing issue with having tryouts early in year vs. having them late and how the coaches usually were the one to decide when the tryouts would be. It was discussed how it's too hard for parents/players to plan for summer vacations, be involved with other sports not knowing when tryouts will be. The board discussed putting both travel & house applications out the first week of May and holding travel tryouts the first 2 weeks in August, with no exceptions. That way everyone knows when the tryouts are, no holding separate tryouts, no excuses. ***Motion was made by Chris that the above-mentioned times be set for applications/coaches/tryouts for house and travel teams, seconded by Heather. Motion approved.***

Public Comment:

Parents spoke of a separate Peewee tryout date of June 28, 2023, that took place after the initial Peewee tryouts. This separate tryout was not posted on social media, it was done for Canadian players only. They wanted to know how the board allowed this to happen when on the Facebook page it stated it was the final schedule and would not be changed, no exceptions.

Parents discussed not receiving an explanation from the coach as to why their child was cut from a team. They have no email or phone number to reach a coach and have questions. To whom do they turn to?

Another thing that was brought up by parents as to why house players were going to Canada to play hockey, was that SMHA house teams travel too much. Parents with kids that play on a house team didn't think that they would be traveling as much as they do.

Parents think that SMHA should have posters around the rinks with regards to respecting referees. Also, a comment was made about having the new younger refs wearing some kind of armband to let parents and coaches know that they are a new/young ref.

Parents continued to stress that they would like to stay with SMHA. They want to know what needs to be done to keep parents and players local.

Another parent asked if we had to accept Canadian players on the team?

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. Next meeting scheduled for Monday August 28, 2023 @ 5:30 pm at the Big Bear.

Minutes taken, typed, and submitted by:



Heather Klever, SMHA Secretary