

## West Fargo Hockey Association Board Meeting

Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6 p.m.

West Fargo Sports Arena 520 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave W West Fargo, ND

### Board Members:

*Present:* Josh Benson, Alex Aughinbaugh, Jareb Raan (via AnyMeeting), Sarah Elkins, Kelly Kisell, Corey Moos, Seth Rehm, Shana Wilson (via AnyMeeting), Anthony Houkom (via AnyMeeting), Kayla Goebel, Eric Nelson

*Absent:* Joel Honeyman, Brent Kuehne

### Others Present:

*Hockey Director:* Jason Gregoire

**Members Present:** Kristen Cigelske (via AnyMeeting)

## PROCEEDINGS:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Josh Benson.

### Dawson Insurance: Additional Rider

Benson/Kuehne

Benson has reviewed the additional rider that is available from Dawson Insurance. This rider would provide additional coverage to players for games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. During the regular season of play all players are covered through USA Hockey providing that the games are sanctioned by USA Hockey. Players that choose to participate in leagues and games outside of West Fargo Stampede & USA Hockey, such as Triple AAA teams, do so at their own risk. The additional rider is available to add at anytime should we feel that this becomes a necessity during the upcoming season. At this time the board will not pursue the option to implement the additional rider into our existing coverage.

### COVID-19: Policies, Procedures & Protocols

Gregoire

Gregoire provided all board members with a copy of the WFHA COVID-19 Procedures Proposal prior to the special meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. All members had the opportunity to make suggestions, give comments, ask questions or propose changes to the document. Elkins presented several questions for clarifications on topics related to the issue of COVID-19 as it applies to the upcoming hockey season. Discussions at the board meeting took place regarding these clarifications with the following outcomes:

- All players will be required to wear a mask while in the facility regardless of age or level of play. This includes Termites, Mites, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, Squirts, Peewees, Bantams, Rec Leagues and In-House Leagues.
- With regards to travel teams it was clarified that during *regularly scheduled practices* implementation of the rule utilizing locker rooms 15 minutes before the practice and exiting the locker room 15 minutes after practice concludes will be strictly adhered to.
- The time protocols for arrival at *scheduled games* will vary based on each team's individual needs and the preference of coaches. Coaches will present their proposals to the Hockey Director for arrival times (including warm-ups) of teams before games and exit times after the conclusion of games. The Hockey Director will give the final approval to each team's Head Coach.
- In the previous year the Squirt/10U In House league was been considered a non-travel team due to the nature of the make-up of team players from within the WFHA organization. For the upcoming 2020-2021 year this league will be deemed a travel team for the purposes of locker room protocol. This clarification allows the Squirt/10U In House teams the privilege of utilizing locker rooms to get dressed and undressed for their games. These teams will follow the same locker room protocol of implementing seating charts, entering 15 minutes prior to the game, exiting 15 minutes after the conclusion of the game and complying with mask wearing procedures.

The issue of non-compliance with the COVID-19 Procedures was discussed in-depth. WFHA will be following all current USA Hockey protocols, guidelines and procedures for discipline relating to specific COVID violations. Coaches will be allowed the discretion to send players home if they are not following expected COVID-19 procedures. If a member has been identified as a positive COVID case and knowingly attends practices or games, that member will be subject to disciplinary action. All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis with penalties ranging from temporary to permanent suspensions for the remainder of the season with a no refund policy. These discipline policies will be added to the COVID-19 Procedures documents. All disciplinary action resulting from specific COVID-19 related issues will be handled by the WFHA Compliance Committee.

It was proposed by Benson and Gregoire to include a statement regarding amendments to the current policies and “subject to change” language in the procedures. The intent is to flexibly adjust to evolving situations while keeping the safety of all members and visitors at the forefront of these expectations. This allows the COVID-19 Policies to be adapted based on current situations and fluctuations that may take place at the state, county, city, community, WFHA Organization or facility level throughout the season.

Signage has been approved and will be posted around Veteran’s Memorial Arena with key COVID-19 reminders for players, families and visiting teams related to the WFHA expectations for adherence to COVID-19 health and safety protocols during the hockey season.

Gregoire also updated the board on the special COVID-19 tab that can be found on the WFHA Website. All information, resources, tools and related topics will be located in this section. Gregoire will be relaying specific information to members during the upcoming pre-tryout meetings for all travel teams. After the approval of the COVID-19 Policies and Procedures by the board and communication to members of the COVID-19 season expectations the tab will go “live” and be able to be utilized by all members and visitors to the website. Approved COVID-19 policies will go into effect on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (the first day of tryouts for travel teams).

Aughinbaugh made a motion to approve all COVID-19 Policies, Procedures and Protocols subject to clarification of policy items, updates to disciplinary actions and inclusion of language pertaining to document amendments. The motion was seconded by Kisell. Motion was approved by all and passed without dissent.

<b>COVID-19: Coordinator for 2020-2021</b>
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<b>Gregoire</b>
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Gregoire proposed that a position be created for a coordinator that could help to manage all aspects of the COVID-19 issues for the upcoming season. This position would be responsible for monitoring information related to COVID that has been entered into the confidential tracking system. In addition, the coordinator would also be in communication with coaches regarding impacts to their teams, contacting the Hockey Director for potential impacts to prior or upcoming games/tournaments, collaborating with the Department of Health, securing proper documentation of absences/return to play due to COVID related absences and maintaining confidentiality of players and coaches. The coordinator will directly report to the WFHA Hockey Director.

Benson researched the implications of HIPPA with regards to the WFHA and our liability to the members of the organization. Members will be submitting information voluntarily into the COVID Tracker Tool throughout the season. The coordinator will maintain the confidentiality of those impacted by COVID in the upcoming season and the information that is provided to us through the tracking tool.

Benson and Aughinbaugh volunteered to be co-coordinators for the upcoming 2020-2021 hockey season. Together they will manage all aspects of tracking, communication, collaboration, reporting and upholding confidentiality with all issues pertaining to COVID-19.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm by Benson.

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