



**MAHOCKEY.ORG**

781-664-2700 / P.O. BOX 1788, DUXBURY, MA 02332

Tim McMahon / Secretary / [tcmahon@mahockey.org](mailto:tcmahon@mahockey.org)

**#MASSPROUD**

MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY, INC.

*BOARD MINUTES*

February 4, 2025 - Sheraton Needham Boston

The meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, virtually through Zoom.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 7:04 PM.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

Stephen Palmacci: Try Hockey for Free Notice. USA Hockey announced a fee increase and there is an idea around increasing Mass Hockey fee to make Gamesheet.com available to all leagues across the state with a flat fee per player cost.

Kevin Kavanagh: This fee starts at \$4 so it would be substantial however there is a benefit to state regarding rosters, discipline, tournaments, and statistics within the state. After some discussion there is favorability to adopt Gamsheet.com. There are resellers for low-cost iPads available.

2. WINTER MEETING UPDATE & USA HOCKEY REPORTS

Adult, Jen Dematos: Not present, no update.

Legal Counsel, Christine Mayer & Bob Joyce: Safesport billeting policies have been updated. Discipline guidelines are being updated.

Bob Joyce: Tier 1 team roster allows 22 players for 15O, 16U, 18U youth and 19U girls. There is a moratorium Tier 1 teams in all affiliates through 2026-27 season. 130 Tier 1 youth is permanent age classification.

Girls/Women's, Mark Lissner: No update.

Membership, Kevin Kavanagh: No update.

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: Developing a new league for player development. Neck laceration protection will need to be HECC approved within 2 years. Shared the results of 2023-2024 Sentiment Survey that highlights importance training, certification, safesport, and background screening in Mass Hockey by parents of our players.



MA2324Results.pdf



Youth Counsel, Tom McGrath: Youth Council meeting is scheduled for 2/11. New Tier1 League was a major topic at Winter Meetings and it is labeled as under Construction. Many moving parts.

Rule changes were voted on and icing while shorthanded will be allowed at 150 and up Tag up offsides is also allowed 150 and up.

Registration Fee increase was voted on and passed.

USA Hockey wants to bring back the 8U Coordinator as they want to re-energize the 8u players and coaches.

2026 Youth and Girls National Championship host sites have been awarded and posted on USA Hockey's website.

Goaltending Coordinator, Cam Earle: Not present.

Risk Management, Steve Gear: Not present.

Safety, Nicole Siglin/Tom Smith: Reminder regarding neck guard laceration and concussion protocols.

Officiating, Kevin Donovan/ Gene Binda: Breakdown rule changes for referees. The portal will be delayed starting for April 1.

Registrar, Peter Giuliano: USA Hockey Fee increase. The portal is still shaky.

Coaching, Paul Moore: Total Clinics: (42) All clinics were virtual except for the Bruins Symposium. level 1 coaches trained 624, level 2 coaches 511, level 3 coaches 279, level 4 coaches 1136. Total Coaches: 2550 Total Mass Coaches: 700

Anyone who wants to get involved with coaching education can reach out to Paul. He praised the work the Cam Earle, Goalie Coach, is doing. There is an emphasis on bringing back 8U coordinator.

Adaptive, Ray Leblanc: Updated language on disciplines and discussion on fees.

High School, John Murray: 3 teams ready to compete in March.

ADM, Jim Maimone: No update.

### 3. FINANCE REPORT

Chris Holden: Not present but will send financial statements later.



#### 4. ELECTION NOMINATION

Tim McMahon: The following positions will be elected this year: President, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, 5<sup>th</sup> VP, Treasurer, 2 at-large positions on EBoard, 1 USA Hockey Director, and 3 USA Section Representatives: High School, Girls/Women's and Disabled. The deadline to submit names to the nomination committee is February 20, 2025. I'll share the list 1 week prior to the March meeting. Nominations from the floor will close at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Elections will take place at the annual meeting.

District and Division elections shall be held by District/Division Registrars no later than March 15 of each year. Names of elected Director(s) and Alternate Director(s), if any, shall be reported to the Secretary of Massachusetts Hockey by USA Hockey Associate Registrars no later than March 25.

#### 5. SECRETARY REPORT /APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 6th, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded, and unanimously approved with no abstentions.

#### 6. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Jerimah Tabor: Continue taking feedback on redistricting. Each District Registrar was asked for feedback at the meeting.

Kevin Kavanagh: With no major issues on plan, we need work on language for bylaws for March.

#### 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kevin Kavanagh: Tournament time is approaching so we are finalizing scheduling.

Jen Dematos: Not present.

#### 8. REFEREE COORDINATOR REPORT

Gene Binda: Things are going well. Getting new officials into games.

#### 9. VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS (1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4TH, 5TH)

Jeff Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Administration

Tournaments, Peter Giuliano: Getting all the state tournaments seated and organized.

National Tournaments, Dave Hymovitz: No update.

Girls Tournament, Mark Lissner: No update.



Christine Mayer, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Administration

Discipline, Christopher Gong: 53 Match Penalties reported. 50% have been for hate speech. 420 game misconduct reported. Safesport complaints rose with 9 in last few weeks. Billeting issues are becoming necessary to track and administer.

Rules, Christopher Gong: Form sent for Rules submissions by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Rizzio, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Operations

Player Development, Steve Rizzo: Player Development registration for boys and girls opens tomorrow.

Adaptive Hockey, Ray Leblanc: February 23<sup>rd</sup> is adaptive hockey day. If you want to get involved, reach out to Ray.

ADM, Jim Maimone: Ran several body checking clinics with Jason. Jim, Steve, and Mark Lissner talked with the Boston Fleet about doing girls player and coaching clinic.

Tom McGrath, 4<sup>th</sup> VP, Events

Hall of Fame Committee, Dan Esdale: First weekend of May at Seacrest. 25 nominations have been submitted. Zoom meeting is scheduled February 12 to discuss all candidates.

Sportsmanship, Tom McGrath: The Phil Zona Sportsmanship Award information is scheduled to be sent out and posted on the website Mid-February. Tom will be looking for volunteers to do selection of winners.

Christopher Gong, 5<sup>th</sup> VP, Planning

Long Range, Jeremiah Tabor: Held a meeting last week, discussed increased high school section participation and ideas to reduce friction between club and towns and the playoff calendars for both.

Safety, Tom Smith/Nicole Siglin: See Above.

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Player Movement, Mark Lissner: No update.

DEI, Christopher Gong: Do not believe any impact from efforts with government DEI to impact our efforts since funding doesn't come from there and our effort are about growing the game.



## 11. DISTRICT/SECTION REPORTS

- Dist 1. Jeff Hampton: a couple more playdown games.
- Dist 2. Rob Lynch: a couple more playdown games. District meeting next week
- Dist 3. David Young absent. Rocky reported, Finished playdowns last week.
- Dist 4. Paul Crowley: Finished playdowns. Meeting end of month.
- Dist 5. Gary Gates: 1 playdown game left. Directors' elections in March.
- Dist 6. Ryan Scott absent. Peter reported: no playdowns.
- Dist 7. DJ Briggs absent. Peter reported: no playdowns. Some teams entered.
- Dist 8. Brian Paul absent. Peter reported: playdowns complete.
- Dist 9. Felix Costanza: Playdowns complete. Election by March 10th.
- Dist 10. James Donovan: Playdowns complete.
- G/W. Mark Lissner: absent.
- Club. Jean Ann Nigro: all good.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

None.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn accepted at 8:03pm.