

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2019**  
**5:30 pm at Helena Ice Arena**

**HAYHA Board Members:**

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep  
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep  
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep  
Lance Wilson – Registrar  
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator  
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep  
Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep  
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep  
Robert Whited – Bantam Rep

**Absent Board Members:**

None

**Guests:**

Amber Zietz – Squirt Parent  
Randy Boysen – Equipment Manager, Squirt Parent, Mite Parent  
Darryl James – Mite Coach  
Jon Flynn – House League Coordinator

**Meeting Call to Order 5:46 p.m.**

**Minutes**

Lance moved to pass the minutes with change requested by Mekell. Justin seconded. Motion passes and Judy will make the change and post to website.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Rink**

Stan was invited to meeting. He was not present. Stan sent a letter to the board asking HAYHA to pay rent for the equipment storage room it has been using for years under the bleachers. Various board members felt the \$200 per month price was a little steep considering you can rent a U-Haul trailer or other storage boxes in town for \$80 per month. Board members did agree it is a huge convenience having equipment storage at the rink. Randy requested that the rink provide him with a key to the gate to make sure we can always access the equipment room. Randy felt the equipment rental program would still be solvent, however, it will be a bit

tighter with the room rental fee. He said he rented around 90 sets of gear this year at \$60 per set = \$5,400 per year. He estimates HAYHA buys \$1,500 - \$2,000 in replacement gear per season and then if you add a \$2,500 room rental fee on top of that, the program is in the black by an estimated \$900. Board members decided that Kurt and Ryan would meet with Stan this month to discuss the following:

- A reduced equipment room rental fee.
- Securing next year's HAYHA practice schedule (see section below) and rink contract.
- The growth of HAYHA and how that has positively impacted the rink's bottom line. Sarah reported that HAYHA paid the rink \$18,783 per month for ice rental this season. Board members calculated an estimated increase for next year to be around \$16,000. This amount comes from 30 minutes extra for Bantams per week, one hour extra for girls per week, two hours extra for goalie clinics per month and one hour extra for High School per week.
- Scheduling Ice. Division reps all agree that scheduling ice has been very difficult and takes too long.

Scott moved to table the rental room lease until Kurt and Ryan meet with Stan. Justin seconded. Motion passes.

### **Practice Schedule – Ryan**

Prior to the meeting, Ryan sent board members four sample practice schedules that were all different. The board discussed the different schedule options and decided together that all divisions should share the inconvenience of 4:20 practices, in order to "spread the pain" and not just put the burden on one division. Therefore, the Termites, Squirts, PeeWee and Bantam division will each get a 4:20 practice. High School will have to endure two late night practices and will get one earlier practice. House will get two consistent practices at 7:10 – 8:10 Monday and Wednesday. Judy suggested adding one hour a week for Girls Practice. She has been visiting with the leader of the girl's program in Butte and that is where they started, by setting aside one hour for girls from all divisions to come together to practice as girls. She suggested Fridays from 4:30 – 5:30 before Bighorn games and the new board member (Member-at-Large with focus on program development) could implement and oversee the girl's program. Saturdays and Sundays are typically reserved for games and adult league. Here is what 2019-2020 practice schedule tentatively looks like after the board discussion:

Sample Schedule #3				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4:20 - 5:50 Squirt	4:20 - 5:20 8U 1	4:20 - 5:50 PeeWee	4:20 - 5:20 Bantam	4:20 - 5:30 Girls Hockey
6:00 - 7:00 PeeWee	5:30 - 6:30 8U 2	6:00 - 7:00 Squirt	5:30 - 6:30 8U 1	
7:10 - 8:10 House	6:40 - 7:40 HS	7:10 - 8:10 House	6:40 - 7:40 8U 2	
8:20 - 9:50 HS	7:50 - 8:50 Bantam	8:20 - 9:50 Bantam	7:50 - 9:20HS	
	9:00 - 10:00 16U*			
<u>2019-2020 Start Dates - Week of</u>				<u>All Division Days Off</u>
High School	10/14/2019		11-27-19 through 11-29-19	
Bantam	10/14/2019		12-23-19 through 01-02-20	
PeeWee	10/14/2019			
Squirt	10/14/2019		<u>U-8 Games - Saturdays (Start 10-12-19)</u>	
House	10/14/2019		10:00 to 10:55	
8U - 1st	10/10/2019		11:00 to 12:00	
8U - 2nd	1/2/2020			
<u>Other Topics</u>				
Goalie Training - Every other week Starting in September (Most likely in AM?)				
House League Games - Friday Evenings @ 5:40 when Bighorns are not playing at HIA				

## House League

Jon Flynn reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual House Tournament went very well. Two teams from Missoula, 1 team from Kalispell, 1 team from Billings and 2 Helena teams participated. It was Kalispell vs. Billings in the final game and Kalispell won the championship. He felt the tournament helped build a good relationship with Billings' House program. Billings wants to do more with Helena next season. He said two kids are aging out of the House League, one will tryout for Bantams next season. He isn't sure what the other will do.

## Revised Tryout Policy – Judy

Judy made revisions from previous meeting and sent them to the entire board. The only question remaining is whether we want it to say that evaluators cannot have been a "HAHYA coach", for the children trying out, within the past two years. Or if we want it to say evaluators cannot have been a "Helena coach", for the children trying out, within the past two years. After discussion, in which Mekell was pushing for Helena coach due to complaints she heard last year, most of the board wanted it to say "HAYHA coach". The tryout policy still states that the board must approve the list of evaluators. Scott made a motion to pass the tryout policy with that final edit. Justin seconded. Motion passes. Robert Whited abstained from voting. Judy will make that edit and send the final tryout policy to everyone and get it up on the website.

## Conflict of Interest – Justin Steckelberg

The board tabled the conflict of interest policy discussion/decision until after Justin looks over both versions. He will bring a recommendation to the board at the next meeting.

### **Nominations for HAYHA Board Members**

The ballots for adding two additional board members are due back April 1<sup>st</sup>. The board estimates it will know by April 3<sup>rd</sup> whether that amendment passed. Immediately following, the board will send out the board member nomination form and give members two weeks to nominate people for the open positions. Finally, ballots will be sent out late April and are due back before the annual meeting in mid-May. Ballots will be counted at that meeting and the newly elected board will meet for their first meeting in June.

### **Board Calendar – Judy**

Judy brought a draft of a Board Calendar which lists what the board needs to do each month of the year. Since the tryout policy says things like “at the August meeting the board will...” and “by September the board will...” and the board also wants to do things like practice schedule and rink contract earlier than last year, Judy felt it would be helpful to have all these deadlines listed in a board calendar. Board members felt like this will help new board members and existing board members stay on track. Board members will send their comments/edits to Judy.

### **Registrar – Lance**

All is good. Board members thanked Lance for his hard work this season getting rosters done quickly, taking additional sport engine training and facilitating all 40 online tournament registrations.

### **Website – Robert**

Robert asked board members to email him with website changes so he can work on these over the summer months. He recommended purchasing the DIBS volunteer tracking system for next season.

### **Treasurer – Sarah**

Sarah said online tournament registrations were a huge help this year. HAYHA has \$109,000 in its checking account. Toyota has offered to do scholarships or sponsorships for youth hockey. Toyota is also paying for the rink’s new scoreboard.

### **Bantam State Tournament – Robert**

Billings ice went down last Thursday night. There were zero ice cuts and the ice was slush and showed concrete in some spots. It was frustrating for all teams involved. Helena parents lost hotel rooms Saturday night when they had to leave Billings to go play in Bozeman. Robert felt that MAHA could have done more earlier to remedy the situation. He thinks we should ask for our Bantam State Tournament bond back and the \$30 fee each family paid and possibly some sort of renumeration for lost hotel costs incurred by Helena families.

Mekell left for a MAHA call. She will email an update after the call. She said that the Bantam Tournament is on the agenda.

### **Division Updates**

**8U:** Judy handed out a P & L for the U8 Tournament. Income was \$14,735.75. Expenses were \$9,982.97. Net profit \$4,753.78 for HAYHA. The raffle and apparel generated \$6,939.75 gross profit before apparel expenses were taken out. 82 out of 94 second session U8 players participated as well as teams from Flathead, Bozeman, Billings, Butte and Great Falls. A total of 250 players. All but two families completed their volunteer hours. The season has been a success with many involved families. The U8s are graduating 25 Mites into the Squirt division. Mites who went to all tournaments played an estimated 56 games this season (16 home one-hour games plus 40 tournament games). Helena Mite teams placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at all but one tournament. There were 25 fully certified coaches in the U8 program. It is estimated that the U8 program brought in \$8,603 to HAYHA. This is tournament profit plus program profit (program fees – ice = program profit).

**Squirts:** Squirt A & B will be at the Missoula Montgomery Memorial Tournament this coming weekend. The "A" team took 2<sup>nd</sup> at state tournament and the "B" team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The state squirt commissioner was very concerned by the parents' behavior in the stands during the B tournament.

**PeeWees:** PeeWee "A" took 3<sup>rd</sup> in state tournament. PeeWee "B" took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the "C" bracket at state tournament. PeeWee "B" is going to play in the Montgomery Memorial tournament this weekend but the "A" division was cancelled due to not enough teams. Ryan sent out an inquiry to families to gauge interest in a 16U team for next season. There are 13-14 2006s plus 10 2005s for a total of 22 – 24 Bantam players next year, which is enough for an A and B team. The board could also look at doing a 16U team. Robert said we really need to push MAHA to form a 16U league or the 16U team won't get enough games unless they travel to quite a few far away tournaments.

**Bantams:** Robert said there have been 4 injuries in the past month. Six kids will be moving up to high school hockey next season. High school is estimated to have 26 kids, Bantams 24 kids and PeeWees 28 – 30 kids. There may be try outs in every division.

**High School:** In the state tournament, the High School team beat Bozeman, lost to Billings, beat Glasgow and lost to Missoula. They played Flathead for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place and lost in a double sudden death shootout.

### **SafeSport – Scott Petersen**

Scott had nothing to report. Some board members felt improved locker room monitoring at upper divisions has helped keep behavior issues low this year.

### **Goalies**

Board members discussed how they've been waiting for goalie clinics to happen the last two seasons and they have not happened. Board members decided to implement twice a month goalie clinic and book the ice early when we book practice ice. If membership approves the new Member-at-Large position that focuses on development, then this board member can implement and oversee goalie clinics along with a girls program.

**Tabled Items**

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Possible 16U Team next season who could 1) play league games if MAHA does a 16U division and/or 2) play in scheduled tournaments to offer that age group extra ice time.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena**

**Meeting Adjourned 8:45 p.m.**

Signed by President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_