

MINNESOTA HOCKEY – DISTRICT 16  
Fall 2025 MEETING AGENDA  
Location – Broadway Station  
St. Hilaire, MN  
Monday, September 8, 2025 - 4:00 pm.

- I. **Call to Order – 4:01pm**
- II. **Roll Call:** (voice & sign-in)  
Bagley - x Bemidji - x Crookston - x East Grand Forks - x Hallock - x Lake of the Woods - x  
Red Lake Falls – x Roseau - x Thief River Falls - x Walker - x Warroad - x
- III. **Agenda Additions – None.**
- IV. **Approve Spring minutes – Roseau motions, Crookston seconds. Minutes approved.**
- V. **Affiliate agreements – submit to Elliott and MN Hockey.**
- VI. **Team Designations:**
  - a. **Bantam AA**
    - i. Bemidji, EGF
  - b. **Bantam A**
    - i. Roseau, TRF, Warroad
  - c. **Bantam B1**
    - i. Bagley, Bemidji Blue, Bemidji White, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, Warroad, LOTW, RLF, TRF
  - d. **Bantam B2**
    - i. Bemidji, EGF, Roseau, Walker
  - e. **Peewee AA**
    - i. Bemidji, EGF
  - f. **Peewee A**
    - i. EGF, LOTW, Roseau, TRF, Warroad
  - g. **Peewee B1**
    - i. Bagley, Bemidji, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, LOTW, RLF, Roseau, TRF, Warroad
  - h. **Peewee B2**
    - i. Bemidji, East Grand Forks, Walker
  - i. **Squirt A**
    - i. Bemidji, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, LOTW, Roseau, TRF, Warroad
  - j. **Squirt B1**
    - i. Bagley, Bemidji, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, LOTW, RLF, Roseau Green, Roseau White, TRF, Walker, Warroad
  - k. **Squirt B2**
    - i. Bemidji Red, Bemidji White, East Grand Forks

No issues with Team Declarations for Bantam/Peewee/Squirt

  - l. **Girls 15UB**
    - i. TRF
  - m. **Girls 12UA**
    - i. Bemidji, East Grand Forks, Roseau, Warroad
  - n. **Girls 12UB**
    - i. Bemidji, Crookston, LOTW, TRF, Warroad
  - o. **Girls 10UA**
    - i. Bemidji, TRF, Warroad
  - p. **Girls 10UB**
    - i. Bemidji, Roseau, Warroad

Elliott is granting permission for 10UA and 10UB teams to play each other for the entire year, highly encouraged.
- VII. **Summer MN Hockey – Mark D.,** everything has changed since then. There have been problems with MN Hockey from leadership and through the board. Treasurer has resigned due to a conflict with a group of board members. The acting/interim executive director and district 2 director resigned due to conflict as well. Todd Elmer was told to resign as registrar and tournament director. One district director was called out three times due to a difference of opinion with the president. Let Mark E. know if you want to attend the Fall Meeting and need mileage or a room. There are a range of topics that will be discussed and this meeting will be interesting due to a lot of rumors going around, some things happening behind the scenes that are not good for MN Hockey. Crookston asked what the issues with MN Hockey are “in a nutshell.” Part of it is money, per Elliott, after the April meeting the executive director was told to resign. Three people on the board wanted the job as E.D. as it pays \$125-\$150k a year with a severance package. D2 director was interim director and was doing a decent job, but the

other three guys wanted it and that created a rift. There was a position open with USAH that the president wanted but USAH gave it to the treasurer instead. Dragich added detail to what Todd Elmer did. Becky is the new registrar and that plays into the uncertainty with what will go on with the playdowns. Mark D. is the new tournament committee chair; Rhonda will approve tournaments. MN Hockey staff has dwindled, so a lot of people are frustrated as they are trying to get things ready for the season. Probably some trials and tribulations as you go through things and people in new roles, finding out what is and what isn't supposed to be going on in MN Hockey. Elliott – new CFO position open, pays decent money, probably must live in the Metro area, about \$100k a year, if interested, on MN Hockey page. Sadie Lundquist is the new E.D.; Becky Ewing is new USAH Registrar. New D11 director in Kris Bryant, new Director of the Gold region in Pete Hill. Doug Kephart has resigned, elected position, and a position that does not require you to be in the metro for that job. If interested, let Elliott know, and he will nominate you.

- a. Mandi Lund – heads up, with Becky, she is more strict than Todd was. Playdowns, they want information if they have been on A or B teams, she will look if they have been contributors “scoring” on teams. Understands it is different up here than down there. Each board roster has to be completed before teams can be approved, especially the board roster. Meeting coming up in a week and a half, that will be addressed there too. Coaches need to provide evidence that they have registered for a coaching clinic before they can be rostered, no redlines this year. That is a new change, Crookston asked about the grandfathered level 4s, but if grandfathered in, it will be fine. Mark asked if it is the first year of CE, but Mandi said it is the second. Mandi said to make sure to make your case when asking for girls to play down. Mark – play down requests, other than girls playing down to 13U, are denied except for medical requests or unique situations in a smaller association, such as 3 goalies at one level and one at another level. First year players that would be a squirt, have them rostered as a squirt but play as a mite, Becky thought it was a great idea.
- b. Upcoming September meeting – Madden’s Resort, Brainerd September 12, 13, 14, let Mark E. know if you want to attend

#### VIII. District - Region - State Hosts

- a. District tournament hosts were reviewed, BAA and PWAAs will have a district/region style tournament to qualify teams for the regional tournament. Nine teams are playing BAA/PWAA in Districts 11, 12, 15, and 16, and the plan is the top eight teams will come to the tournament, with four or six teams advancing on to regionals. Both tournaments are being planned for Feb 20-22. Need to determine SQB1 vs SQB2 tournament locations. Dragich suggested that the top eight SQB1 teams will make the district tournament, and we would then have a seven team SQB2 tournament, with the lowest four SQB1 teams dropping down. Warroad said it would be hard to host if their host team is not there. Warroad wanted to wait, which Elliott mentioned was the precedent. Warroad is willing to give it up if their team is not in it. As a reminder, there is no Squirt League, so therefore, there is no requirement that you must play everybody. A few associations ask about determining which teams are attending which tournament earlier so that teams have time to make hotel reservations for the Squirt B1 and Squirt B2 District Tournaments.
- b. Roseau makes a motion to vote via email by January 26th on Squirt B team placements, LOTW seconds.
- c. EGF motions to make an amendment to Roseau’s motion, to vote via email by Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> on Squirt B team placements, Roseau seconds the amended motion. 11 associations voted in favor, none opposed. **Motion passes.** Come February 2nd, Elliott or Dragich will send out an email to rank all the Squirt B1 teams.
- d. Bemidji said depending how things go, they could possibly send an 8th team to the SQB2 District Tournament with their SQC team.
- e. Any questions on state tournaments, direct them to Dragich. Officials for state tournaments are paid for by the state.

#### Feb 13-15

BAA: NA                      BA:     Roseau                          BB1 & BB2     Bemidji      
 PWAA: NA                      PWA:     East Grand Forks                          PWB1:     Red Lake Falls      
 PWB2:     East Grand Forks                          Girls 12U A & B:     Thief River Falls    

#### Feb 27-Mar 1

SA:     Lake of the Woods                          SB site 1:     Thief River Falls                          SB site 2:     Warroad      
 Girls 10U A & B:     Bemidji    

#### Regions – Feb 27-Mar 1

Peewee AA – East Grand Forks    Pee Wee A – Thief River Falls    PeeWee B- Roseau

#### State – Mar 13-15

Girls 15UA – Lake of the Woods    Girls 12U A – Roseau

#### IX. Committee Reports

1. Stats - Mark D: Dragich has done some work on the website, will continue to add things to the website. Mark D. will keep up through GameSheet and will send out very clear details on GameSheet. There was a very big problem with people entering games in the wrong areas on GameSheet last year with

- people entering games in the league standings that don't count towards the standings. Games must be entered into the right section of GameSheet, whether it is exhibition season or regular season. If things don't make sense, please let Dragich know so everyone is on the same page. Bemidji had many games entered in exhibition season last year that should have been in the District Standings as an example. The district got complaints because games were entered into the wrong part of GameSheet. Warroad asked if Elliott knows what we need to pay for GameSheet. Elliott said we will get a bill shortly for an estimate of half of the season's games. Then we will get a final bill from GameSheet at the end of the season with the finalized numbers. Elliott will reimburse associations, hoping to pay half of it. \$8/game for GameSheet according to Keith. RLF asked if they were basing it off last year's games, Dragich said yes, as MN Hockey has a one-year contract with them. Elliott is unsure when the bill will come due to all the turmoil at MN Hockey.
2. District Web Page – Mark D.: if there is something that you want it on there, please send it to us. Can give permission for people to make the website look better too.
  3. Coach-in-Chief (CEP) – Jay Hardwick: CEP stuff is online right now, get coaches to sign up right now for a coach's clinic. Get coaches to sign up now, coaches cannot rely on getting a temporary card. Until you are registered, you cannot see available classes as a coach – per Mandi. No excuse for coaches not to get their stuff done per Mandi.
  4. a. ACE Coordinator – Jude: No update.
  4. b. Goalie Coordinator – need: still need a volunteer. All they do is meet online with the committee with information to bring back to the district. Let Elliott know if you have someone in mind.
  5. Referees – Ron Laturi: Get a list of new referees to Mark Elliott with a name, phone number, and email address so he can share it with Dave White, our new referee mentor.
  6. Advanced HP Boys 15's & 14's – Jude Boulianne Tier 1 & 2 (prospects): Jude will be in touch, has already sent some stuff out.
  7. Advanced HP Girls 15's: Jude will be in touch, has already sent some stuff out.
  8. Awards – Roseau, Mark D. will communicate how many you need, Elliott will have the district pay the bill.
  9. Tournaments – Mark Dragich: invitational tournaments, difficult situation through MN Hockey to get the application online correctly. It must be done at least 21 days prior to tournament, Dragich approves, then Rhonda gives final approval. All information except the application is from last year still, it won't show up on the website right now, it has not been cleared up yet. Elliott – host agreement for Region/State tournaments is online, goes to the office, copy Elliott on the host agreement so he can make sure that MN Hockey has got it. Dragich – can't copy Elliott on it, so send Elliott an email telling him that you've completed it.
  10. Risk Manager – Mark Elliott: When there is a serious injury to players, coaches, or fans, send directors an email that this person on this date at this location was injured so that if there is a claim with USAH that it is valid.
  11. Girls – Mark Elliott: No update.
  12. Retention-Recruitment – Keith S: Gear Up Grant, long delay on that, primarily due to stuff going on with the state. Akua is still working on them, now have \$63k for grants from \$50k before. More money for pass the puck grants as well. D16 rarely submits grants, applications are all online, questions can be directed to Keith or Akua. Social media content for our organizations, there will be a social media group to get free content, we will break the 100k girls mark with USAH so there will be a big push that you can use for recruitment. In MN, 20,000 mites are part of MN Hockey, will be another social media piece. Walker – can Mark E. check and see if Walker has been approved for Pass the Puck grant. Keith will check into it.

#### X. **Old business**

1. Mark Elliott 2030 Harding Ct SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 (Cell) 218-766-4433 (Work) 218-759-9411
2. Locker Room Monitors – must be used.
3. Waivers: if anyone has an address that is different from where they are from, make sure they check with Mandi and Mark to ensure that they don't need a waiver. They could forfeit their season without a waiver. Will not accept PO Boxes as an address, may ask for proof that their house is for sale and proof of a purchased house. School waivers, the only players that can use school waivers are first year squirts or 10Us. Mites play where you live. Squirts can make the one-time decision on where they play as they register for first year squirts. Otherwise, you need permission from both associations and Elliott to waiver. Most of the time it isn't a problem and makes sense. LOTW asks what happens if waivers aren't signed. Elliott said that he won't override a board that denies a waiver.
4. Girls 12U/13U play down requests for 13-year-olds do ASAP: 13U girls that want to play on the 12U team, send Elliott requests now, not a problem if within the 1/3 rule and they want to play A hockey. If it is more than that or if they want to play B, we must get permission from the committee and Elliott needs additional information, grade level, years playing hockey, etc. Becky is getting a ton of these things from all over the state, so we need them right now.

#### XI. **New Business**

1. **2025-26 District dues per association. Due by December 1 \$750.**

2. Mite/Game Scheduling – anytime Mites are going to play a full ice game, you must send the schedule to Elliott for approval. Can always amend it as time goes by. For all teams, if game schedules are posted on the association website, you do not need to send Mark E. a copy of it, otherwise, if game schedules are not posted online, you must send Mark E. a copy of each team’s game schedule by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Tier 1 Hockey - Roseau said that people have been asking about combining with D15, D16, D11, D12. Send an email to Elliott and he will talk to Jude, we will either go our own way or find a solution. D11/12 said they didn’t have enough to cut girls, but then there were 60 girls at tryouts.

4. District Director Salary – Mark E.: There was a motion from Minnesota Hockey for each district director to get paid \$12,000/year by MN Hockey. Elliott was not in favor of it because he wanted time to think about it, looks at the District Director role as a volunteer position. The overall MN Hockey Budget came in as a negative \$64,000 out of \$3 million, so the District Director salary was not voted on now but may be voted on later in the year. MN Hockey argued that the money would come from sponsors, but a lot of money comes from parents. Send Elliott an email with your thoughts on it as it will come up again, as at least eight District Directors wanted the money. Elliott doesn’t blame them, as they work hard at it. Mandi gets paid less than \$2,000/year and does quite a bit of work on the registrar side with USA Hockey, as a reference point.

6. **Winter meeting** to be held in \_\_\_\_\_ Red Lake Falls \_\_\_\_\_ on **February 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm**.

**IX. Adjournment – Lake of the Woods motions to adjourn, seconded by Crookston. Motion passes. Adjournment: 5:43pm**