

CHEYENNE CAPITALS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BANTAM MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 10/16/24 TIME: 6:02p MEETING LOCATION: Cheyenne Ice and Events Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Attendees include President J HESSER, Vice President D MANDEL, Treasurer K KECHTER, Secretary J GRONSKI, Registrar T SCHLAGEL, Scheduler K WASHENFELDER, Coach-in-Chief K PARKS, Scheduler A NADEAU, Fundraising Chair S CLARK, Discipline Chair B MOORE, SafeSport Liaison J COVER
- b. Other attendees include Brianna White, Sandy Walck, Will Walck, Layne Varland, Ryan LaFontaine, Brittany LaFontaine, Shawn Ramage, Jayden Erickson; Melissa, Rich Diggins, Liz Buss, CeeJay Pixler, Jay McKinley, Lisa Hill

III. OLD BUSINESS

- a. J HESSER outlines his plan for the meeting—hear updated from COACH RAMAGE, then feedback from audience
- b. S RAMAGE shared his updated plan:
 - a. Today's top 18 players on the team will be rostered. The other 6 players will be practice only players. Decision will be made now, not in December.
 - b. He will prioritize CRHL tournaments for 3 day weekends.
- c. Questions:
 - a. A NADEAU: when will you have the roster?
 - i. S RAMAGE: I will announce at practice tomorrow
 - b. B LAFOUNTAIN: have you investigated other options for these players? Specifically, Laramie and CRHL? What about moving kids up to high school team?
 - i. D MANDEL: Laramie has 16 players, could have room for a couple, but they are not thrilled with adding players at this time.
 - ii. K WASHENFELDER: Given these numbers we do not have enough for 2 rosters. The team would not be able to play the winter season as they missed seeding games.
 - iii. K PARKS: re: High School—there are already 40 players on the ice, the coaches have concerns about coaching time/access to players and moving players to high school would deplete the Bantams roster.
 - iv. T SCHLAGEL: there are also rostering issues if the players that are moved up are not in high school (these are high school teams, not U16/U18 teams)
 - c. S CLARK: Stated she would not support gutting the bantam roster. Having the team lose every game will be disheartening.
 - i. S WALCK: It may be better to have a losing season than destroy the 6 kids you are saying cannot play
 - ii. S RAMAGE: our goal for all players, including practice players will be development

- d. R LAFOUNTAIN: What does a tournament team look like in this situation? How many tournaments are we talking about?
 - i. S RAMAGE: Typically, 4 games over a 3 day weekend in Colorado. There will be no checking, RAMAGE would coach and team would not include any Team Wyoming/Cutthroats players. Will aim for 2-3 tournament opportunities
 - ii. Potential tournaments: Mountain Man in Pinedale (Dec 6-8), MLK weekend tournaments and President's Day tournaments as well as 6 other tournaments K WASHENFELDER has identified and will share with S RAMAGE.
- e. S WALCK: Is the cost of the tournament on the practice squad?
 - i. Yes, just like all tournaments.
- f. B LAFOUNTAIN: Wants to point out that winning is not everything. She believes losing games is more acceptable than losing players and families. Please make sure this does not happen again. Wonders if we have considered taking the first 20 registered players?
 - i. J HESSER: we agree that we don't want to lose players, but we have to have enough players to make a team.
 - ii. A NADEAU: We do lose players after hard seasons—the board has heard from kids on both sides of the problem.
- g. S WALCK: Please, please, please back up the registration deadline
 - i. K WASHENFELDER: we will move the deadline up and correct the timeline next year.
- h. J HESSER: Given the transition and the things on the board's plate, we could not have anticipated this issue. We will do our best to keep this from being an issue in the future.
 - i. B MOORE: As a board we do not want to over promise and under deliver. Registration numbers are out of our control. We absolutely care about all of the players and will continue to do our best.
 - ii. K PARKS: In 17 years this has not been a problem. There have been years with 3 bantam teams and years with no bantams, 20 mites and 70 mites.
 - iii. J HESSER: the board has worked on this for hours. Coach Ramage has worked on this for hours. We are listening to all perspectives. There's just no way to make everyone happy.
- d. Motion 1: Establish a practice-only player fee of \$480 (½ the full season price of \$960) (Motion J GRONSKI; 2nd B MOORE; failed 0-9)
 - a. S WALCK: Why not make it \$150 like the cross-rostering fee?
 - i. L HILL: \$150 for a full season of hockey is too low
 - ii. L VARLAND: Says she feels like \$150 is too low, ½ is too high. These players are missing an experience. Could you also clarify if full refunds are available to anyone who is selected as a practice player and elects to leave the Capitals instead?
 - 1. K KECHTER: absolutely, full refunds are available

- iii. B LAFOUNTAIN: to confirm, practice-only players are exempt from fundraising, right?
 - 1. S CLARK: yes, and if you bought out of wreaths we can refund that money.
 - iv. K WASHENFELDER: What about a happy medium of 1/3 (\$320)?
 - e. Motion 2: Establish a practice-only player fee of \$320 (1/3 of the full season price of \$960) (Motion: K WASHENFELDER; 2nd B MOORE; passed unanimously)
 - a. A NADEAU: What do Mites pay? This is similar.
 - i. \$350
 - b. J GRONSK: With losing this money do we remain solvent?
 - i. K KECHTER: yes, even without fundraising.
 - f. Motion 3: Provide a refund of all fundraising opt-out fees for any practice-only player. (Motion: T SCHLAGEL; 2nd B MOORE; passed unanimously)
 - g. Motion 4: Require that all players opting out of practice-only status notify the board by 10/31/2024 to be eligible for a refund. (Motion: J GRONSKI; 2nd B MOORE; passed unanimously)
- V. **Adjourn 6:44p** (Motion J GRONSKI; 2nd D MANDEL; passed unanimously)