

WHA Board Meeting

September 9, 2024

6pm @ Willmar Civic Center

Attendance: Justin Rucks, Cory Fladeboe, Justin Jorgenson, Darin Strand, Brooke Dahl, Erik Rannetsberger, Shannon Lindquist, Corey Hanson, Becky Villnow

Absent: Katie Stepaniak, Shawn Engstrom

Guests: Jeff Duininck, Laura Weatherby

Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 by Justin Rucks

Executive:

- Jeff Duininck reached out to the board expressing interest in serving on the board. He has been a coach in the program, but will not have the time to commit to practice and games this winter. He would like to continue to stay involved and sees this as a way to do so.
- The board discussed various options for how to proceed with the request. Our by-laws state, "In the case of a vacancy on the Board, the remaining Directors may elect a successor to hold office for the unexpired term."
 - o A message will be sent to membership stating we have an interested party to fill the position. Any other interested parties can reach out to the board to express interest and will be invited to attend the next board meeting. Bios due 9/14.

Finance: No Update

Registration:

- USA Hockey Welcome Back Week
 - o A couple folks listed as not registered
- Board Registration (Due to D5 Oct 2)
 - o Backgrounds
 - o SafeSport
- Player reimbursement after deciding not to play. Discussion with family. Funds already paid will be transferred to the families younger player.
- Conversation has been had with delinquent payee from last year. Plan in place to resolve the issue within the next month.

Hockey Operations Committee:

- Assistant Coaches. All coaches being presented have been picked by Head Coaches, discussed at the last HOC meeting, and the individuals have committed to being a part of WHA.
 - o Bantam A – Cole Anderson, Shawn Bakke, Bridger DeKraai
 - o Pee wee A –

- Pee wee B2 – Levi Goosmann
- 12u – Lleyton Rein, Matt Runke, Troy Pederson
- Squirt A – Jacob Uken
- Squirt B2 –
- 10u – Lauren Block, Luke Norbie, Kennedy Ahrens
- Additionally, the board approved the following candidates to fill assistant coach roles at levels to be determined after tryouts are complete:
 - Mitch Olson, Jon Mikkelsen, Dustin Stepaniak, Aaron Minter, Erik Rannetsberger, Darin Strand, Cory Fladeboe, Justin Jorgenson, and Jeff Duininck. (Jeff made note that he can't commit to a full season, but may be able to help at practices from time to time.)
- Coaches pay/reimbursement was discussed. The topic of raising coaches pay from \$20/hr to \$25/hr for Head Coaches and from \$10/hr to \$15/hr for assistants was suggested. Coaches also receive mileage reimbursement. This rate is determined by the IRS on a yearly basis.
 - No decision was made. This needs to be further investigated to see what the overall budget impact will be.
- A discussion on DIBS was held regarding what parent coaches receive versus how other DIBS responsibilities are paid. This also needs a deeper investigation to determine what our DIBS responsibilities are worth, what the program gets from them, and what is equitable between the various responsibilities.
- The HOC committee now includes the Head coaches that have been approved. Assistants will be invited to attend the meetings.
- IHS website platform was discussed. \$300 will get all of our teams access to all of the tools for the season. It's a great resource for our coaches to stay up to date on topics within the game, planning age/skill appropriate practices, and being able to share ideas electronically.
 - Darin Strand made a motion to approve \$300 for the website. Becky Villnow Seconded the motion. Motion passed Unanimously.
- A discussion regarding our lowest squirt team was held. At the recent HOC meeting a recommendation was made to move from B2 to C. Some concerns were raised about making this move. One of them being our ability to add a 3rd tournament to the Squirt tournament weekend. Additionally, can we find an away tournament? Becky and Corey H will dig into this. Beyond tournaments, there was a concern about being able to schedule games outside of district play. Last year was hard for the C team to find opponents. A final concern was expressed about the overall goal/vision for our program. Does playing at a C level fit with our overall goal to eventually have teams playing higher levels when they're older?
 - No decision was made. This will be discussed at the next meeting, after some of the logistics are figured out.
- A brief discussion on Bantam registration was had. Still a few players not registered that are eligible. We will reach out to them for feedback.
- Fall Ice has started. So far, things are going well.
- HOD Meeting has been moved to the spring, per MN Hockey.
- Tryouts: Jory will be our Tryout Coordinator. He is putting together a group of evaluators. Tryouts will be Oct 4-6, with the 6th being scrimmages.

Fundraising – Met with Val about Greens sales

- Prices will be the same as last year
- Flyer will get updated
- Start Greens orders Oct. 5th. Info will be dispersed at the rink on 10/5 when your child has practice or tryouts.
- Greens orders will be due 10/29.
- Pick up tentatively set Nov. 15

Marketing/Recruitment

- Lakes Region program regular season info has been released. \$55/session. 2 sessions this year. Same as last year.
- Equipment check out for this program will be 9/30. We may need volunteers to help.

Off Ice

- Stickers are in
- Sticker order form will be same as last year for those who want to order
- Need ~400 pucks ordered. Boosters has approved to cover this cost!
- Email will be sent out regarding team shirts and double checking sizes.
- Goalie equipment is being inventoried and checked over
- Clothing store through Rambow is now open. Closes 10/2
 - o A second order will be open sometime after tryouts with additional options, after players have their jersey numbers.

DIBS Coordinator

- Currently been tracking DIBS earned over the summer, meeting attendances, and committee work. Will work with team managers to make sure credit is given.

Grievances – Nothing to report!

Tournaments – Update on openings for our home tournaments. Still need to fill some spots.

Concessions – Justin R is meeting with Rob B and Ryan S later this week. Has been hard to connect with them.

- Looking to run concessions during tournament weekends. Potentially will need families to pick up at least 3 shifts in concessions to cover it. Working on details.

Scheduling – Most of the season is penciled in. Now working on entering practices into the website.

Hope to have most practices entered before tryouts (everything is subject to change)

- A few non-district games are already set!
- Working to maximize our ice budget and ice touches. Some practice set ups will be different this winter to help us accommodate feedback received from our End of Season survey last spring.
- Week 1 – Oct 1-6
 - o 10/1 (all on BLC): Squirt Practice 5:15, 10u/12u Practice 6:30, Peewee Practice 8:00
 - o 10/3 (all on BLC): 10u/12u Practice 6:00, Bantam Practice 7:15
 - o 10/4 (all on BLC): Squirt Tryouts 6:00, Peewee Tryouts 7:15, Bantam practice 8:30
 - o 10/5:

- 10u/12u Practice 5:00-Cardinal, Bantam Practice 6:15-Cardinal,
 - Squirt Tryouts 5:30-BLC, Pee wee Tryouts 6:45-BLC
- 10/6 – Scrimmages (tentatively vs LDC)
 - BLC
 - 11:45 12u
 - 1:00 Bantam
 - Cardinal
 - 12:00 Pee wee
 - 1:15 Pee wee
 - 2:30 Squirt
 - 3:45 Squirt
 - 5:00 10u

Communication – continue to provide relevant info through social media and email blasts. Katie and Brooke have been keeping the updates flowing to our membership.

Committees – If questions come in, please continue to direct them to committees if/when appropriate. This is a starting point. If it can be handled at a committee level, let's keep it there.

D5 meeting update

- Willmar will host PWB Regional Feb 28-March 2
- All players need to wear neck guards, mouth guards, and helmet ear flaps as designed. They're already seeing a lot of "make shift" attempts at neck guards. Players will not be allowed on the ice if they aren't wearing gear as it is designed.
- Make sure to have locker room monitor, even for tryouts and tryout scrimmages.

Motion to Adjourn by Erik. Second Cory F

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

Next meeting: Monday, Sept 23rd @ 6pm at the Civic Center