

Minnesota Hockey – District 8

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024

Meeting Time: 7:00

Meeting Location: Moose Lodge, Inver Grove Heights



I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

D8 Board Members:

Present: Rak, Dave, Paul, Kate, Mickey, Elliot, Kent

Absent: Zac, Jeff, Bill, Andy, Chris,

Association Representation:

Present: Cottage Grove, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, IGH, Lakeville, Red Wing, Rosemount, SSP, WSP, Woodbury

Absent: Apple Valley/ Burnsville, Hastings

III. Vote

- A. August meeting minutes approved.

IV. New Business

- A. Outside teams requesting to play in D8 for the 2024-25 season.
 - i. Dodge County – 12U A, passed.
 - ii. Rochester – 12U B2, passed.
- B. Refs for Tryout Scrimmages
 - i. For associations looking to hire a ref for their tryout scrimmages, you will need to fill out the “Request a Ref” form on the D8 website. This is necessary for planning and payment purposes. **Make sure that Paul Moen is copied on all requests. **
- C. Julie Girard from Woodbury has been nominated for the open position of VP of Squirts, passed.
- D. Discussion was had regarding the overlap of fall sports and hockey tryouts.
 - i. Skaters should never be penalized for missing a tryout due to another sport’s event.
 - ii. It is suggested that associations work with the leaders of the various athletic departments that host fall sports to minimize overlap as much as possible.
 - 1. Examples of ways to handle the conflict that were discussed are –
 - Averaging scores from days the skater missed
 - Match the highest score achieved in the other tryout sessions
 - Treat as the injured players – interview previous coaches, see what they did the previous summer, etc.
 - Lakeville has verbiage for their policy in their handbook online if you are looking for ideas.

V. D8 BOARD REPORTS:

- A. Director (Rak):
 - i. Minnesota Hockey State Meeting Update –

1. During the District director meeting, there was a lot of discussion around the waiver policy changes and the issues that are happening because of the change. There is no consensus between the different Districts as how to best handle this problem. Left alone.
 2. MH has been losing a lot of players at the 15U level due to an outside club, OS Hockey, recruiting for their program. The OS program is now all year instead of just the off-season. They are up to 4 teams to date.
 3. Reminder to associations that our teams can only play other teams that are registered under the USAH banner.
 4. If you get requests to play a team that is not registered with USAH, you will need to decline it.
 5. Bantam AA and PeeWee AA will be played with 3 Regions instead of 4 for this season. This means there will be fewer teams from D8 that will be going.
 6. District 5 is implementing an "Equipment Check" policy like what soccer has so if any of your teams play a District 5 team or in a tournament hosted by an association in District 5, expect to have an equipment check prior to the game beginning.
- ii. All "Try Hockey for Free" programs need to be registered with USAH. The form is on the website. USAH will be sending out stuff for these programs, even if they are not being held on the designated days.
 - iii. USAH registration fees will most likely go up in the 2025-26 season, any further details have not been provided at this time.
 - iv. Minnesota Hockey was approved to allow Mite & 8U teams to participate in up to 10, full-ice scrimmages after January 15.
 1. All Mite/8U full-ice scrimmages need to be reported to the District, even if it is an internal association game.
 2. If an association does not host any Mini-Mite or 6U programs, then only the top half of their Mite teams will be able to participate in full-ice scrimmages. (For example, if an association has Mite 1, Mite 2, Mite 3, and Mite 4 teams and no MM, only the Mite 3 and Mite 4 teams are allowed the full-ice scrimmages.)
 - In this situation, age is not considered.
 - v. Reminder to all associations that any Girls or Youth hockey teams that go out of the state of Minnesota to play in **ANY** game/scrimmage/ tournament –need to fill out the Interstate Travel form and ensure it has been approved by Rak prior to playing. Teams that do not follow this will be fined for non-compliance.
 - vi. Any Mite or 8U teams that want to play a scrimmage with a non-District 8 team, they will need to fill out the "Out of District" form on the D8 website and ensure that has been approved by Rak prior to play. Any team that does not follow this will be fined for non-compliance.
 - vii. Registrations should never be closed at the Youth/ Girls levels. Associations are required to find a home for any skater that registers for their program.
 1. Associations are directed to never cut any players from their program.
 2. Due to rostering rules, any skater that registers after Dec 31 can be placed on a non-state advancing team such as in-house, B2 or C levels.
 3. Rosters can have up to 20 skaters on them.
 4. For skaters that may be in a different position, such as past due balances owed, they will be dealt with at the association level with appropriate steps.

B. Financial Update (Dave):

- i. District 8 is coming out of the 2023-24 season \$12,000 ahead. This is due to a \$10,000 grant received from Minnesota Hockey, money made from tournaments hosted by D8 and fees paid.
- ii. Minnesota Hockey has a surplus of \$98,000, which is less than the \$1,000,000 surplus expectation announced in April. Because of this, GameSheet payments will be the responsibility of each District. Expect Association fees to go up a bit.

C. President (Dave):

- i. Team counts have already been sent to Avario and are being continuously updated as changes are made.
 - 1. Most ice schedulers are already working on season schedules.
 - 2. It is imperative that associations finalize team counts as soon as possible.
- ii. GameSheet codes are here and will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

D. Officials (Moen):

- i. Last seminar for refs for the season has happened.
- ii. Level 1 refs will need to watch the training online.
- iii. USAH is not requiring in person seminars this year, however D8 will be mandating an on-ice element.
- iv. There is a change to the opening date for new officials, this year the opening date was August 1 and will be closed on Oct 31. Going forward, registration for new refs will begin on April 1.
- v. The District 8 ref mentoring program is doing well so we will continue with this. Last year 66 new officials were mentored, and it was successful.

E. Girls Program (Jeff):

- i. Girls Coordinator Meeting will be held on Sept 26. Any association officials that work in the girls' program should be in attendance.

F. Coach in Chief (Bill) –

- i. CEP clinics have started
- ii. Minnesota Hockey will host 96 of them
- iii. USAH will only allow CEP trainings to be posted on the first of the month for the following 6 weeks.
- iv. Have coaches check in on the website on the first of the month.
- v. Levels 4 and 5 continuing ed is due this season.
- vi. Do not wait until the last minute – no more CEP clinics after Dec 15.

G. Tournaments (Zac):

- i. Still need tournament hosts. District 8 website is up to date.
- ii. Failure to register invitational tournaments 21 days before the start of the tournament will result in fines.

H. Coaching & Education (Elliot): n/a

I. Bantams (Mickey): n/a

J. PeeWees (Chris): n/a.

K. Squirts (Open): n/a

L. Goalie Director (Andy):

- i. There will be two Goalie Development clinics coming up in the next couple of weeks.
 - 1. All goalie staff from the D8 associations are encouraged to attend.
 - 2. There is not a fee.
 - 3. Clinics will include various drills including age specific drills and processes
 - 4. This clinic is *not* for any goalies to attend
 - 5. Registration links will be out in the next day or so. Watch for an email from Andy or Elliot.
 - Session 1: Oct 9 @ Burnsville Ice Center starting at 6:30
 - Session 2: Oct 17 @ the Prairie Island Arena starting at 7:00

Thank you to the Farmington and Red Wing Hockey associations for hosting these clinics.

M. Junior Gold (Kent):

- i. Informational emails will be sent out soon – these will include dates and other important information for the season.
- ii. JG/ U16 Final team counts are due Monday, November 18
- iii. Please let Kent know asap if you will be dropping or adding a team as it is important for season scheduling which has already begun.
- iv. Remind any parent coaches that CEP credits are due on December 31 and there will not be any trainings available after December 15.
- v. If you have any goalies or skaters that are looking for a home for this season, reach out to Kent and he will ensure that they find a home.

VI. Close.

Next D8 Board Meeting: XXXXXXXXXX, 2024 at 7:00pm @ XXXXXXXX.