

## Minnesota Hockey-District 16

Winter 2025 Meeting-Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:00pm

The Hive Bar – Thief River Falls, MN

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:01pm
- II. **Roll Call:** Bagley, Bemidji, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, Red Lake Falls, Roseau, Thief River Falls, Warroad, Lake of the Woods (late, bill association \$100), and Walker
- III. **Associations Absent:** NA
- IV. **Agenda Additions:** NA
- V. **Approve Fall Minutes:** Will be approved at the Spring Meeting in May.
- VI. **District Updates:** Elliott stated that if teams do not play and home and home with every team in your division, you will risk both teams not being eligible to play in District tournaments, plus their entire association if a team refuses to schedule a district game. District games must take precedence over invitational tournaments and non-district games. Elliott reminded associations that there will be no changes to the playoff brackets after the meeting is completed today. For the BAA/PAA divisions, we are sending one team from the district to regions, they will play a best three out of five series including the two regular season games. We will decide on a permanent format at the Spring Meeting. Bemidji suggested having a North BAA/PAA district/mini-region tournament to send the top four North teams to regions, rather than the top team from each Northern district.
- VII. **Winter MN Hockey Recap:** Meeting was done by zoom. Fairly routine/boring. The main topic of discussion was GameSheet, as MN Hockey is in negotiations with them regarding the price. It is currently \$8 per game to use GameSheet and it is mandatory to use GameSheet for all games played in Minnesota. MN Hockey wants all associations to pay for GameSheets going forward, including for tournament games. MN Hockey paid the entirety of the GameSheet fees in year one, and half of the fees in year two. They are supposed to have a final decision at the MN Hockey meetings in April. The upcoming April meeting will be in Minneapolis, Mark E., Mark D., and Keith S. will attend. Elliott suggested that associations should come down to the state meetings if they are interested, they are interesting to watch, as they discuss a lot of different issues and discuss reports from USA Hockey.
- VIII. **District Tournament Seeding/Updates:** Mark D. led the discussion on seedings for the district tournaments based on the standings. Minimal issues/objections. Roseau, Warroad, Walker, and Thief River Falls all asked to move down to the Peewee B2 District tournament instead of staying in Peewee B1. All but Thief River Falls were allowed to drop down, Thief River Falls chose to stay at Peewee B1 amid pressure from the group. The USAH Neck Guard Requirement was added to the District Tournament Rules for 2025. Tournament fees for district tournaments are: Bantams \$600, Peewees/12U \$500 and all others \$400, payable to the host association of each district tournament. Roseau asked about having goal judges, which has been done in the past, but is not required, let Mark E. know if you want to use them. All district tournaments will be scored in GameSheets. Referees are paid by the host associations of each district tournament, with no district stipulation on per game fees for referees. Mark D. said updated district tournament brackets will be sent out by tomorrow morning at the latest.
- IX. **Committee Reports:**
  1. Stats: none.
  2. District Web Page: Still in the process of changing over to Crossbar. Appreciated everyone's patience with the change. Still more work to be done.
  3. Coach-in-Chief (CEP): Jay Hardwick not present.

4. ACE Coordinator: Jude Boulianne not present.
5. Goalie Coordinator: Still need one.
6. Referees: Ron Laturi not present, but has spent more time on the phone this season working through issues than anyone else according to Elliott.
7. HP Programs: Emails have been sent out. Still time for coaches to nominate players. Jude is getting things ready for HPs, associations should share information with Jude about players they would like to nominate.
8. Awards: East Grand Forks brought trophies for associations to pick up and bring to the tournaments they are hosting.
9. Tournaments: Mark Dragich, no issues this season.
10. Risk Management: Mark Elliott, A few serious injuries this season. Please make sure to send an email within a day or two of the injury to Mark Elliott so the District has a record of the injury. Please continue to report injuries if you have them.
11. Girls Hockey: Mark Elliott, girls are still playing hockey.
12. Retention-Recruitment: Keith Severson, MN Hockey has automated the grant system now. They are asking for more money, as less than 1% of the MN Hockey budget is spent on recruitment and retention. There is a lot of change going on at the state level and they are meeting every other week currently. Keith has some data on Google Drive regarding recruitment/retention that he can share with associations, reach out to him if interested.

**X. Old Business:**

1. Mark Elliott's mailing address 2030 Harding Ct SW, Bemidji, MN 56601. (Cell) 218-766-4433 & (Work) 218-759-9411
2. Locker Room Monitors-We still need to use them.
3. Waivers-NA
4. Girls 12U/13U Pilot Program: Will likely continue as a program forever now.

**XI. New Business:**

1. Officiating Development: Keith Severson led a roundtable discussion on the officiating situation in each association. Each association has different challenges with referees, whether it is too many young refs, lack of quality refs, or lack of referees in general. A key issue is the abuse of officials, along with a lack of training/mentorship. Many associations were interested in a district wide officiating development program of some sort. More to come.
2. Final reminders from Elliott – parents need to behave. Remind coaches and parents that any penalties will be doubled for the remainder of the season and will carry over into next year.
3. Spring Meeting: Will be held in Bemidji on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, at a location to be determined by Bemidji.

XII. With no further business, Walker moved to adjourn the meeting and Crookston seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 5:38pm