

17 May, 2008 MHL Spring Meeting

AIF = All in favor MP = Motion Passed

1) Minutes were presented and a motion was made to accept the minutes as written by Mark Johnson (Sioux City) and seconded by Jena Cuzzo (OMAHA) AIF. MP.

2) Apparel was made available by (company name) look on your own.

3) Budget was presented, checks outstanding to Waterloo and Sioux Center. Waterloo rep saw check at the Waterloo Board meeting...will see why it hasn't been cashed.

Information was presented informing the associations that in the future, if additional costs arise due to inaccurate ice or referee costs, it will be too late to re-coup the additional costs through reimbursement from the league.

MHL summer select program is discussed as being a completely separate entity for budget and administrative purposes.

Motion made to accept the treasurers report by Serena Brummett (Wichita) and seconded by Cary Gruhn (Lincoln) approved. AIF. MP.

4) Presidents report...Year went very well overall...Competitiveness, is better, most of the teams in AA or A were where they should be. Scheduling continues to be a challenge. Bantam game length was more of a problem than it was originally thought. We continue to have teams change levels at late dates which causes problems. Refereeing went better this year than last hopefully due to the 3 referee system. We will continue to hope that experience level will improve. Costs were better due to the tournament hosts were very good about watching times as they were scheduling. Congratulations to all MHL associations as they were all willing to do whatever it takes. Thanks to all.

5) Associations reports...

Lincoln Stars...Initiated the \$100 incentive program. Challenge is with ice and losing it, using Sidner in Fremont. Keeping coaches and high school teams involved. Will retain 90% of 62 new kids.

Evan Schnasi (Fremont)...80 kids, IP programs and have started some new teams and look forward to travel teams in the future

KC Saints...2 new teams in the fall Squirt A and Bantam A, will work closely with other KC teams in the future. Purchased new sets of gear

KC Stars...330 players and 10 travel team in addition to 330 in high school metro league...Challenge is keeping kids in hockey after youth hockey due to no high level teams. Use backpack mail as advertisement for youth hockey players. 13,000 flyers produced 55 kids. Will participate in MHL at all levels as before. Will work with other KC teams to have AA teams primarily out of KC Stars.

Waterloo...Numbers still the same as last year...Challenges are travel costs due to gas increases. Mary from KC Stars has numbers for busing ideas to help with gas costs.

Omaha Gladiators...Great year. Peewee A and Bantam A teams were the best they can remember having. Kids set the tone for a good year. IP had 55 kids. Plans to have Squirt select team as well as the same as the A teams at Peewee and Bantams. New board members on the board.

KC Outlaws...Development focus in their organization recruitment within issues of cyclical registrations b/w the other KC

teams/associations to grow KC hockey. Wear jerseys to school for recruitment. Numbers should be consistent with last year. Retention should be good.

Sioux City...Numbers steady but slightly down over the last ten years. High School coaches are returning. Working to get more girls in the program. Revised by-laws to be in compliance with district. Working on new locker rooms for facility. City owned facility. 2 teams at all levels. AA and select. Bantam numbers are down.

Wichita...Good year...200 kids in assoc. Concerns...coaches need higher levels of training for 3-4 etc...(Les Teplicky will be contacted by Scot Jones)

Cedar Rapids...MHL league is coming together fun to see. Numbers are down except for peewees and squirts...40-50 IP kids ...2 squirt and peewee teams and 1 bantam. High school is doing well and coaching staff is back. New hockey director that was a former USHL player. Stallion roundup tourney at all levels this upcoming year...Info to come.

Des Moines...Looking for a full time hockey director. 60 sets of ONEGOAL equipment. Mini-mites...numbers are at around 650 kids as always. Play has been at the Wells Fargo arena as well. 2 teams at each AA and select at all levels.

Dubuque...numbers will be the same and they play at Sioux center...Trying to build own rink 2.5 million is raised. Need probably one more year to see construction begin. Gas costs are always a concern. Coaching is also a concern as they are not blessed to have former players to coach. Let them know about available coaches.

OMAHA...Elections were held and needed changes were made. New coaching director. 20 sets of ONEGOAL gear. Registrations start today due to dating stamps for high school. New committee for girls program to organize them to get them placed onto teams in the Midwest. Numbers are about the same ...Concerns cont to be gas and travel costs...

Ames...Lower levels are up but they had a problem at the Bantam levels that has cast a shadow on the high school team. Recruitment issues. Outdoor ice rink this year and the cost was literally nothing and that really helped. Worked with the city and used a city park. Board turnover was low, lost a few players due to cost but just the general cost of the sport. Sponsorship ideas to keep costs down.

Tri-city...Numbers are about the same...purchased 20sets of gear through ONEGOAL...recruitment in the mite through squirt...played MSHSL...

Quad cities...new website and own identity. Did a survey asking input for hockey members/families and has seen very positive outcomes from this. Recruitment director works specifically for finding new kids and it has worked. Using ice time at the AAA Quad City Flames arena and have been enjoying success. 400 kids. Will field teams at select levels and others as well.

Sioux Falls...427 players in our association. Considering joining MHL.

6) Referee Report...Brad Holcomb...Preprinted roster labels and stickers worked well, please continue. Coaching CEP cards must be on their person while on the bench. One gender equity complaint due to having one female player was dressing in the referee room. Please don't let this happen, as there should be accommodations made for them to dress in the team locker with privacy. Cat eye goalie masks are illegal. Please make your goalie families aware of the fact that these are illegal in USA Hockey. Otherwise be aware that in one more year there are size restrictions for goalie gear. So before you purchase gear know the new size restriction. CEP cards. Proposed fines were not much of an

issue. Most of the problems were due to young looking officials, not that they were actually too young. Issue at the select level happened due to use of artificial noisemakers, banging sticks on outside of the boards, cowbells, air horns, may have need to establish a rule or regulation to control this. Zero Tolerance policy is getting better, remind everyone that this game is for the kids.

7) Mark Erbstein (webmaster) was not available today. Des Moines would like to see the website carry basic information regarding MHL as to when the games are played, where they are played etc...Maybe include some history regarding the league itself as to what the weekend entails for new families.

8) Length of the Bantam games...This year was the pilot program to lengthening periods to 15 minutes...Do we want to continue or go back to the original one hour games.? Motion is made by Des moines to leave the times as they were, seconded by Waterloo. AIF. MP.

9) Coordinator for AA All-star selection process...Nonvoting administrative position, for about a month, to get the voting, selection process accomplished and rosters completed. Asking for nominations. Motion made by Sioux City to allow the President of MHL to appoint this position. Second by KC Outlaws. AIF. MP.

10) Clarification of the rostering of players for the all-star game. See notes.

11) Clarification of the CEP Levels...Les Teplicky is working hard to solve problems that have been arising due to CEP classes etc...See handout B. Coaching Education Program Requirements. Recommend all organizations to get coaches at least to Level 3 so they can renew online ...Be aware of the coaches that are in need of renewals before it is too late...

12) Rostering of players see rules as assigned by USA Hockey.

13) Fines for MHL non-compliance will be left at the affiliate level and will follow their guidelines. Discussion by Brad Holcomb (Referee-in-Chief) regarding liability. Cards must be produced.

Team that shows up for a weekend without their roster they can be sent home. Probably won't be but we need to have some form of accountability for the actions

We will drop the issues regarding Coach not being certified appropriately, Coach without card, teams not having rosters...to be handled by the Tri-State affiliate.

As far as :

A) Not paying league fees within a timely manner (4 weeks after billing) \$125/week for every late week. AIF. MP.

B) Teams changing levels or dropping out after the deadline - \$500/team AIF MP

C) Organizations not providing appropriately certified referees for a weekend- \$125/occurrence. Sioux City would like to see this done as long as it can be consistent. Will go on a case by case basis resulting from complaints. AIF MP

14) Updating the Post Cups...adding the bases. As needed. Each association in possession of the Post Cup will have a similar base

added as displayed by Scot and turn in receipts for reimbursement. AIF
MP

15) Nomination for MHL President ...Motion is made for Mike Fritz to be
nominated for President of the MHL. AIF. MP. Mike Fritz is the new
President of MHL for the 2008-2010 term.

16) New Business:

KC Stars would like us to look at the weekends regarding the AA
and A nights...We will try to help Mary with scheduling as early as
possible...

17) Motion made to adjourn Tri-City, seconded by OMAHA. AIF MP