



CAHA Board of Directors' Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting

Date: February 10, 2024

Location: Renaissance Los Angeles Airport

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Present	Abs	Total # Abs	DIRECTOR	Present	Abs	Total # Abs	DIRECTOR
X			Thomas Hancock, President	X			Pat Manzer
X		1	Rosemary Voulelikas 1 st V.P.	X			Randy Meyer
X			Chris Hathaway, 2 nd V.P.	X			Alex Morrison
X			Rick Hutchinson 3 rd V.P.	X			Mark Petrovich
	X	1	Bridget Hopkinson, 4 th V.P.	X		1	Vaughn Reuter
X		1	Dave Bigelow	X		1	Craig Sterling
X			Kevin Culbertson	X		1	Tommy Tartaglione
X		2	Rob Foster	X			Chi-Yin Tse
	X	1	Shane Galaviz	X			Trevor Wada
X		1	Dan Granata		X	1	Becki Winckler
X		1	Cameron Higley				
NON VOTING DIRECTOR				NON VOTING DIRECTOR/ GUEST			
Teresa Attebery, CAHA Secretary				Rick Walden, Legal			
Wendy Goldstein, Pacific District Registrar				Byron Williams			
Nancy Hodge, Associate Registrar SCAHA				Scott Hannan			
Justin Slaten, Associate Registrar SCAHA				Ben Frank, Pacific District/CAHA ADM			
Matt Zucker, Director of Officials							
Lameka Bell, DE&I							

Meeting called to order at 9:12am. Quorum in attendance. Motion to approve September minutes Kevin Culbertson, 2nd by Rob Foster **MOTION APPROVED**

President – Tom Hancock

Thank you to those that worked playoffs. Moving forward we will target Tier I playoff weekend to be combined with a Pacific District meeting which will allow more coverage.

All invoices for the season have been sent out and 90% have been paid.

Financial reports will be sent by Chris.

Treasurer – Chris Hays

Chris was unable to attend.

Member Services – Karen Hackett

Diversity & Inclusion – Lameka Bell

Lameka attended the Carnegie Initiative last week. She is planning a Black History Month mixer February 22 at Crypto 7:30pm. Robbie Jackson attended USA Hockey Winter Meeting.

Legal – Rick Walden

Nothing to report.

SafeSport – Scott Gray

Scott is remote and does not attend meetings. Report to be sent to the board. Tom to work with Scott on a Point of Emphasis regarding what IS and what is NOT SafeSport.

Discipline – Rosemary Voulelikas

Thank you to panel members Charles Smith, Lance Mehegan, Trevor Wada, Byron Williams, Tom Hancock, Bridget Hopkinson and Helen Alex. They are all consistent and compassionate, but still discipline as needed.

Since the June meeting that have been:

99 Match penalties – 37 Adult & 62 Youth

10 601e3 – 7 Adult & 3 Youth

68 hearings have been held – some supplementals; kicking; helmet removal; leaving the bench

All Officials reports submitted online through USA Hockey come to Rosemary and Tom. There are Officials who do not seem to be familiar with rule numbers or know how to write a good report. This often needs to needing to reach out for clarification which is cumbersome and problematic.

Fist bumping while wearing Stripes is not a good look! Optics is not good.

Randy Meyer suggests to all Officials that they greet the coaches before each game.

Matt Zucker is also copied on the submitted reports and noted that the Incident Reporting System is not always working. Matt wants to do some Zoom calls with Officials on some of the basics.

Spectator Ejections are about the same as previous seasons. There have been 5 heard so far and 4 more in queue. These seem to be getting more vicious. Not all are directed towards Officials and more is happening in the stands.

ADM – Ben Frank {note from report sent in advance of meeting}

Purpose:

To make structural recommendations at the State level based on sport science and age appropriate programming that contribute to the optimal environment to maximize player experience, player development, player health and safety, minimize costs, and grow the game.

Vision: CAHA to be innovators and be a leader in change and constant improvement of our game based on sport science principles.

Recommendations:**10U division:**

We have discussed adding special event at the state level to showcase the benefits and experience of 10U half ice hockey. This has been already adopted successfully in many other states and the board has had an appetite to implement it in California but there is concern over acceptance by the membership as well as logistics of practical implementation.

The more I think about it, adding extra events on top of an already busy and costly schedule for all, I believe it would make the most sense to bridge this new concept into what we already do as easily and seamlessly as possible.

I am recommending that:

1. Each league (So-Cal and Norcal) implement into their regular schedule, two half ice game day sessions for each team (3 mini games per ice slot among 4 teams sharing the slot). One in each half of the season.

These games would count towards standings so they are meaningful and would be easy to add on an open weekends or even as a double header weekend. They do not need to all happen on the same weekend and can be scheduled within ice already submitted by clubs. All clubs are already set up to host 8U 4 team game slots and this would be very similar.

2. CAHA Replaces the 10U state tournament with an 8 team half ice state tournament for A, BB, and B. All at same venue. The leagues still have their full ice league championship, but the state hosts a half ice tournament for the top 4 ranked teams from each region in each level for a half ice championship event with cool awards and atmosphere.

Two pools of 4 play 3 round Robin games then 1v2 and 3v4 cross pools with 5th game for gold and bronze medal game.

Potential Issues:

- Shooting pucks onto the other side when players, goalies and officials are not looking ?
- Ideal format is 10U teams of 8 players and 1 goalie but no more than 12 and 2. Many 10U teams may carry more than 12 skaters? Would not be a great ice time experience at half ice...

Why 10U Half ice:

-Optimal surface size for player development and in line with the windows of trainability. Increases puck touches and involvement for all players in offensive and defensive play, allows for smaller rosters, and less system play.

Rosemary called out that the local leagues have not discussed this and that clubs need to be informed. Hutch agrees that this needs to be discussed at the local level. Tom suggests a showcase elite event. Chris

Hathaway was initially against this, but as a rink owner, sees how it would free up ice. The parent issue in accepting this could be 10 fold what we saw when 8U moved to cross ice. Dan Granata feels that the leagues need more structure and content to pass on to the clubs. Tommy Tartaglione called out that rosters sizes should accommodate and smaller nets should be used.

Vaughn Reuter commented that is it up to CAHA to roll out and suggests that for the first year it is just half of the season. Chi-Yin Tse ran 10U ½ ice at the In House level with no issues. Play was 4 on 4. Players had more puck touches and level of play increased. Scott Hannan agrees with the concept but feels there is a lot of details to work out. Tom mentioned that the goal is for a full conversion. Wendy Goldstein mentioned that PNAHA has been doing this for a few years. Per Vaughn, input from others is important but it is up to CAHA to decide. Yes, logistics will need to be worked through. Teams would not be restricted from doing full ice tournaments. Chi called out that every other sport starts on smaller playing surfaces.

Cam says this is an emotional topic and we need informed feedback so we can lead with data. Matt mentioned that we need to work with Officiating. Tommy called out that SCAHA does not do 8U cross ice, but does 8U half ice.

Tom suggested that CAHA fund \$15K for two events with 8-12 teams, not to be held during the regular season. Ben says this will lead to better player development and that it may be hard to find a time for events during the off-season. Rosemary said we need to make a big splash with this change. Chi called out that this helps with goaltender development. Chris said if we agree this is better that we just need to rip of the bandaid. Hutch reminded everyone that messaging is important.

Dan Granata motioned for CAHA to sponsor 2 events, dates TBD but target for late summer/early fall, for up to \$15K. 2nd by Chi **MOTION PASSED**

Details will be vetted by the June meeting. Plan on full implementation for the 2026-27 season. Tom to send point of emphasis letter by next week.

Future Considerations?:

12U

-Eliminate travel for CAHA weekends for 12U Tier 2 and each league sends top ranked teams at the end to State playoffs.

Why:

-Focus at this age group is the training environment, not the competitive environment and recommendations focus on reducing travel for competition and associated costs to keep more players in the game, make it more accessible, and avoid long term burnout.

14U/16U/18U

-Remove checking at 14B and 16A/18A levels and rename from "B" to "non check".

Why:

-allows a non checking pathway all the way through youth hockey.

-hockey stays an option for smaller, less developed kids at each age group and for those with concussion history or those who are pursuing the "hockey for life" pathway, rather than the performance path, and do not want to risk concussion and injury.

-Allows girls (individuals and teams) a vehicle all the way through our leagues for local competition.

Adult Chair – Rick Hutchinson

Working with USA Hockey to get swag for the Adult Tournaments. San Jose tournament will be April 26-28 and Lakewood tournament will be May 3-5.

Rick is working on Grass Roots with the USA Hockey Membership Council. NHL Clubs are working with USA Hockey on growing the Learn to Play program. Rick is pushing for a 4 week free option as well.

Director of Officials – Matt Zucker

We used 25 different Officials for Tier I States. All games were 4-man. ~7 games/official, mix of reffing and lining. There were no major issues. Some Officials rose to the top and others did not. ~1/2 of the staff at Tier II & High School. Used a mix of veterans “protectors” and some newer to States. All Officials were paid the day after the event, thank you to Tom for paying in advance.

There were no issues with Girls AA.

Learn to Ref program will roll into the August time frame. There have been some issues with USA Hockey registration.

There is momentum to increase Officials fees. Other sports are higher paid than hockey. CAHA rates are already good.

Matt would like to start hosting “Welcome to California” meetings.

Kevin Culbertson mentioned that Officials need to sign scoresheets and do a basic scoresheet review when signing off. Rosemary mentioned notes need to be legible. Wendy Goldstein agrees that scoresheets are an issue. Randy Meyer can see TTS (Time to Score) reports if needed.

Youth Council – Chris Hathaway

Youth Council is here to hear waiver requests to CAHA rules, it is the sole purpose of the CAHA Youth Council. Waivers to the 33% rule are high. Many requests are valid.

Boys Tier Commissioner – Kevin Culbertson

Kevin worked Tier I States at Toyota Sports Center. Rosemary, Mark Petrovich and a non-CAHA volunteer were the 3 Stars. Tom thanked TSC for finally hosting a playoff event.

High School Commissioner – Rosemary Voulelikas

We have 5 NTB (National Bound) pure teams; 3 combo teams and 1 Girls team. CAHA received spots for 1A, 2A & Girls.

Rosemary is on the USA Hockey Girls High School sub-committee. The CAHA HS committee is meeting to discuss how we can grow girls High School teams.

Chi says we need to promote Girls at lower levels who will end up playing High School.

There is currently a disconnect on the rules between our three (3) High School Leagues and they need to be aligned.

CAHA’s date to declare NTB HS is October 15. The USA Hockey date to declare is November 15. CAHA HS rosters freeze date is February 1, that USA Hockey date for HS roster freeze is February 15.

The CAHA HS Committee has received 35 waivers for out of district requests.

Girls Commissioner & Tournament Director – Bridget Hopkinson

District Registrar – Wendy Goldstein

Wendy brought up the new USA Hockey Tier I rule of “1 team/1 season”. Tom will be forwarding the final document from USA Hockey.

Starting August 1, neck laceration protection equipment is required for all youth players and youth officials.

Coaches and Team Managers need to pay attention to scoresheets as well as the Officials. Scorekeepers need training.

Select Camp – Rosemary Voulelikas

Boys Select Camp was January 19-21. Thank you to Rob Foster and Justin Hubert for their help. There were 281 players registered with 36 out of district.

CAHA is discussing moving to a single state camp which would be invite only. For the youngest group, we will consider a separate weekend.

All evaluators at the Girls Camp were college coaches who used a ranking & rating system.

Action for June meeting will be to finalize reformat of Boys Select Camp.

Chi thinks we should add to the CAHA camps an education portion for parents and players on what the process is to help educate them.

Old Business

Tom reiterated board meeting expectations. All Directors are expected to attend all 4 meetings in their entirety.

Tier I Committee will be meeting in 2 weeks. Amend Tier I allowed associations to include San Diego. San Diego County line will be the border. Team San Diego consolidation (not the San Diego Gulls) will start with 12AAA.

Motion for the above by Chi-Yin Tse, 2nd by Vaughn Reuter reiterating all district lines – Norcal is Fresno and above; Ducks and Kings are Bakersfield to San Diego. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously

If an approved Tier I program is perpetually inferior, there will be a discussion. Tier I programs may only field 1 Tier II team per division.

There will be options to add future clubs if the numbers justify.

Impartial/outside club evaluators will be at Tier I clubs tryouts. Players will wear a patch on their jersey representing their “home” club.

Out of state player allowances will be changing.

Rick Hutchinson motioned to approve CAHA covering up to \$30K for grass roots goalie development, application open to all clubs. 2nd by Dan Granata **MOTION PASSED**

ABI program will continue in the 2023-24 season. There will be a few different modules for different age groups.

We have 2 proposals for a new CAHA website; TIEHL and CrossBar. Tom will have discussion with Chris Carcerano after State playoffs conclude.

New Business

12AA format change – no CAHA weekends. 12AA will be run under each league. There will still be States held with A/BB/B. For the 2023-24 season, there will be 4 SCAHA teams and 2 Norcal teams.

Chris Hathaway made the motion for the above, 2nd by Chi. **MOTION PASSED**

What are the minimum qualifications to be a CAHA Director? Is it OK for Directors to not live in California? Should there be a residency requirement? We already have a hard time getting Directors to help at events. Nomination form already includes address of nominee. Directors need to commit to work events.

If we do not get Directors to help, we should consider eliminating playoffs due to lack of support. We should not punish the kids for adults lack of volunteering. Dave Bigelow will not volunteer to work at events.

Playoff venue discussion – move all State events to super sites Irvine and San Jose who have both agreed to host. We will schedule dates out 3 years. A/BB/B/12AA at venue 1 and Tier I/Tier II/HS at venue 2. Alternate each year.

Rob Foster made the motion for the above, 2nd by Kevin Culbertson **MOTION PASSED**

Brief discussion on sanctioned tournament requirements.

Discussion on Tier II roster minimum requirements. Decision to leave as is and use waivers as needed.

Next Meeting will be June 22, 2024 in LA

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm Motion by Chi-Yin Tse; 2nd by Rosemary Voulelikas – **MOTION APPROVED**

Meeting minutes submitted by Teresa Attebery / California Amateur Hockey Association Secretary