



CAHA Board of Directors' Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 23, 2023

Location: LAX Marriott, El Segundo

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Present	Abs	Total # Abs	DIRECTOR	Present	Abs	Total # Abs	DIRECTOR
X			Thomas Hancock, President	X			Pat Manzer
X			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			Bridget Hopkinson, 4 th V.P.	X		1	Vaughn Reuter
	X	1	Dave Bigelow	X			Craig Sterling
X			Kevin Culbertson	X		1	Tommy Tartaglione
X		1	Rob Foster	X			Chi-Yin Tse
X			Shane Galaviz	X			Trevor Wada
	X	1	Dan Granata	X			Becki Winckler
	X	1	Cameron Higley				
NON VOTING DIRECTOR				NON VOTING DIRECTOR/ GUEST			
Teresa Attebery, CAHA Secretary				Ken Martel, USA Hockey			
Wendy Goldstein, Pacific District Registrar							
Ben Frank, Pacific District/CAHA ADM							
Matt Zucker, Director of Officials							

Meeting called to order at 9:00am. Quorum in attendance. Motion to approve June minutes with attendance correction by Rosemary Voulelikas, 2nd by Rick Hutchinson **MOTION APPROVED**

President – Tom Hancock

Tom advised board members to plan on meetings running from 9-4. Please plan on being in attendance for the full meeting. We will discuss all action items in the meeting and not reserve for future conversation. Only critical action items will be handled outside of meetings.

Treasurer – Chris Hays

Chris was unable to attend. Tom distributed current financial statements.

Member Services – Karen Hackett

Karen was unable to attend. Tom is working on setting up Quick Books invoice process for team/club fees.

Diversity & Inclusion – Lameka Bell

Lameka was unable to attend. We will be having a DE&I presentation at the December meeting.

Legal – Rick Walden

Rick was unable to attend. There has been 1 appeal chaired by Rick since the June meeting.

SafeSport – Scott Gray

Scott is remote and does not attend meetings. There have been a number of issues being reported to the Center for SafeSport. NGB's are pushing back on the Center regarding the new expiration date process. NGB's are meeting with Congress to have changes made to improve oversight.

Discipline – Rosemary Voulelikas

Rosemary is changing the hearing schedule to only twice a month. Exceptions could be made to this new schedule. There will be 10 days between the incident and hearing.

Since June there have been 33 match penalties given to adults; 7 to youth and 3 supplemental hearings. Offensive language is still a problem. There was a summary suspension to a parent for threats. We have had an allegation of recruitment.

Rosemary is no longer communicating with parents, coaches, or team managers. She will only communicate with club presidents or directors. This is due to emotionally and verbal attacks to Rosemary personally.

Rick Hutchinson commended Rosemary and is willing to help with Discipline.

Kevin Culbertson supports the new hearing schedule.

CAHA does not have to have hearings. We are the most thorough affiliate. Most just let members sit. Depending on the offense, CAHA will automatically call a hearing even if it is not requested. For the Youth, it is for education.

Video reviews are only accepted when submitted by a Club President. Rosemary has a small video review committee. Matt Zucker is willing to assist with video reviews.

ADM – Ben Frank

Ben will connect with Ken Martel on various workshop options for clubs.

Adult Chair – Rick Hutchinson *{From report submitted in advance of meeting}*

Adult State Tourney Recap 2023 Adult Events: [Last year's details click here](#)

- North: San Jose (Vaughn) 25 teams

- South: Lakewood (Hutch/Vince) 24 teams

New dates 2024 pending

- North TBD
- South 2024 May 3-5th Cinco de Mayo Weekend.

Grassroots Goalie gear applications

review https://caha.com/view.pl?p=goaltending/grassroots_development.html

- Attached applicants for your review.
- The board will need to vote on how to distribute.
 - The CAHA board previously approved 25k
 - Packages do not include goalie sticks

USA Hockey Annual Meeting- Member Council recap

- Reviewed strategic plan.
 - Get more leaders involved. Better relationships with NHL clubs
- Growth 8U
 - Boys decreasing
 - Girls increasing
- Allocate more resources TBD by council.
- **Formed committees- (see 9/23 email from Rick for names)**
 - Review club excellence program
 - NHL grassroots best practices
 - Communication/messaging/Tech/IT
- I'm the chair for the-***Gold Standard Blueprint with NHL Clubs and Affiliate Relationship*** and *will schedule a meeting with the committee next in Oct*

Goaltender grassroots development- *This is becoming a bigger topic.* Steve T. presentation.

- Request for Goalie Growth Coordinator -Application process for CAHA/NHL clubs
 - Ducks to host a Silver Goaltending Certification program [Click here](#)
 - Registration is open.

Director of Officials – Matt Zucker {From report submitted in advance of meeting}

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this board and support hockey officiating in the state of California. I have been a regular participant in CAHA events since fall 2012 and CAHA board meetings since 2021. My predecessor Mark is someone I worked very well and very closely with together for a number of years, and I wish him success in his continued involvement with hockey in Northern California.

2023-24 CAHA Event Plan

- CAHA Event Scheduling/Ownership/Rates
 - I will handle scheduling regular season CAHA events in Northern California through NorHOA
 - LAHOA will handle regular season CAHA events in Southern California
 - I will be handling all CAHA Playoff events (note on Tier I & Girls playoff weekend, the minimum of 2 and possibility of 3 venues may require additional support)
 - Last season, CAHA gave a generous rate increase for all officiating positions to incentivize officials to work CAHA events; as those rates are still superior, there are no additional rate increase for officials was requested this season
- Travel/Staffing
 - In speaking with association presidents, there is concern there are not enough officials in Northern California to properly staff the 3-official system for even the smaller weekends, particularly in Vacaville.
 - We request travel approval for intra-state travel as follows:
 - 12AA/14AA San Jose Nov 10-12: Two (2) officials
 - 16AA/18AA Vacaville Nov 17-19: Four (4) officials
 - 12AA/14AA San Jose Dec 1-3: Two (2) officials

- 18AA Vacaville Dec 8-10: Two (2) officials
- The idea would be to travel higher level officials who are capable of refereeing 67% of their games. This allows us to:
 - Use more local linesmen to broaden the coverage pool,
 - Have games worked by qualified, experienced officials, and
 - Have a senior official on the lines to help develop the non-traveling referees to further build up the pool of qualified officials in NorCal
- I plan to participate in most of these weeks to support as well

2023-24 Officiating Program Updates: Challenges Facing Officiating in California

- Under-Prepared Level 1 Officials: USA Hockey announced that Level 1 seminars in 2023 would have two parts, a Zoom taught by the national office and an on-ice seminar taught in-person by local associations. Associations planned seminars accordingly with reduced local classroom time as instructed by USA Hockey. However, due to an IT issue, this plan was abandoned in July, and anyone who completed the local on-ice seminar was marked complete for seminar requirements. The net result is these (hundreds of) officials “missed out” on the 3hr of online training. Associations are adjusting future seminars to be longer and cover all required materials, but the initial pool of Level 1’s will likely have a longer than expected ramp up time due to the missed training.
- Continued Abuse, Particularly of Minor Officials: Multiple schedulers and officials have reached out to me stating that youth officials regularly request to only be linesmen because they do not want to deal with the verbal abuse from parents and coaches, particularly at the A & B level. Positive experiences and development opportunities particularly for officials in their mid to late teenage years are essential to developing a long-term officiating pool for the national bound levels. Other sports and Hockey Canada have gone so far as to have youth officials wear a colored band/lanyard to draw attention to their minor status. While I personally am not a huge fan of the idea, I’ve been told by officials in my circle that it actually works over time. No immediate action requested of the board - highlighting the issue for the board to consider a discussion to proactively mitigate this issue at the appropriate time.
- Hateful/Discriminatory Language: We continue to inconsistently apply 601b2 (bench minor to coach), 601c2 (Misconduct to player), and 601e3 (Match). The line between profane and discriminatory is vague and circumstantial as we all know. The lack of a game misconduct option for obscene language (when there is a game misconduct for obscene gestures) creates confusion and handcuffs officials. There is one particular word that I have seen called on the entire 601 spectrum in just the first three weeks of the season. In my view the cleanest option is to issue an affiliate privilege clarification that the 601d2 game misconduct for an obscene gesture can also be applied for obscene language, allowing us to message locally the differences between profane and obscene // obscene and discriminatory. The feedback I’ve received from officials is that there is no middle ground; a match feels like overkill but is the only way to eject someone without making up a rule. No immediate action requested of the board - highlighting the grassroots concern for the board to consider a discussion at the appropriate time.
- Overall Staffing: I am working on obtaining membership numbers from each association and will have a more detailed update in the meeting.

{End submitted report}

Per Tom, context is important in reports submitted by Officials. Tom will work with Rosemary and Matt on a letter of emphasis to the Officials. Rosemary pointed out that the Officials reports need to be complete and accurate. The narrative needs to match the penalty – “don’t be vanilla”. Rosemary wants all Officials to know that CAHA

wants to support them, so the narrative is very important. Rosemary pointed out that Dan Ellison confirms reports with Officials.

Randy Meyer doesn't think that Officials really understand that the reports they submit are reviewed and passed on and CAHA needs to provide feedback when there are narrative issues.

There appear to be some Officials who are treating players different based on their history.

Tom will add Matt to the distribution for all incident reports.

Chi suggested an Officials Growth Initiative. Tom believes we should target college student/players to become officials. We need to follow through on getting more officials into the game.

The ADHSHL held a camp with Officials and Players. There was an officiating class and then the Officials played with the Players officiating. Matt would like to expand this.

There are currently 440 Officials with complete training and 540 incomplete. We are very bottom heavy.

Youth Council – Chris Hathaway

Chris mentioned that there has only been 1 non-HS waiver.

Boys Tier Commissioner – Kevin Culbertson {From report submitted in advance of meeting} **Tier I**

FINAL Team Counts are:

18U – 5 (Ducks, Kings, Sharks, Reign and St. Pats)
16U – 5 (Ducks, Kings, Sharks, Bears and Santa Clarita Flyers)
15O – 5 (Ducks, Kings, Sharks, Bears and Wave)
14U – 6 (Ducks, Kings, Sharks, Bears, Goldrush, and OC Hockey)
13O – 6 (Ducks, Kings, Bulls, Sharks, OC Hockey and Wave)
12U – 4 (Ducks, Kings, Sharks, and Goldrush)
11O – 2 (Ducks and Kings)

League Games are underway but scheduling of ALL required games yet to be completed for the upcoming Oct. 15 deadline. As of THIS writing, the following required scheduled games yet to be finalized are:

18U

Kings v Reign x 3

16U

Ducks v Kings x 1

Kings v Sharks x 3

Kings v Bears x 1

Kings v Flyers x 2

Sharks v Bears x 3

Sharks v Flyers x 3

Bears v Flyers x 1

15O

Ducks v Wave x 1

Kings v Bears x 3

Kings v Wave x 3

Bears v Wave x 3

14U

Kings v Sharks x 2

Bears v Goldrush x 1

130

Ducks v Ice Dogs x 1

Ducks v Wave x 2

Kings v Ice Dogs x 1

Ice Dogs v Wave x 1

12U

Ducks v Kings x 1

Kings v Goldrush x 1

110

Ducks v Kings x 1

Tier II

Final team counts are:

Club	Count	12U	14U	16U	18U
Blackhawks	1	-	-	1	-
Bulls*	5	2	2*	-	1
Condors	2	1	1	-	-
Ducks	7	2	2	2	1
Empire	4	1	1	1	1
Flyers	3	-	2	-	1
Golden Bears	5	2	2	1	-
Goldrush	3	1	1	1	-
Gulls	1	-	1	-	-
GSE	7	2	2	2	1
Heat	4	1	2	1	-
Ice Hawks	1	-	-	1	-
Kings	6	2	2	1	1
Oakland Bears	1	-	-	-	1
OC Hockey	4	-	1	2	1
Pats	2	-	-	1	1
Red Wings	1	1	-	-	-
Reign	4	1	1	1	1
Saints	2	-	-	1	1
SDIA	2	1	1	-	-
Sharks	4	1	1	1	-
Wave	4	-	1	2	1
Total	72	18	23*	19	12

***NOTE** – the Bulls 14AA(2) have requested to drop to NorCal “A” with the request currently under review and consideration by NorCal.

Except for the 18AA division, under the new Tier II format, NorCal and SCAHA are taking the lead scheduling AA games as well as narrowing down the contenders v pretenders. SCAHA games are currently underway with a target of October 31 to finalize which SCAHA teams will be relegated to SCAHA “A” or lower v those AA teams which will advance to cross-over weekends v the advancing NorCal teams. The 12-team 18AA division is currently set in that no teams from either league will, or even can be relegated, and SCAHA has commenced scheduling games for this division amongst its teams.

TEAM MANAGEMENT –

All in all the Boys Tier Team Administration is off to a very good start. Always a hic-up or two here and there, and of course some teams appear to be challenged on the admin of their respective team page.

I did send an email to all teams last week that should they be playing at a venue using “GAMESHEET” as the electronic method of tracking games that they take extra care in reviewing their scoresheets. While any of the electronic scoring versions come with certain challenges, GAMESHEET is of particular concern in that we are seeing too many of the sheets conflicting with the recording of a garden variety “2+10” or sometimes even a “5+GM.” The most common problem is the recording of a 2-min Minor with a “Game Misconduct” instead of a “Misconduct.” This is of course possible if the 2-min Minor was also the players 4th penalty, but that is usually not the case with these sheets and that then leads to having to find out which of those entries is the wrong entry. Is it the 2-min Minor, or is it the 10-min GM?

{End submitted report}

Per Tom, the Tri Valley Bulls 14AA-2 will need to get Tri Valley Blue Devils jerseys.

Chris Hathaway will work with the Coaching Group regarding the 18AA format and there will be an email vote to affirm.

At the December meeting, Matt will have a list of potential playoff officials.

High School Commissioner – Rosemary Voulelikas

There are 6 pure NTB high school teams: Santa Margarita; Orange Lutheran; Fairmont; St. Mary's; Bellarmine & Tahoe Hockey Academy.

There are 2 NTB combined teams: Central Cathedral & Damien

There is 1 NTB Girls team: St. Mary's

The district for the St. Mary's girls team is currently all of California. All players must attend high school in California. Once there is any additional Girls High School team(s) in California, then districting will be reviewed.

High School Committee being formed. The members are Rosemary, Tom, Teresa, Mark P, Shane and Matt Blanchart.

Rosemary would like to remove High School from CAHA Youth Council. Motion to have Youth Council to defer all High School waivers to the High School Committee. Waivers will go to Rosemary first and send to Youth Council with a recommendation to either move to the High School Committee or keep; 2nd by Rick Hutchinson –
MOTION PASSED

Rosemary would like to thank the ADHSHL & SHSHL for the High School Weekends. There will be 3 in the South and 3 in the North.

The deadline for High School NTB declarations is November 15.

Girls Commissioner – Bridget Hopkinson

Managers are doing good, with the new ones needing help.

Reminder that registration for the Girls Camp closes on October 4th.

District Registrar – Wendy Goldstein

John Beaulieu's seat on the Pacific District board. Anyone interested needs to email Wendy by 12/31.

2025 Nationals applications are due 9/27.

Reminder of the 3 Pilot Programs:

18AAA – 22 players can be rostered and dressed

13O – will have Districts & Nationals

Vertical Movement – CAHA is not participating

CAHA has finally surpassed the pre-Covid numbers. We are at 111% growth.

USA Hockey IT issues are troublesome.

USA Hockey – Ken Martel

Per Ken Martel, the USA Hockey Executive Committee is aware of all of the issues.

Please reach out to Ken if there is anything that he can do for coaches.

There is no “NHL Special” for CEP waivers. Coaches should be attending clinics.

Select Camp – Rosemary Voulelikas

Both league camps are on December 8. North and South camps are invite only. The SCAHA camp went from 500 to 300.

There will be a District Player Development Camp meeting in October in Vegas. Rosemary and Rob Foster will be representing CAHA.

USA Hockey really likes our multi district camp.

Old Business

Letter to league presidents regarding the Anti-bullying & Inclusion training tomorrow. All registered participants in California will need to complete by Oct 15.

Rosemary motioned to delay training for this season, second by Bridget – **MOTION FAILED**

Alex feels we should at least attempt. Becki does not see an issue with the timeline. Rick believes the content is what is important. Randy says the message is good. Chi is in agreement with all comments.

Learn to Play equipment – waiting for an update. Lameka was unable to attend.

Goalie Gear – CAHA previously approved \$25K, but with additional requests the cost is now \$35K. 17 clubs/rinks have requested gear. Chris Hathaway motioned to increase the budget; 2nd by Rosemary – **MOTION PASSED**

Rick will communicate with the clubs/rinks.

New Business

Budget distributed and discussed. Rosemary motioned to approve budget; 2nd by Vaughn Reuter – **MOTION PASSED**

Tryout dates – Rosemary motioned to update tryout date language to start the first Friday following Memorial Day; 2nd by Bridget – **MOTION PASSED**

11AAA – Kevin motioned that effective with the 2024-25 season, CAHA no longer recognizes 11AAA; 2nd by Chi – **MOTION PASSED** via ballot vote

Rosemary motioned that effective with the 2025-26 season, CAHA limit Youth Tier I at each age group to the NHL clubs only with the caveat that no players north of Bakersfield go south and no players south of Fresno go north; 2nd by Becki – **MOTION PASSED 8-2** via ballot vote; Directors with an NHL affiliation recused from voting.

Review of % of out-of-state players needed; review of block recruitment needed. Look into a patch that players wear with the club that they started with.

Next Meeting will be December 2 in Sacramento

Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm Motion by Chi-Yin Tse; 2nd by Randy Meyer – **MOTION APPROVED**

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