



CAHA Board of Directors Meeting

Date: September 28, 2024

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			Cameron Higley
X			Rosemary Voulelikas 1 st V.P.		X	2	Kristi Kehoe
X			Chris Hathaway, 2 nd V.P.	X			Pat Manzer
X		1	Rick Hutchinson 3 rd V.P.		X	1	Caroline Marchant
X			Bridget Hopkinson, 4 th V.P.	X			Randy Meyer
	X	1	Kolton Aubol	X			Mark Petrovich
	X	2	Dave Bigelow	X			Tommy Tartaglione
X			Kevin Culbertson	X			Trevor Wada
X			Rob Foster	X			Tim Williams
X			Shane Galaviz	X		1	Becki Winckler
	X	1	Scott Hannan				
NON-VOTING DIRECTOR				NON-VOTING DIRECTOR/ GUEST			
Teresa Attebery, CAHA Secretary				Ken Martel, National Office			
Dan Ellison, RIC				Wayne Sawchuk, Pacific District			
Wendy Goldstein, Pacific District Registrar							
Rick Walden, CAHA Legal							
Matt Zucker, Director of Officials							

Meeting called to order at 9:15am. Quorum in attendance. Rob Foster motioned to approve June minutes, 2nd by Rosemary Voulelikas – **MOTION APPROVED**

President – Tom Hancock

USA Hockey Affiliate Presidents meeting will be held in October. The new Tier I process will be discussed.

CAHA Anti-bullying training is underway with expanded and improved process. We do need to refresh the content of the professional players. USA Hockey wants to do an article on the program.

Rosemary Voulelikas motioned to approve a \$2500 stipend, retroactive to last season for the admin work, 2nd by Bridget Hopkinson – **MOTION APPROVED**

Chris Hays sent the budget and financial statements to Tom. Budget needs minor updates, Tom will send to the board by Monday and there will be an email vote to approve.

Member Services – Karen Hackett

Karen was unable to attend.

Mammoth Stars are now formally part of SCAHA. They provided documented Cal Trans road conditions to show travel to SCAHA vs NorCal. Teams are performing well.

DE&I – Lameka Bell

Lameka was unable to attend.

Legal – Rick Walden

Rick has nothing to report.

SafeSport – Scott Gray

Tom will get a report from Scott. There have been a rash of direct to USA Hockey reports targeting coaches without substance. There have been serious reports that are being picked up by the Center for SafeSport.

There are players who require reasonable accommodations – for example player behavior due to autism.

Discipline – Rosemary Voulelikas

Since the June meeting, there have been 35 Match penalties – 28 Adult and 7 Youth. 19 hearings have been held and 5 supplemental hearings for hateful speech.

All he said/she said hateful speech is being handled by CAHA vs SCAHA & NorCal.

Discipline Committee is Tom, Rosemary, Bridget, Helen Alex, Nancy, Lance Mehegan, Charles Smith & Tyler Carreon. Tim Williams is interested in joining.

Select Camp – Rosemary Voulelikas

Location for Select Camp is still being confirmed, but hoping to have both groups at Great Park.

Tier I players will review player history for invites, it is not automatic. Rosemary to add a document to the CAHA website with information. Out of state playing kids need to attend.

The Girls Camp is still open – i.e. not an invite process.

Director of Officials – Matt Zucker

There are currently 714 registered and complete Officials. 60% are Level 2 and higher. There are an estimated 1000-1200 registered.

Matt is working with local officials associations on being more friendly with getting new officials scheduled. There was a Welcome Event held at Sharks Ice. California is doing a great job. Matt wants to work with the PGHL & SHSHL to get new officials. There is no anticipation of needing to use out of state officials this season.

Youth Council – Chris Hathaway

Majority of waivers are around goalies due to goalie shortages. There is an increase asking for 12U goalies to play 14U. We need to establish criteria for review of these requests on a case-by-case basis. Youth Council needs to work on parameters to allow advance approval regards to goalie player-ups.

Clubs need to work on a way to incentivize players to play goalie.

Girls Commissioner – Bridget Hopkinson {report submitted}

All CAHA League games are scheduled by the PGHL and are posted on the CAHA website. Managers are doing a pretty good job uploading their games and stats on their team pages. They still get a bit confused when they do not see their CAHA away games on their team page but we are working through it. We will not know until after the October 12 Pacific District Meeting if CAHA will need to do a State playoff for the girls division.

2024-25 GIRLS TEAM COUNTS									
CLUB	TIER II				TIER I				TOTAL
	12U	14U	16U	19U	12U	14U	16U	19U	
GOLDRUSH		1	1						2
GSE GIRLS			1	1					2
JR FLYERS GIRLS	1								1
JR SHARKS GIRLS	1	1	1			1	1	1	6
LA LION	1	1			1	1	1		5
LADY DUCKS		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
SD ANGELS	1			1				1	3
TV LADY BLUE DEVILS					1	1			2
TOTAL	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	28

Bridget is stepping away from the PGHL.

Tier Commissioner – Kevin Culbertson {report submitted}

League Games are underway for both Tier I and Tier II. For Tier I, scheduling of ALL required games yet to be completed for the upcoming Oct. 15 deadline.

TIER I PLAYOFFS? –

Keep in mind that for all Divisions except 12U, the Jr. Ducks have a bye straight to Pacific District as hosts and thus will not participate at State Playoffs. That leaves a count of only two teams at 15O. So, we need to decide NOW what format we will have for a playoff of two teams. Best of 3? Best of 5? Or, if the allocations say Calif will send all 3 teams to Districts, maybe we let the “host” still participate at States, or just skip States altogether and seed teams to Districts according to final regular season standings?

For that matter, even at some of the other divisions, depending on allocations to Calif for Districts, we very well could have situation where ALL our teams will be going to Districts anyway, thus do we really need to hold playoffs? We could seed our teams to Districts based on final league standings? We might even want to consider if we want 4 teams to advance to States anyway? Maybe only the top two? And this will become a point of discussion in season 2025-26 with only 3 (maybe 4?) Tier I teams? At even a 300% game requirement, that still means only 9 total league games combined for all 3 teams. Do we keep that count and STILL have all 3 teams at playoffs? Maybe only top 2?

And we will still have potential impact on “host” clubs for Districts. Maybe at only 3 teams, we let the host also participate at States IF the Calif allocation to Districts means all 3 teams are going to go anyway? Now is the time to at least start the discission on these issues as they will impact the 2025-26 playing season.

REDLINING

It occurs to me that unless a team checks their USA Rosters DAILY, they may not know that a player or coach has been REDLINED and thus not eligible to participate as apparently no notification is published to anyone. This apparently can happen and the team not even aware that it could happen, let alone did happen, and thus a player or coach may have unknowingly participated in a game. I have had a handful of situations where I was asked by a team to activate/deactivate a player or coach, only to then see a REDLINE person that was not the topic of the request.

Are we OK with this potential, and that perhaps already happened, and we don't know?

TIER II

Teams are asking about the cost of the Cross-Over Weekends.

2024-25 Boys Tier Team/Club Counts

	Tier II			Tier I							
Club	14U	16U	18U	12U	13O	14U	15O	16U	18U	Total	Club
Cal Bears	2			1			1			4	Cal Bears
Oak Bears		1	1							2	Oak Bears
Blackhawks	1		1							2	Blackhawks
Bulls			1	1	1	1				4	Bulls
Condors		1								1	Condors
Ducks	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	Ducks
Empire	1	1							1	3	Empire
Flames		1								1	Flames
SC Flyers	1	1	1							3	SC Flyers
Goldrush	1				1	1				3	Goldrush
Gulls	1	1								2	Gulls
GSE	2	2	1							5	GSE
Heat		1								1	Heat
Ice Hawks			1							1	Ice Hawks
Kings	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	Kings
Mariners			1							1	Mariners
OC Hockey	2	2					1	1		6	OC Hockey
Oilers	1	1								2	Oilers
Pats		1	1						1	3	Pats
Reign	2	1	1							4	Reign
Saints			1							1	Saints
Sharks	1	1			1	1	1		1	6	Sharks
Wave		2	1			1				4	Wave
Total	19	21	13	4	5	6	5	3	5	81	Total

High School Commissioner – Rosemary Voulelikas

Pure NTB Teams: Fairmont; OLU; Santa Margarita; St. John Bosco; St. Mary's; Tahoe Prep Academy
Combined NTB Teams: Capistrano; Central Cathedral; Damien; West Ranch

There is a new form for NTB teams to certify players that needs to be signed by the Head Coach. Rosemary will be sending out to all above teams.

High School teams want set dates for CAHA required game weekends – North vs South crossover games.

St. Mary's Girls is still the only all girls high school team in CAHA. OLU has tried to create a team, but OLU will not allow players not attending OLU to participate.

NTB teams need to provide School ID's are due October 15 and schedules are due November 15.

Out of District waiver deadline is October 31. There have been 36 waivers so far.

Adult Commissioner – Rick Hutchinson {reports submitted}

USA Hockey Meetings-

- **USA Hockey Winter meetings**
 - Chair for the-**Gold Standard Blueprint with NHL Clubs and Affiliate Relationship**
 - **PENDING-Learn to Play Hockey** vis USA Hockey/NHL to better serve the rinks not directly associated with NHL teams or areas.
 - Expand **Try Hockey for Free days**
 - Potential pilot programs: 3-4 weeks for LTPH FREE sessions to assistant entry level grassroots families.
 - Would require support and funding from Affiliates, NHL and USA Hockey
 - Meeting with Matt Herr and Sean Whyte next week for their support and assist with NHL local clubs to potentially help or match gear supply.
 - NHL grassroots best practices and Road Map for Next Steps growth path
 - Assist clubs/rinks with their road map
 - **We need to allocate more resources to grow the game!**

Growth Opportunities

CAHA Grassroots Goalie gear applications

- 2024 Goalie Vaughn quick change sets pending CAHA board Sept 2024 meeting and approval.
 - Recommendations moving forward
 - Offer applications every other year for clubs that have participated, criteria and association must demonstrate gear usage, growth and need.
- **“GROW THE GAME”**
 - **Grassroots Hockey Program Proposal for Hockey Gear Sponsorship-CAHA Grant Request**

It is \$6000 for 30 sets of gear. Randy Meyer motioned for CAHA to provide \$30K for outlying rinks, 2nd by Kevin Culbertson – **MOTION PASSED**

- Requesting CAHA help the “Grow the Game” gear initiative.
- **“Try Hockey for Free”** USA Hockey initiative is not just two times a year. This platform can be utilized year-round.
 - Create your own program, schedule and use their registration platform to build your program. All the resources are there to use. Don’t need to reinvent the wheel.

“Learn to Ref” Pending

- Art Kitano “Learn to Ref”
 - Art spearheaded a pilot program with the ADHSHL for new refs to train. It was very well received.
- Because of the current dwindling pool of referees, CAHA agreed to support any efforts to grow our referee pool, both financially and through messaging.
- USA Hockey head of referees and Matt Zucker is in support of the program.
- To launch Spring-summer 2024- in progress at Great Park this summer
 - CAHA approved funding-

2024 Adult State Tourney

- *Last year*
 - *North April 26-28 (San Jose)*
 - *South 2024 May 3-5th Cinco de Mayo Weekend. (The Rinks Lakewood)*
- **2025 Dates and facilities to be put out for bid.**
 - Request bid procedure from CAHA for host rinks interested.
 - CAHA's level of support financially.
 - To be determined by board via vote.

The Adult Tournaments needs to be added to the CAHA calendar when set. Rick to work with Ducks & Sharks Adult Chairs to set dates.

Bridget Hopkinson motioned for CAHA to cover 50% of the Adult Tournament Entry fee; 2nd by Rosemary Voulelikas – **MOTION APPROVED**

Pacific District – Wendy Goldstein

From Kris Knauss – the Tier I Commission is looking to level the playing field.

At the Pacific District meeting there will be an update on Player Development and Tournaments.

We are back to pre-Covid numbers for registration.

National Office – Ken Martel

Hockey Development department has an open position that would be 2/3 USA Hockey and 1/3 IIHF.

Ken is willing to offer free continuing education for Level 3 & 4 coaches.

Pacific District – Wayne Sawchuck

Wayne welcomed Hutch (Rick) to the Pacific District board.

Wayne would like to get more CAHA representatives at the multi-district camp (occurs during CAHA tryouts).

Wayne took over the Pacific District Goalie Camp from Lester. Communication needs to be better.

District allocations will be available after the October District meeting.

District & USA Hockey HS Representative – Rosemary Voulelikas

There is a focus on players being full time students and USA Hockey has a new form that all NTB teams need to complete.

There is a push to grow Girls High School.

District Disabled Representative – Matt Zucker

Working on revamping the Disabled rules to be included in the next USA Hockey rules update. There will be Sled event Oct 11-13. Looking for Sled trained Officials.

District Referee in Chief – Dan Ellison

Dan to reach out to Sharks (NHL) Reps regarding the Officials program hosted by the Kings (NHL)

Old Business:

- Tier I reformation – in the 2025-26 season, CAHA Tier I teams will be the 3 NHL clubs, plus Team San Diego. San Diego will start with 12U.

The Tier Committee will re-start meetings in 2 weeks with a goal to have a template by November to present at the December CAHA meeting for comment then vote at the February meeting. Outside legal is reviewing language to cover CAHA.

We need to look at Tier I playoffs when there are less teams.

- Rick sent a Grow the Game proposal to the board. Cost is \$6000 for 30 sets of gear. Randy Meyer motioned \$30K to support Rick's proposal; 2nd by Kevin Culbertson – **MOTION PASSED**

Chris Hathaway asked how we find players for this program and what are the requirements.

- Per Rick goalie gear for the grassroots program will be ordered this week
- Bridget would like Tom to post a letter on the website regarding the new Select Camp process
- Chris would like to discuss 14BB or 14B no check divisions
- Tom brought up board meeting expectations
 - Show up for meetings
 - Volunteer to work at CAHA events (playoffs)
 - Participate
- Rob Foster voted as new ADM Coordinator pending approval from his wife
 - Cam to provide Rob with dates for 10U half ice event
 - Dimensions of Livermore rinks are 126' x 53' and 110' x 53'

New Business:

Teresa reported on the Sharks (NHL) Youth Outreach programs – Neck Guards for NorCal; donating proceeds from Youth ticket sales to NorCal scholarship fund; NorCal Coach of the Month; etc.

Next Meeting will be December 7 in NorCal

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm; motion by Rosemary Voulelikas, 2nd by Chris Hathaway – **MOTION APPROVED**

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