

North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association
2005 Fall Board of Directors Meeting
September 17th, 2005 – Devils Lake

Call to Order: [Kleven] 3:205 PM

ROLL CALL: [Gunderson] President Kleven asked for the roll call.

Jack Kleven	(President)
Peter Sonnesyn	(Vice President)
Connie Gunderson	(Secretary)
Gary Fiddler	(Referee in Chief Director)
John Colter	(Associate Registrar)
Dave Duckworth	(NE District Director)
Julie Howatt	(NE District Director)
Bob Gustafson	(SE District Director)
Greg Evenson	(SE District Director)
Jeff Gustafson	(SW District Director)
Bruce Rostad	(NW District Director)
Scott Ellis	(NW District Director)
Bob Gillen	(Coaching Program Director)
Gary Splichal	(Girls/Woman's Director)
Dennis Nybo	(ND league Director)
Phil Sedo	(Jr. Gold Director)

Members Absent: Brad Bekkedahl (Past President/Minnkota Director)
Gary Almquist (Treasurer), Randy Bina (SW District Director)

Minutes - Tabled until the winter meeting due to work needing to be done on them

President's Report – Jack Kleven

Jack stated that things are going very smoothly, the meetings that were to be held have been done, the special project items are almost all in place and will be out early so people start planning their schedules.

Vice-President's Report – Pete Sonnesyn

Since the spring meeting Pete has been involved in 2 projects, one has been the Executive Director Position committee and the other is the referee committee and the formation of the referee association. Pete has been involved in 2 separate meetings, one in Fargo where the bylaws of rules regarding the formation of that association was put together, and the other was in Jamestown regarding the level 4 referee seminar. It was asked that the referee committee meet at that time. The referee committee meeting had to be canceled due to lack of attendance, interest. The referee association is in formation. Gary Fiddler will make further comments regarding this association. Pete stated that there are still some issues to be resolved but will continue the referee program and the clinics and the selection of referee's as they have been done in the past. The Referee in Chief has the final say as to the appointment of referee's for all of the state tournaments. There was a brief discussion held regarding using more local referees, due to the cost

factor. Gary Fiddler will coordinate that with the district directors along with Pete. Gary Fiddler also has the final say on the referee picks for the Jr. Gold state tournament.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Almquist was not present to give a report. Gary Splichal passed out the financial statement.

Coach-in Chief Report – Bob Gillen

The level 4 clinic that was held at the Fargo Aug. 26 through the 28th. There were 90 coaches from 12 states. There was a profit made this year of \$2274. Bob stated that there were a lot of late registrations, only 35 three weeks prior to the clinic. Pete stated that he was disappointed that there were only eight coaches from North Dakota in attendance. Wade Storey will run the coaching clinic this year October 8th. Another new item this year is that there will be a High School, Jr. Gold, High School Girls clinic, this will be the first-ever. This clinic will be held Oct. 15th through the 16th starting at 9 AM on Saturday. This will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grand Forks. The cost will be \$50 paid to USA Hockey which includes materials and a coach's social. Also if you wish to go to the U.N. D. /Northeastern game tickets are available at the cost of \$22 payable to the Grand Forks Park district. The deadline to sign up for this clinic is October 10th at 5 PM. Any questions contact Bob at 701-787-2814 or his e-mail address which is biggfk@hotmail.com. Bob has organized a resource library, there are videos, presentations, level 4's, level 5's, and these are broken up into a video or a DVD. If you would like a video or DVD please contact Bob Gillen.

Referee –in Chief Report – Gary Fiddler

Last year NDAHA had 558 registered officials. The numbers are growing at the younger levels but we seem to be losing some of the older referees. The referee seminars have already started for the season, the first one for the level 4 was in Jamestown last week. Eight people attended the seminar of the eight there were 5 level 4 officials and one young man that was 18 that completed his level 4 and did a wonderful job. Gary said that there are some great young officials and would encourage NDAHA to take a look at their bylaws, and look at the age restrictions for the state tournament and league games. Bill Leslie was the Minnkota referee in Chief has now retired; the new referee in Chief is Steve Patro from Minnesota. The selection process for the state tournament last year included help from the following people, Gary Fiddler, Brad Pratt and Pete Sonnesyn. This was a very difficult process due to the number of eligible referees. Another problem that Gary is running into is that when state tournament time comes which starts with the high school regional tournaments, then the NDAHA state tournament's, there are five weekends and row in which we are asking top-level officials to give up their vacation time or take time off from their jobs to work these games. Another problem is that some tournaments start at 7 AM and it is difficult to find officials to start that early in the morning. This year is a rule change year, a couple items are, and off sides stayed the same and the cheaters that were used on inside of the skates can no longer be used.

The Jersey numbers need to be from 1-99, no decimals, and no fractions. One of the bigger rule changes is icing, when the officials make a mistake of the icing and the face-off should've been down deep, it's a situation where the back official waves off the icing, the front official waits, blows it down and it shouldn't have been icing, the face-off will stay deep, he will not come back to center ice.

The officials are looking at forming their own association. They met last May in Fargo to start the process. The reason for this association is that they feel they could do better job of self-governing themselves and working with NDAHA. They have drafted their own

set of bylaws. They are looking for everyone's support. They will have a board of 9. The referee association does have the support of the Minnkota District. A vote will go out to all of the referee members. Gary stated that the bylaws are now at the attorney and should be ready to go out by Thursday.

Jack had a question regarding the fees for the referee's. Could there be a maximum fee as to what the referee's could charge? Gary feels that the fees should be raised. The USA Hockey annual guide states that referees cannot boycott games because of a disagreement with a local affiliate. The longest an official can be suspended is ten days.

Discipline Committee – Bruce Rostad

Bruce stated that the associations need to keep on top of the discipline issues and use common sense.

Jr. Gold – Phil Sedo

Jr. Gold had a meeting this a.m.; there are now 10 teams in the league. The Fargo Flyers are the new team in the league this year. The state tournament will be held in Langdon the third weekend in March. There were no problems with the teams paying the \$500 fee. Some of the smaller communities especially out in the West are having trouble finding officials so some of the games may have to be done with two officials. Last year there were 12 teams in the league, Jr. Gold lost West Fargo, Valley City, and Minot.

Girls/Women – Gary Splichal

At the Girls/ Women's meeting they voted to have Glasgow coming to the 16 U leagues this year. There will be 6 - 19U's, 17 - 14/16U's, and 8 to 10 teams in the 12U league. The 19U tournament will be held in Watford City, 14/16U will be in Fargo All City and the 12 U will be in Valley City. Gary would like to split the girl's state tournament 14U tournament and a 16U tournament. These would be played on the same day and at the same site. This would cost NDAHA the cost of the trophies for splitting the tournament. There would be two sets of trophies for that tournament, one for the 16 U, and one for the 14 U. In an e-mail received from Gary Splichal he stated that he also needed to mention that he will be stepping down from the Girls Director position next spring, and hopes that someone from the league should consider stepping up. With all the added duties that Gary has taken on he feels that this is something he needs to do as much as he hates to give up the Girls league.

ND Youth League and League Secretaries – Dennis Nybo

The league secretaries will be the same as last year as stated during the affiliate meeting. The A communities met on Aug. 21st to schedule there league games. This type of meeting works out very well, the girls may do this next year.

The state tournaments for the upcoming season are as follows:

Bantam A 1- A2 – West Fargo

Bantam B1 – Grafton

Bantam B2 – Bismarck

Bantam B3 – Mayville/Portland

Peewee A1- A2 - Devils Lake

Peewee B1 – Bottineau

Peewee B2 – Wahpeton

Peewee B3 – Hazen

Girl's 12U – Valley City

Girl's 14/16U – Fargo All City
Girl's 19U – Watford City
Jr. Gold – Langdon

Old Business

(a) Executive Secretary Committee

Gary Splichal made a correction of the salary which would be \$600 a month salary.

The winter meeting will be held January 7th in Rugby ND and there are room's set-aside at the Econo Lodge. The tournament committee meeting will start at 10:30 – 11:00 with lunch following at noon and the board meeting to start at 1 PM.

New Business

No new business request submitted

For the Good of Hockey

The spring meeting will be in Williston, next spring the dates will be announced at a later time. The Chicago showcase runs through the 23rd of April, so there may be a conflict to there.

Bruce Rostad stated that Crosby has a request in for one Canadian player to play on their team this year. Jerry Brown has no objection to this, but are waiting for the Canadian approval. John Colter stated that we need a consensus from the members that it is okay for this child to play. Jack called for a voice vote, the majority said yes. Gary Splichal stated that if conference calls are needed to be made please call him for the password. Julie Howatt was also wondering if we will be getting a new handbook. Jack said that what we are trying to do is to use the web site. When the web site is completely gone it will have all the information needed. Bob Gustafson stated that when we get to that point then we can pass the rule that nothing will take effect until it is posted on the official Web site. Gary Splichal stated that if you do see anything wrong on the web site please let him know.

4:20 P.M Dennis Nybo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gary Splichal.