

**NORTH DAKOTA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> – CARRINGTON, ND**

**Members Present:**

**Julie Howatt – NE District  
Bruce Rostad – NW District  
Jay Marshall – SE District  
Dennis Lindgren – SW District  
Scott Schafer – ND Leagues Director  
Greg Evenson – Vice President  
Betty Triplett – Treasurer**

**Dave Duckworth – NE District  
Bob Gustafson – SE District  
Mike Wald – SW District  
Tim Melander – Jr. Gold Director  
Peter Sonnesyn - President  
Bob Gillen – Secretary/Coach-in-Chief  
Gary Fiddler – Referee-in-Chief**

**Other's Present:**

**Gary Splichal – Association Executive  
Dennis Nybo – Bismarck Community Rep.**

**Jarrold Olson – Minot Community Rep.**

**Absent:**

**Scott Ellis – NW District  
John Colter – Associate Registrar  
Brad Bekkedahl – Minnkota Director  
Wade Storey – Player Development**

**Keith Olson – Girls/Women Director  
Jack Kleven – Director Emeritus  
Brett Stockert – Player Development**

**President Sonnesyn called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.**

**President Sonnesyn introduced the new Southwest District Director Dennis Lindgren who will be taking over for Jeff Gustafson.**

**MINUTES**

**Motion by Bob Gustafson, Seconded by Tim Melander. MSC**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**President Sonnesyn introduced Dennis Nybo and Jarrod Olson who are guests attending the meeting today.**

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT:**

**President Sonnesyn discussed the contingent that attended the New District Planning Meeting in Spearfish, S.D. Along with himself, John Colter, Bob Gillen, Greg Evenson, Gary Fiddler, Gary Splichal attended. The main doings of the weekend was to go over all the positions the new district would have. Presidents interviewed John Colter, Bob Gillen, Gary Fiddler, and Glyn McCord for the various positions. Fiddler has been appointed as the new district Referee-in-Chief, Bob Gillen has been appointed as the new Coach-in-Chief and John Colter has been appointed as the new district Associate Registrar. President Sonnesyn said all four presidents agreed the four states are on their own for what age category they each will follow unless dictated by USA Hockey. He also mentioned that we must begin to use the USA Hockey On-Line Registration next season. The president of**

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South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association Dave Tronnes was elected to be the second director of the new district along with Brad Bekkedahl who will move over from Minnkota in June. Jim Lundquist will be stepping down as President of Wyoming Amateur Hockey Association this spring and moving into the position of new district Player Development Director. Sonnesyn discussed having a Presidents Cup for Girls/19U this spring in Jamestown, ND or Minot, ND with the other three states in our new district. The four presidents held a phone conference call with Todd Porter from Montana who is the registrar of Montana to discuss the merging of the two districts into one. Results of the USA Hockey Audit came back and they made some suggestions and it was a two-page report so Sonnesyn said he thinks they were impressed with our overall audit. The secretary will have the official copy if anyone wants to read or see it. UND Hockey School asked NDAHA for mailing labels. Sonnesyn is not in favor of giving out but asked Exec. Committee and it was a 4-1 vote to let them have our labels so they will come out of USA Hockey to the University of North Dakota to use. Discussed his trip to the Southwest District and the town hall meeting that was held. Discussed the trip down to USA Hockey for the Affiliate Presidents Meeting. Splichal and Sonnesyn attended and they got a total overview of USA Hockey and they picked up the tab for the trip.

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Evenson said he would give his report on our compliance with the new rules concerning the Helmet Rule and the Standard of Play Rules. He said he has heard no affiliates that are not complying or are having issues with it. He said he feels that NDAHA is following the Standard of Play except for the consistency around that state between officials. Discussion on the fair play points was held and discussion was brought up that the penalties are down but it may affect our state tournaments and seedings. We will have a proposal to address in the spring.

**TREASURER:**

Triplett said we purchased quick book pro for our software. She went over our general account for NDAHA. As of January 4<sup>th</sup> we have in our checking account \$6,980.06. In our Savings Account we have \$59,971.23. Our CD Account is at \$11,876.54 as of this past July. Our cash on hand we have \$78,827.83.

**ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR:**

Splichal went over John's Report. See attached form. Rostad discussed that the Peewee and Bantam overall state numbers look very low. Splichal said looking at a 2006 report we are up in Bantams and down in Peeweews. 4133 was our over total last spring and we are at 4209 this report. Our adult totals are the smallest in the country and that is one area we need to address.

**DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT:**

Girls will have the Presidents Cup weekend but we will not play the AA schedule like last year. Team N.D. schedule is on the web site and Select registrations will be going out in the mail once we get the labels from USA Hockey. Nybo asked if we could get some posters made to hang at the rinks with all the selects information. Splichal said all the associations will be getting the e-mail that they can download the poster which is an 8.5 x 14 sheet that we need to print and hang in the rinks.

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**GIRLS/WOMEN’S DIRECTOR:**

Olson was not present but gave Splichal a sheet to hand out. See attached letter from Keith. Sonnesyn said the G.F Angels have not complied with the league requirements so there is no place for them in the state tournament. Splichal said the Gentleman’s Agreement was to get teams games and they have to play home and away with all 14U teams and the agreement was to play home and away with the 16U and 19U teams. G.F. still has not scheduled Langdon and Wahpeton. They have two weeks prior to the state tournament to get the games scheduled. Evenson said the League Director has made a decision and they have to appeal to get back into the state tournament. Gillen said we have in our rules and regs that our language says you must meet all league requirements and we have two weeks prior to the state tournament cut off date to meet the requirements. Howatt said the Grand Forks scheduler told the Langdon scheduler the Angels have no intention of playing Langdon. Evenson said we are dealing with a program that said they would not follow the rules and a decision was made and now we need to uphold the decision. Gillen said we have to have wording in our rules and regs. that states all league games need to be scheduled by the January Meeting and if a team does not have all required league games by the January Meeting when we do our tournament brackets that the team not in compliance is not in the state tournament. Evenson said the district directors run the hockey in the district and this should have been decided 6-weeks ago and we are trying to work with them and we should be able to say no state tournament if non-compliance of league requirements. Schafer said we have wording that says if you forfeit a league game and you are out of state tournaments and that is not right also. Sonnesyn said we need to re-write our rule and regulations. Gustafson said his concern is it is a gentleman’s agreement? Is there writing down about this agreement? Splichal and Howatt said it is in the minutes of the girls meeting in the fall. Gustafson said that keeping a team out of the state tournament also punishes the host community as that is money out of the host community’s pocket. Evenson said did we resolve anything? Sonnesyn said the League Director made a ruling and we will uphold and the Angels have an appeal process in place if they so choose to follow. Gustafson said the district directors agreed with the Girls/Women’s Director’s decision so the next step for the Angels is to appeal the decision to the Executive Committee.

**JUNIOR GOLD DIRECTOR:**

Melander said we have 10-teams in the league and the new standard of play is not coming into play to bad yet. The Fargo Flames are the only team that has not complied with school letters. He has been hounding them and they are the only team that sill has missing paperwork. Tim said there was a rumor about the Flames using kids from Moorhead and he was not notified and no paperwork on the players from Moorhead. Tim asked about the Minnesota Waiver and Transfer forms on the Moorhead players and it was after the deadline date. He also said the paperwork he has received is not on the proper form from the Flames. He finally did get the forms but they not submitted to the Southeast District Directors for approval. The players from Moorhead and two players from Fargo played Dec. 9 & 10 in a tournament but no paperwork or roster were submitted before this tournament so no insurance was in place. Melander took 6-games away from the Flames and made them losses. Tim told the Flames they could use these four players but not in North Dakota League play or State Tournament Games. If these players are still used in future then the games will be counted as losses. Gustafson said he talked to Ward on Dec.

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13<sup>th</sup> and told him exactly what to do and he could have had it done by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. It appears they only have 10-kids without the Moorhead players. Howatt said we in Langdon have played with this many kids for years so she does not feel sorry for them.

**COACH-IN-CHIEF:**

Gillen handed out a report to the board. Spoke on the 2006 CEP Report for North Dakota. Numbers are up this year. High School/Jr. Gold Symposium was a success and the report shows the income/expense statement. 41 coaches attended compared to 37 last year. We will work for next years date. Will be going to Florida for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting in a couple weeks for the Coaches Section Meeting. Gillen went over the change in CIC for the state. Mike Wald will move into the State Coach-in-Chief position and David Hoff has accepted to be our new ACE Coordinator for the state and Glyn McCord will be our new district ACE Director and he is out of Cody, WY. More information will come at the Spring Meeting.

**REFEREE-IN-CHIEF**

Fiddler said coaches are taking abuse from fans, coaches are abusing officials and players are abusing officials and fans are abusing officials so problems we face it is starting to pop up earlier and earlier every year. We need to hold our coaches accountable as we do for our officials. Everyone needs to police the stands not just the officials. Evenson said how do we police the fans? Fiddler said as board members when you are at the rink there is nothing wrong to go up to a fan out of line and thank them for their enthusiasm about the game of hockey but they need to tone it down a bit. It is bad that an 18-year old official needs to kick out fans and coaches during Squirt Games! He stated that he hopefully will have a new Referee-in-Chief named by the spring meeting.

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**ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE**

Splichal said as was stated earlier by Betty we implemented Quick Books for Special Projects. Apologized to the League Secretaries that they were going to have access to edit their standings but USA Hockey was going to roll out their new web site but it is being pushed back and we need to decide if we want to use the free site from USA Hockey or keep doing what we are doing! Splichal said the problem with USA Hockey site is it will look like everyone else that uses the same site but it is free. Nybo said as the chairman of the committee for the Association Executive he would like the board to do the evaluation on the excel spreadsheet he has and he will bring results back to the spring meeting. Splichal said the position is still under evaluation and will be opened up once we decide where we are going with the position after the evaluation and one more meeting from the committee. Splichal said there is no doubt that the position is needed. Duckworth said would it be worth looking at splitting the positions of Association Executive and Special Projects? Splichal said yes we should look at it as Special Projects is a load especially on the financial side.

**DISCIPLINE CHAIR**

Rostad said so far we have had one match penalty to a coach. Changes Match Penalty to a Misconduct Penalty based on the information gathered. Misconducts were high at the start of the season but are tapering off now. The ones he hates to get are to coaching misconducts. He said Squirt Coaches getting thrown out of games is ridiculous and

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communities need to mentor their coaches better. We also need to keep parents off coaches as well. Howatt said if a player gets a misconduct in a league game they sit out their next league game not the next game on the schedule as the league secretaries only get league game sheets and have no way to determine if the player sits if they have a non-league game out-of-town? Bring up the proposal at the Spring Meeting was mentioned by Sonnesyn. Melander said what if they get the penalty at the end of the year? Gustafson stated the penalty would carry over to the next playing season. Evenson said we need to just write up a proposal and bring it to the state this spring. Rostad said we need to follow up on our conduct and sheets need to be turned into him from the district referee-in-chiefs in a timely manner.

**RISK MANAGER:**

Gustafson mentioned that we are now up and ready and to screen will be around \$6.00 a person. The board will be the first group he does. Long discussion on what we are going to get when we screen and get a hit? Gustafson said he does not know as we have not done any screens yet. Evenson stated we are looking for some type of abuse and not a crime or are we looking for that stuff as well? Gustafson said if we get a hit he will call the person who was screened and then he will call the association president to let them know they have a person in their association with a hit. Evenson said where does NDAHA draw the line as far as what is to be information and what does not pertain to us? Evenson said are we looking for only certain things? Gustafson said he is going to be very discreet and give the person the option to resign. Evenson said if a person is 50 and at 22 he robbed a bank do we need to worry about that type of hit and call his local association. Schafer said we need to stay with what USA Hockey says we need to screen and use for violations. Gustafson said this is what we are looking for: Crime of Child Abuse, Sexual Abuse of a Minor, Physical Abuse, Causing a Child's Death, Neglect of a Child, Murder, Manslaughter, Felony Assault, Any Assault of a Minor, Kidnapping, Arson, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Prostitution Related Crimes or Controlled Substance Crimes. Gustafson said we are a lot closer and he will need budget money to begin next year. Duckworth said how far back do we go? If a person was 18 and a drug violator and now is 36 and has been clean since what do we do about that? Gustafson said if he finds a major hit on a person he will call the individual first and give the person the opportunity to step away. Board said they would let Gustafson use his discretion on any hits.

**TEAM NORTH DAKOTA:**

Nybo said with Team North Dakota we are having some changes. With Gillen's new position with USA Hockey and Splichal's positions they are going to the Showcase for their final time and are going to mentor their replacements. Jarrod Olson will take over the Boy's GM position and Mikki Rehak will take over as the Girls GM. With head coaching positions vacated we had to go back to past coaches within regions so David Hoff will take over for Boy's with Tony Bina as the assistant. Matt Stockert will be the Girls Head Coach and Travis Ingbretonson will be the assistant coach. Amanda Plank will be the Equipment Manager for the girls this year. Nybo also said next year will be his final year as the overall GM.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Director Emeritus Plaque for Jack Kleven**

Sonnesyn asked Rostad what we are planning on doing. Are we inviting him to our spring meeting or is he going to go to Grand Forks to give it to him? Are we going to have a dinner for him? Gustafson said would it be possible to give him the plaque during the state high school tournament during the awards ceremony? Gillen will check with Todd Olson and see if it is possible to do during the Saturday Awards Ceremony. Sonnesyn said we should be inviting all Director Emeritus individuals to our meetings. Evenson said a dinner might mean more to him. Gillen said he has not spoke to Jack since Williston would he even show up at a meeting?

**Spring Meeting Location**

Sonnesyn said there has been a lot of talk about centralizing our state meeting. Gustafson said only 4 communities are over 150 miles from Carrington and two are from Montana and they have rooms May 4 & 5. Evenson said it should be Minot, Bismarck, Jamestown and Devils Lake. Schafer said when you look at our fall meeting we should go the other way. Gillen said we need to centralize our meeting to get more participation. Second, the Great American Inn meeting rooms are not ideal for they way we run our meetings so we need to look at facilities as well. Jamestown and Devils Lake was agreed to be central in our state. Gustafson said Carrington makes sense as everyone but four communities are less than 150 miles. Duckworth stated do we need to worry about the state meeting if we run our district meetings the right way? We should eliminate the Saturday Community Meeting. Motion by Howatt that we decide on a central location for the Spring Meeting, Seconded by Evenson. Amend from Gustafson that if we break this motion down the road that Wahpeton is the first in line to host the Spring Meeting. Splichal said that Carrington is open in May. Amendment reads that the Spring Meeting will be in Carrington on an annual basis and if it leaves Carrington it goes to Wahpeton first. Voice Vote taken and the amendment fails. Motion by Evenson that the Spring Meeting goes to a hockey community in a central location with Wahpeton having the meeting if we ever leave the central hockey community location. Triplett made a motion that Jamestown be the location and if we ever leave we go to Wahpeton. Schafer said Jamestown does not want it every year but would help. Motion by Triplett to have all Spring Meeting in Bismarck/Mandan and if it ever leaves Bismarck/Mandan then it goes back to Wahpeton and NDAHA will pick up the tab to host the meeting. Seconded by Melander. Discussion: Gillen asked that we have more than one more meeting room set up for the various committees so we are not sharing rooms and coming in and out of the same meeting room. Triplett asked for the call of the question. Voice Vote split so roll call vote. Howatt-Yes, Duckworth-Yes, Rostad-Yes, Marshall-No, Gustafson-No, Lindgren-Yes, Wald-Yes, Melander-Yes, Schafer-Yes, Evenson-Yes, Triplett-Yes. Motion passes and meeting will be in Bismarck, ND May 4 & 5, 2007.

**State Tourney Handbook**

Splichal has not seen a final copy so as to post to the web site. Schafer will get finalized and then get to Gary for the web.

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**Sports Hall of Fame Inductees and Plaques**

Duckworth has the information from the N.D. Sports Hall of Fame from Jamestown. Our last inductee was 2000/01 and it is embarrassing. We have a lot of people who have not been recognized. We encompass Arena Managers, Officials, High School, Amateur, Board. It is a wide range in hockey that we can have as nominees. Duckworth will work on a committee and work on getting in touch with the communities and get possible candidates.

**Annual Meeting Move & Agenda**

Gillen went over a form over the change in how we run our spring meetings. He would like to operate like Minnesota Hockey runs their meetings. Have Saturday be committee meetings in one room for an hour and anyone is open to sit in the audience or they can take that hour off. Committees that could meet would be:

Coaches Committee  
Officials Committee  
Girls/Women's Committee  
Jr. Gold Committee  
N.D. Leagues/Tournament Committee  
Rules and Regs/By-Laws Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Special Projects Committee

Friday Night the Board of Directors would meet and then on Sunday the NDAHA Board of Directors Meeting will take place and voting will take place.

The community meeting will be taken away, but the district meetings are where the communities votes will be placed and those two directors will vote how the vote comes out within their district for the spring meeting vote at the Board of Directors Meeting.

Marshall said the only problem with the format that he can see is there are proposals that at times are hard to understand or we want to see what the other 3-districts think to a proposal and if we only have the district meeting it will be too late at the spring meeting to try understand proposals.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Communications**

Sonnesyn said our affiliates are just not getting the message or information especially on paperwork. Wald said could we put in place a penalty for communities that do not send in a rep to our meetings? Can we add in a Presidents Meeting time at our spring meeting? Sonnesyn said we can but we still will have people that will not show up. Gillen asked if it could be possible to set-up a NDAHA Handbook to put all of our information of board members, directors, committees, deadline dates, web information, chain of commands, where to find information etc. Howatt and Gillen will work on a chain of command form and bring to the Spring Meeting.

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**Affiliate Agreement Requirements & Penalties**

Splichal will send out a new list since he got a bunch today. The only one he is missing completely is the G.F. Supra's. He went over the code on the Spreadsheet that he has sent out showing what communities have in and what they are missing. Discussion of 501C3 non-profit status took place by the board. Once we have them filled out we never have to have them filled out again unless we change the agreement. The communities have to keep their web sites updated on a yearly basis and the annual \$50.00 fee each year. USA Hockey does not require a 990 form so why should we? Splichal said we would have to have all agreements re-signed again. Sonnesyn said he would have more information after the USA Hockey Winter Meeting on the 501C3 as that is one of the Agenda items. We do not have any penalties for missing agreements at this time.

**NDHOA & Billing of Referee Clinics by NDAHA**

Fiddler said under Rules & Regs Article 9 Section 1. It says there will be 4-state sponsored officials seminars by the end of October one in each district can be rotated within the district. Any community that wants to host their own seminar must be responsible for all the costs and expenses for the seminar. Fiddler asked what does the 4-state sponsored officials seminars mean. Does that mean NDAHA is picking up the tab? Melander said we were until last fall's meeting with the Officials in Devils Lake. Fiddler said that is why it is on the agenda. Who is doing the billing? Sonnesyn said last fall that the NDHOA were going to run the seminars and NDAHA would have no say. Some expenses needed to be paid to the NDHOA from past clinics which NDAHA did pay. Now NDAHA is not collecting money from officials going into our budget. Triplett was under the impression that we paid your outstanding bills and gave you stat up money and then you would not be back and on your own. Fiddler said he is addressing the wording still in the rules and regulations that state NDAHA hosting 4-state sponsored official seminars? No place is it documented that if you have a certified instructor it is \$100 for a seminar and if you do not have a certified instructor in your community it is \$300 for a seminar and who bills for it? Gillen asked why is the USA Hockey Officials Seminars so different than the USA Hockey Coaches Clinics for collecting fees and paying for clinic fees and instructor expenses? Fiddler said he will find out in Florida with his new position what he can send in for expenses and what he can not get reimbursed fees for under USA Hockey. Fiddler said NDAHA needs to take Article 9 Section 1 out of our Rules and Regulations since we have not in the past and are not planning to collect for any seminars? Fiddler asked do we only do one clinic per each district and that is it? Gillen said what do the other states do for officials seminars? Fiddler said it is not clear to NDAHA as it is written but not clear to the members as it is just taking up space as it is not being followed. NDHOA is not going to bill for officials seminars without the blessing of the NDAHA Board.

**Nominations Committee**

For the upcoming spring meeting the following positions will be up for election.  
President – Secretary – Girls/Women's – Junior Gold – ND League  
District Directors (Odd Years) (Howatt – Ellis – Marshall – Lindgren)

Motion by Schafer, Seconded by Gillen to adjourn. MSC.