

**North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association  
2015 Affiliates Annual Meeting  
May 9, 2015, 10am  
Grand Hotel, Minot**

- I. President Greg Evenson called the meeting to order at 10am.
- II. President Evenson introduced Suzzanne Fuchs from the Bismarck Hockey Association. She will be taking the minutes for the Affiliate meeting.
- III. President Evenson took roll.

|                                   |      |         |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------|
| Grand Forks Stallions Hockey Club | 21   | Present |
| Cando Hockey Boosters             | 42   | Absent  |
| Manvel Youth Hockey               | 54   | Absent  |
| Northwood Hockey                  | 70   | Absent  |
| Rugby Amateur Hockey Association  | 75   | Present |
| Park River Hockey Boosters        | 89   | Absent  |
| Fargo Angels                      | 100  | Absent  |
| Valley City Hockey Club           | 108  | Absent  |
| Crosby Blue Line Club             | 120  | Present |
| Hazen Winter Sports Association   | 122  | Present |
| Langdon Area Hockey               | 131  | Present |
| May Port Ice Dawgs                | 134  | Absent  |
| Bottineau Blue Line Club          | 150  | Present |
| Grafton Youth Hockey              | 157  | Present |
| Devils Lake Blue Line Club        | 157  | Present |
| Wahpeton Hockey Association       | 160  | Present |
| Richland Youth Hockey Inc.        | 198  | Absent  |
| Jamestown Hockey Boosters         | 201  | Absent  |
| McKenzie County Hockey Club       | 213  | Absent  |
| Mandan Hockey Club                | 263  | Present |
| Dickinson Hockey Club             | 267  | Present |
| Minot Hockey Boosters             | 303  | Present |
| Williston Basin Skating Club      | 331  | Present |
| Grand Forks Youth Hockey          | 446  | Present |
| West Fargo Hockey Association     | 525  | Present |
| Bismarck Hockey Boosters          | 681  | Present |
| Fargo Youth Hockey Association    | 1159 | Present |

At the start of the meeting, the question was raised if we had a quorum since this was a community meeting. President Greg checked and at the start of the meeting we didn't have a simple majority but by our first break we had more affiliates and had a 75% majority.

President Evenson brought up that our rules state the agenda for the Spring Meeting should be out in January. Since the agenda wasn't out, he called for a motion to suspend the rule for this meeting.

Dan Frei from Hazen made a motion to suspend the NDAHA rule for just this meeting that says the Spring Meeting Agenda needs to be out in January. Dean Backmeier from Fargo seconded the motion.

All were in favor so the motion carried.

IV. President Evenson called for approval of the minutes from the Affiliate Meeting in Minot on April 26, 2014.

Dominick Marsden from Bottineau made a motion to approve the minutes. Ryan Griggs from West Fargo seconded the motion.

All were in favor so the minutes were approved.

V. NDHOA/NDAHA

The State Supervisor of Officials, Travis Kurtz got up and gave a brief report on Hockey Officials and how things are going. He did bring his whole board with him and they introduced themselves. They were Jeremy Melander, Kal Triplett, Cody Baker, Josh Brown, Chad Miller, and Norm Reitan. The Board is made up of the different districts.

Travis gave us an update on the numbers. This year 352 fully completed and registered officials this year. This is a lower number and probably one the lowest numbers on record.

The year did start with 521 individuals beginning the officiating process. However, USA Hockey has a lot of requirements that is a big time commitment and this is a process you have to go through every year. Travis feels that this is an overload and is a big reason that some of the individuals who start the refing process don't follow through and finish.

Another concern is the state of the game. The behavior of the coaches and parents towards officials is not the greatest. There were a few instances of not so great behavior towards some of the 14/15 year old referees. The officials' board will be looking at ways to curtail this.

They are trying to hold later seminars. The drop dead date is November 30<sup>th</sup> before you can't ref a game without being recertified. Travis said they are trying to stagger the dates of the seminars and still offer the seminars at the smaller towns.

Switching gears, Travis talked about the State Tournaments and how it is one of their bigger interactions with NDAHA. There are a lot of State Tournaments to cover and the Southeast got hit the hardest this year with a large number of tournaments occurring the same weekend in that area.

Travis asked that we all be aware of the lower numbers, especially as we schedule tournaments.

Mentoring is a big deal with NDHOA. They get a lot of new officials coming in each year. So they make sure that there are senior officials on the ice with the new, younger officials. This program has been a good experience for all involved. It is volunteer but has good participation. The NDHOA is going to continue discussion on how to build this program.

President Evenson did let everyone know that Travis does sit on the NDAHA Board as Ref in Chief. Also, NDAHA has a liaison with the NDHOA Board and that is David Duckworth, who is also the Discipline Director.

President Evenson had David come forward to give a report on how things went discipline wise over the past year.

David talked about how there were lots of misconduct reported. It wasn't as bad as they first thought. There were 84 game misconducts and above reports with a total of 100 misconducts and above reports made. Fighting was the number one misconduct. David did hand out a chart that broke down what each of the misconducts was. He wanted to break it down further into levels but it's hard to do since you don't always know the category.

The 2015 Game Misconduct and Above Breakdown are as follows:

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Fighting                     | 20 |
| CFB                          | 11 |
| Coach Mouth                  | 10 |
| Player 5                     | 9  |
| Coach 15                     | 8  |
| Player Mouth                 | 8  |
| Player 2 <sup>nd</sup> Misc. | 7  |
| Boarding                     | 4  |
| Head Contact                 | 4  |
| Match                        | 3  |
| Leg Trip                     | 3  |
| Roughing                     | 3  |
| Body Contact                 | 2  |
| Charging                     | 2  |
| Elbow                        | 2  |
| High Stick                   | 1  |
| Spear??                      | 1  |
| Kick??                       | 1  |

The bottom two, Spear and Kick, are going to be discussed at the NDHOA meeting.

The numbers are about the same as last year.

The question was raised what is or is not a fight. USA Hockey's definition is a punch thrown or push to the face. This is a pretty loose definition.

The belief is we really didn't have 20 true fights. You can read through the reports and see what the report said about the misconduct.

David said that sometimes we need to bend the rule a little. We need to do what is best for the kids. Sometimes it'll be right and sometimes it'll be wrong. He was more than willing to talk about how he came to the decisions made.

There was a question raised about the trends in the types of infractions. The numbers are staying pretty consistent. The last 3-4 years there wasn't much before Christmas and then went crazy after Christmas. This year it started crazy and then settled way down.

The next question asked was if they would rather see it start out crazy and then settle down. Of course this would be nice but it isn't a trend yet. Typically things tend to escalate and then settle by the time State Tournaments roll around.

#### USA Hockey Progressive Penalty Rule

If you get a third game misconduct, the report is filed immediately and then goes to David. We had one instance where a ref filed a report twice on a coach so it showed up as being three game misconducts. There was also one other instance with a coach and David dealt with that.

Terry raised a question to the officials. He wanted to know if at their clinics they talked about balance. Sometimes you have an official who is either overzealous in making calls or you have an official who will say nothing at all.

Terry also asked if the officials have somewhere to go to report parents that are causing problems.

The seminars do preach zero tolerance. Once the officials get off the ice they shouldn't talk to anyone or have no contact. It is on the officials to report. There is an open line of communication, however this happens more than it is realized because it isn't reported. Those officials who may have thicker skin should report issues because a younger official who comes in the next day may have to deal with the same issue and may be affected differently. NDHOA really stresses reporting issues. If affiliates are hearing about things like this, they should talk to their district supervisors. This does need to be improved.

In response to Terry's first question, Travis did say that there is a zero tolerance policy and they do mean zero tolerance. However, the problem lies in each official defines it differently. Everyone hears, communicates, and interprets the USA Hockey information differently.

USA Hockey is trying to centralize their education model some. This is through the new online modules. The goal is centralized communication.

Another question was raised about whether the officials' organization is putting pressure on USA Hockey about all these requirements and changes. They also asked if NDAHA could help in asking for reasonable limits.

President Evenson did say that USA Hockey is fighting a national effort against what they have right now. It's noticeable that they are on the defensive. USA Hockey does have committees looking into this.

Travis said that anything NDAHA can do can't hurt. He did mention that when talking with Matt Leaf, Director of Officials Education, Matt will say if we are losing guys than those aren't ones we want and the game will go on. However, the game doesn't always go on if you don't have refs. This happened in Grand Forks, Bottineau, and Grafton.

Recruiting is not the problem. The problem is finishing out the program and retaining. They seem to be a little tone deaf when it comes from local officials or even district supervisors.

This is happening everywhere not just here in North Dakota. There were about 19 girls who completed their reffing but unsure how many of them will come back this year. This is something you really want to do.

President Evenson said that NDAHA wants to work with NDHOA and be there for them.

Just before lunch, Jay Marshall let President Evenson know that we were at 75%, so the vote on proposals is good to go for the afternoon.

VI. President Evenson asked Treasurer Betty Triplett to come forward and give the Treasurer's Report.

Betty handed out a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss sheets. She went over all the handouts and discussed how the Profit/Loss broke down.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Total Assets:</b>                   | 152,019.79 |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b> | 152,019.79 |
| <b>Total Income:</b>                   | 252,489.61 |
| <b>Total Expense:</b>                  | 239,780.17 |
| <b>Net Income:</b>                     | 12,709.44  |

Betty mentioned under the Expenses we had a heading called Donations & Memorials. This was all the Ipads that were bought and donated to the Affiliates for Live Scoring.

There was a question about the expense for Background Checks. President Evenson said that this expense is an every other year expense. So this year, we should only be paying for background checks on people who are new. The breakdown is usually

about half the cost is for coaches and half the cost is for volunteers and then the officials reimburse a percentage.

We need to get the word out that the Background check is an every other year thing. Otherwise, we may need to look at putting the cost back on the Affiliate if, for example, they have 7 people do the Background check that didn't need to; we could ask the Affiliate to reimburse NDAHA \$70 or \$10/per person.

The next report was from David Hoff the Coach in Chief.

He has been asked a lot about the Level 4 clinic. This is a hot topic since it will be back in North Dakota this year. The clinic will be held in Fargo sometime in October or November. It could be 2-3 years before the Level 4 clinic will be back in North Dakota, so David is encouraging the Affiliates with coaches at Level 3 to look at getting the coaches to attend this Level 4 clinic if it works. The clinic will be an all day Saturday and half day Sunday. The cost is going to be around \$200. A common question is if a coach has quit do they have to restart at the beginning. As long as they are in the database, you can start back at the next level. David is hoping to have the dates out in the next 7-10 days.

The other thing David talked about was certification issues that may be seen with coaches throughout the year. He said Keith Holland, the State Registrar, was on top of this. He was constantly sending out reminders to the affiliates about what coaches needed so they could stay on the rosters.

David said the Temp Card was used too much. This card is not for those guys who just didn't make it to a clinic. The Affiliates need to encourage their coaches to get to these clinics. David wasn't as willing to issue the temp cards this year, especially since he feels it is being abused.

The concern was raised that it seemed like December 12<sup>th</sup> was the last date available to attend a clinic and why couldn't there be one later. David responded by saying that December 31<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff for coaches. The soft deadline is December 20<sup>th</sup> for clinics.

David said they've held clinics in October because the Affiliates have asked for them. When the clinics go later like December, than there are excuses as why a coach can't be there.

The budget doesn't justify another set of clinics in North Dakota. The budget justifies four clinics and that has been stretched to five clinics. So to add a sixth clinic would not be feasible due to budget.

Bottom line is to get the coaches to the clinics.

It is not just the certification but also the age appropriate modules. The module has to fit the age of the roster. The example was if it's a 14u roster than the coach/coaches

need to have completed the 14u modules. Coaches need to register with USA Hockey, have a Background check, and complete SafeSport before going on the ice.

The dates for the regular clinics should be out sometime in early September and will probably be held in the four big cities.

There was no Youth Leagues report as Chad Arendt wasn't in attendance.

State Tournament Committee Report was given by Scott Schafer. He passed out a sheet with the State Tournament Rotation. The chart on the NDAHA website is incorrect. Scott did a bit of housekeeping and fixed the rotation.

According to NDAHA Rules and Regulations anything on the website is the way it is. Later today we need to look at doing a Housekeeping Proposal so that we can look at getting this fixed on the website. He asked us to look through the chart and proofread it. Otherwise, we will deal with the chart this afternoon under proposals.

The other piece of information Scott mentioned was that not everyone has turned in their State Tournament Reports. He'd like to get those as soon as possible.

- IV. President Evenson took a step back since he had passed on the Agenda Additions and Changes earlier in the meeting because of the Officials coming in to talk.

One addition is President Evenson asked that Bob Gillen, District Girls Section Director, to get up and give a report.

Scott Schafer has a proposal to deal with the Park River Rule. This will be brought forward with the Proposals.

The other addition would be the housekeeping of the State Tournament Rotation and possible approval of the rotation, also during Proposals.

- VI. With the addition of those three items, President Evenson went back to NDAHA Reports. At this time he called on Lee Haugen, Boys High School League Director, to give his report.

Lee first thanked Mayport for a wonderful tournament. Overall it was well officiated and well played tournament.

Junior Gold had their problems this season but managed to work through them. Lee mentioned that over the years there has been so many exceptions that they are starting to lose track of what they are. It was decided amongst the Junior Gold people at the Mayport Tournament that they are going to get rid of the exceptions. They aren't going to make new rules and just go by the rules in the book. This will cause a problem for a few of the affiliates but hopefully nothing major. They are going to give this a try before they start looking at changing or adding rules.

This year they will be losing one of the Watford teams, so they will be down to just one team. However, they are hoping to see Minot coming back into the league. Lee hasn't heard from anyone else that they are looking at coming in to the league.

President Evenson brought up that the Junior Gold community likes the Junior Gold wording. It can get confusing since they added NDAHS. However, Junior Gold wasn't taken out of the verbiage and the group can go with just Junior Gold and drop NDAHS. Lee said the group will discuss and see what they would like to do.

In Mayville they went to having pictures of their players on their rosters. The host families just signed and checked the pictures. Affiliates with Junior Gold teams are now going to be required to have the pictures along with the rosters. These will all need to be turned in before the first game. The coach or manager has one for each team. This way if questions arise, you can just pull the roster out and show them that player is on your team.

Keith Olson, Girls League Director, came up to give the next report. He said for the most part the season went well.

There was a new system in place on the ice to reduce the games at both levels. Both leagues were statewide and were split into East and West. This made seeding the tournaments much easier. The plan is to stick with this set up since it went so well this year.

The one hiccup was with the website and LiveScoring. It didn't work as well as they would've liked. Jerry Zachmeier from Mandan has agreed to work with the webmaster to work on the hiccups that were identified this year. So hopefully, LiveScoring will be working the way it should next year.

The Girls Division has grown to 35 teams.

Changes for next year include adhering 100% to the USA Hockey ages for 19u, 14u, 12u, etc. In the past they have always had that over age exemption for those girls who have fallen through the cracks. We've always been rostered correctly at the appropriate ages but our leagues have been massaged around those. Next year in going with the USA Hockey ages, we may have an extra league with maybe not as many teams. Part of that comes with girls playing for a year or two and then going to high school. With the boys you have Peewees and Bantams, however with girls a lot of times you go 12u and then straight to high school. This year with the new registrar and lots of new community reps lot of the processes that had been in place and didn't vary for 10 years now caused some hiccups. This is one of the reasons the proposal for the Girls Governance Committee. By having this committee in place, they can, at the beginning of the year, go through the rosters, all the girls' issues and make sure we get everyone in their proper leagues. Everything would be talked about and communication would be open so everything



would be handled at the beginning of the year. They'd like to see more people in the loop of what's going on.

Keith has a concern from a league perspective is all the discussion with girls JV, which is coming from the high school side. The 14u teams bounce up and down all the time depending on what's there. Girls JV grows because a lot of freshman will play 14u and a majority will then go to play high school. One example he gave is Mandan. They may have a JV team since 9<sup>th</sup> grade is considered high school and a lot of the girls may try out and make it. Williston is also talking about a JV team. This changes the dynamics and it's really hard to plan. Last year Bismarck had a JV team and this year they don't know if they'll have enough girls for a JV. It just fluctuates so much for some towns.

Keith said it's a great high school league with 15 teams and its super competitive. There are a lot of great after season opportunities. It was a really good year on the ice.

Keith feels the Girls Governance League would really help with things that may otherwise slip through the cracks.

There's a lot of good growth. This year there were tons of new community reps and coaches. However it's hard to keep any sustainability in the people they work with.

President Evenson asked Keith to touch on the changes they will need to be done. Keith said that whatever girls you have or may have the affiliate will need to roster to that age (19u, 18u, etc.) or declare July. There will be some adjustments and this occurs every year depending on the high school try outs. Every year there are four teams that we either lose or gain one. The last two years we've had four teams. USA Hockey doesn't allow teams to play up. The problem that the Girls have every year is we have true 14u teams consistently with Fargo and Bismarck; occasionally another city may have a true 14u team. Then there will be 6-10 teams rostered 14u but only have one girl on the team who is actually 14u and the other are 12u.

We will allow a team to roster 12u if they have 5 or 6 girls that are 12u. We will have a 12u league then, where in the past they would have had to play with everybody else. So they will try to segregate by age as best they can. Those teams that have 1-3 girls that are 14u will play in the 14u league. Those teams that are a true 14u team will probably have the option to play up or their league may be really tiny. Keith said they can't make anyone play up but they won't have a lot of good competition.

President Evenson talked about how in the past, in order to make things work, we've had a 14u/12u which is basically a 12u team that we've allowed 13 year old girls to be on. Otherwise, those 13 year olds wouldn't have a place to play and the thought was you don't want to call it 14u. However, we got in to a situation where those 12/13 year olds were going in to tournaments in Minnesota or there was confusion as to what that really meant and what our league was. This created enough issues that we need to clean it up and there are issues about do we want 13 year olds playing against 19 year olds and so on. There is just a lot of confusion. So in order to clean up and make safe and make

everyone aware the idea is to have the 12u, 14u, 19u, and with A & B if necessary declare by July 15<sup>th</sup>. This needs to be known by the scheduling meeting. The idea is to have them declare so that the League Governance Committee could then make sure where the league should fall in. The Committee could talk to the teams and say this is what's going to be this league and let the team have the option to opt up. The thought is we want our leagues to more accurately reflect what USA Hockey classifications are so that we have people in the right places but allow the teams to choose based on what may be with the number of teams where to go ultimately and work with them to get it right.

Keith mentioned that the average age at the start of the 19u season last year was 14.52 years old. It really isn't a 19u team since we only have one or two seniors playing on a team. North Dakota is one of just a few states where you have to be in high school to play in our league. Most states allow college freshman to play on their 19u league. North Dakota is unique in that respect. 19u sounds a lot worse than it really is in our state.

The idea is to clean up the odd situations that may put a girl in jeopardy and to allow for teams to play at the level that they feel is right for their programs and work with the Girls Governance Committee to make that happen as opposed to some of the odd things we have done in the past.

Keith also talked about how girls' hockey is pretty social. The true 14u programs compete fairly well with the 19u teams and they normally want the best competition. We've always had two true 14u teams but it has gone as far as five. However, it's never the same two years in a row which makes planning impossible. It has always made the most sense to have the 14u teams play up otherwise they would get sick of playing each other 15 times. Keith said we can't make the 14u teams play up. We have to let them know this is what it is and where would you prefer to play.

President Evenson asked Keith if he would be getting the information out about declaring teams. Keith said they would follow along with the Boys as best they can. However, he again mentioned why it was important for this Girls Governance League, since you may have affiliates who thought they were going to have certain teams only to find out they lost girls to the high school and then the ages they have left don't match the league they thought they'd be playing in.

Bob Gillen, District Girls Section Director, came up next to give his report.

Bob mentioned that they had just recently had a District Conference Call and North Dakota was given kudos for doing a great job, especially with our numbers. We have over 1,000 players at each of the lower levels. North Dakota is definitely doing something right.

Bob thanked Keith for all of his hard work and the affiliate's efforts. Girls' hockey is going to grow. However, there are still some challenges with girls still playing on the boys teams.

He stressed the State Player Development Camps and District Player Development camps that we have. Bob wants the Affiliates to get the information out to their girls and let them know that these camps aren't just for the elite girls anymore. These camps are for all players and their development. These camps are a benefit to the girls. We are trying to develop all of our girls. Any girl that goes to the State or District Camp is going to get something out of it. The hope is that it will make the girls a better player and they will take what they learned home with them and utilize it. Bob asked that when we get the dates out for the State Camp if the Affiliates could get the word out and really push for having their girls attend this camp. This will be a benefit for the girls and will help them grow as a player both on and off the ice.

The District Camp just recently finished up. Bob gave us a rundown of the numbers. There were 31 girls who attended the 97, 98, and 99. 13 of those girls were from North Dakota. In the younger age groups, 2000, 2001, 2002 there were 17 North Dakota girls. North Dakota had the majority of the numbers but the District Camp is held here. Bob said they would like to see this number grow. In order to do so, we need to have more girls attend the State Camp so that we have a larger pool to choose and move on to the District Camp. He feels the camps are phenomenal and really impressed with what we are doing as a group.

Bob oversees a couple of programs within the district. The first one is in the fall and is the 14u Jamboree. The plan is to expand the Jamboree this year. Dallas Kuntz in Dickinson has offered Dickinson to be the host. They are looking at still having the 14u teams but adding in 19u teams that may be National Tournament bound can come in and get their allotted games they need. Bob is also working with Michelle the ADM Coordinator for USA Hockey. She will work with girls and coaches and do some workshops for ADM. Information will be coming out this summer as they get things set up and approved. The dates are October 23-25 in Dickinson.

The Presidents Cup will happen next March 17-20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Rapid City South Dakota. This will be its 10<sup>th</sup> year. There were 8 teams last year. It's a great follow up to the season. There is also the Northern Plains District Showcase Evaluation tryout weekend. Last year was the second time doing that. It works well to have these two events. There are six opportunities to watch the girls.

The district team did not go to the NIT. They went to the American Showcase, which is the old Chicago Showcase in Pittsburgh. There were 6 girls from North Dakota on the team. There had been 35 who had tried out. Last year there had been a few more but because of the tight timeframe and the cost not as many girls tried out. It was a great event and the team went 2 and 2. Also, it looks like this event will be a go again for next year. Bob also reminded everyone that this is another great opportunity for their girls. If you have girls who would be interested and would like more information, Affiliates are encouraged to contact Keith Olson or Bob Gillen about the program.

The last thing Bob talked about was how they are trying to get more female coaches and officials involved.

Terry Halstengard was next with a SafeSport Report.

SafeSport is getting a little bit bigger each year. Last year there were four reports and this year there were 18 reports. There were 2 at the Mite Level, 1 at the Squirt Level, 5 at Peewee, 7 at Bantam, 3 Junior Gold, and none at the Girls Level. 8 of the reports dealt with parents, 6 dealt with coaches, and 4 dealt with players. 12 were bullying issues, 3 were electronic device issues, and 3 were conduct or misbehaving issues.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, we had five coaches who weren't SafeSport certified. Terry made contact and found that those coaches weren't coaching for our program anymore. So, we had 100% of our coaches certified, which was awesome. Terry said this was in part due to the Affiliates and Keith Holland the State Registrar for cracking the whip.

Bullying and hazing are still issues. We need to make sure that Locker Room Monitors are in place.

Terry thanked everyone who helped with the 18 investigations that took place this past year. He said the SafeSport reps are always willing to help. Terry also mentioned how he also makes sure to include the President and District people to make sure there are enough people included to get the job done.

Terry said what he remembers most about this year and making calls to Affiliates to discuss issues, the SafeSport rep would know who the individual(s) were right away. Terry said that if you knew about it, you need to start documenting things so there is a history. He gave an example of one Affiliate and a parent who was posting his thoughts about the organization on social media. So the president of the club contacted Terry about what was going and let him know what was being said, then moved to just forwarding emails, and finally called Terry after the first of the year to ask if they could remove the parent for the rest of the season. Since things were documented, they had a case against the parent and were able to suspend him.

Terry recommends that at the parent meetings you remind your parents about posting things online, since everyone can see it. Documentation is the big thing. You want records of what's going on.

Recertification is coming up next year. It should only be a 15-20 minute video that needs to be watched. President Evenson asked when the recertification will be available and Terry said that since it is a continuing thing it should already be online.

A few of the situations Terry dealt with were snowball effects. As an Affiliate, Terry asked that you try to control that. Let the people know that yes this being looked into and dealt with. Otherwise it becomes a vicious cycle.

Most of the suspensions he saw were kneejerk reactions. He recommends thinking things through and sitting on it for a few days. When he does ask you to do an investigation you have 7-10 days. Don't jump off the handle right away. As the history builds, Terry will

know the person(s) and what they have done in the past. If this is a problem that has happened multiple times than it should've been handled at the Affiliate level and not come to a SafeSport report.

The reports that Terry did see were the ones that had come to a head. They had been to their Board, the team managers, etc. They had been to every avenue and so it needed to come to SafeSport.

Terry thinks that the numbers will continue to grow for the reports each year.

Player Development Report given by President Evenson and Ryan Griggs.

President Evenson started by saying we have worked hard to expand our player development program by bringing in more support staff and coaches, which has resulted in more players. He said they really put a focus on development.

President Evenson said that we supported and rostered the Pittsburgh Showcase Team. They did a nice job they did. They were good players both on and off the ice. It was a great experience and he thanked them and Dennis Moore and the Junior Gold community for the whole experience.

On the Girls side, Girls Team North Dakota, expanded out and tried to get more people involved. The team was coached by Jarrod Olson, along with Matt Strinden and Keith Walsh being involve. Also, our coach support staff and many high school coaches were involved and provided help.

On the Boys Team North Dakota the oversight for that group was David Hoff, Troy Olson, Tim Sapous, and Grant Paranecka. It was a great group who has expressed interest in continuing to help with this team. They took the boys team down to the Minnesota NIT and had a good experience.

Our State Camp was in Grand Forks. There were 325 players who attended. All the coaches were from North Dakota. There was a tremendous amount of development. Also, there was no negative discussion.

The District Camp was once again put on. This year there were about 85 more players than last year. This was by far the largest number of players that we've had participate in a District Camp. The majority of the players were from North Dakota. The Camp truly focused on development.

The overall player development committee, which oversees all that we have going on, is comprised of David Hoff, Duane Bernhardson(Administrator), Grant Paranica, Bob Gillen, Ryan Griggs, Betty Triplett, and Greg Evenson. Everyone puts in a tremendous amount of time.

Scott Koberinksi moved on to be the East Grand Forks Athletic Director, which means we haven't had a Player Development Director. Through the process of bringing more people in and getting more involved, Grant Paronica has been involved with us through past fall and spring. He has asked to be the State Player Development Director for NDAHA. President Evenson sat down with Grant and explained what this position means. President Evenson said that Grant is excited and wants the position. At the Board meeting, Greg will ask the Board to approve Grant as the new State Player Development Director.

President Evenson then asked Ryan Griggs to come up and talk about this program and some of the other upcoming fall programs.

Ryan Griggs is the Assistant High School Coach at West Fargo and on the Fall Programming Committee for North Dakota Amateur Player Development. Ryan mentioned that previously prior to this year the only option really available for fall programming was the Northern Plains Hockey League, which the high school kids can sign up for. Bob Gillen is the Director of that league. Basically the high school players sign up and play 5-6 weekends, which is about 15-18 games. There are 5 Minnesota teams plus what North Dakota puts in. This league will stick around no matter what happens. For the Western part of the state, the travel does get to be a struggle, since they are traveling to places like Grand Rapids, Brainerd, etc. The Fargo, Moorhead, and Grand Forks weekends are strongly attended by all our players. The other places farther out have slightly less participation.

The Upper Midwest Elite League has always taken a few North Dakota players. The higher end players that have gone here have done really well.

There is also the Elite Development Program or Elite II was its former name. North Dakota put a full team in that program for four weekends last year. There were 12 games plus the tournament.

So when the Tier I stuff came out, a committee was put together to explore if North Dakota should do this through the Player Development committee or whether it should be done secondary, subcontracted out.

The goal of the Player Development Committee is to figure out what's best for the kids in the state and try to get some feedback and options. Team North Dakota has really gone towards input from the high school coaches. Ryan said that the high school coaches would also like to be involved in the fall season too.

When they are talking about players leaving, they aren't talking about the players who are going to the USHL. They are talking about keeping kids in the state who leave to go play Kansas City Mavericks and pay thousands of dollars. If we can create an opportunity for kids to play 15-20 games in the fall, play their winter season, maybe jumps back into the spring. It'll give us a 45-50 game season, which hopefully is comparable to what they are getting if they leave and go out of state.

We need to do more for exposure for these players. The USHL just had their Phase I and II draft and only two North Dakotans were drafted. Ryan has talked with Grant about this.

Right now they're exploring rolling out a 14u, 16u, and 18u program that would start in August and play through the fall. They would finish up sometime in October so that they could go home to their home Affiliates. Then the thought is some of these players would come back in the spring and try to qualify for the National Team. The thought is the 18u program wouldn't try out for the National Team because the committee does like the current Team North Dakota concept. So the 18u would try out for that in the spring while the 14u and 16u would try out for the National Team possibly.

There has been a lot of discussion about age, worry about National Tournament, and debate about whether we should look at Tier I or Tier II. The feedback has been to look at Tier I and look at trying to qualify for the National Tournament.

There was a proposal submitted to North Dakota Player Development from the Hockey Academy. The discussion has been whether to explore the opportunities of North Dakota going on their own or look at the Hockey Academy running the teams. Our North Dakota thing is we do need to cover all aspects. We have boys 14, 16, 18, but we need to do something for the girls also. The Girls Program is a part of the Player Development as well.

Minnesota has the League set up in at least two of the divisions. The 14u may be a little bit tougher. One of Scott's things in the past was to try and get a fall Bantam League going, which may create some games for the 14u teams.

There's been a lot of work done by a lot of people. We are getting on the right page and right now it's just trying to figure out which way to go, which direction to follow up on and then move forward.

This will start this fall one way or another. President Evenson stepped in to say that what we are really waiting for is Minnesota has process for putting their Tier I leagues together and when we talk about Girls, Minnesota has a Premier Prep League that we've been invited to be in as well. However, they've had some things to overcome. This was going to be announced at their spring meeting but it has been pushed back to the June meeting. Once it has been announced we're going to have get up and running to be up to speed. If we are going to do this, we don't want to miss the first season and end up trying to get back in. We think we are going to be ready if and when Minnesota makes their announcement.

The question was asked as to how many teams we will have at each level. Ryan said the goal would be one 18u Tier I team, one 16u Tier I team, one 14u Tier I team, and a 19u team for the Girls in addition to the NPHL and the fall Bantam league. There has been discussion on the Girls side for a 14u. The feedback is there is a lot of interest in the Girls side and they'd like to see the girls get up to par with the boys side.

Minnesota has been working with the Minnesota High School Coaches Association and this is who's going to be overseeing all of this. To some degree this is going to be tied in to the Midwest Elite League.

Ryan talked about how primarily the games are played on the weekends. However, there still needs to be a development aspect. We can't always ask someone to drive to Grand Forks, for example, on a Tuesday evening or an open weekend. So one of the thoughts is to have satellite sights, run by the coaches, where kids can go and work on skill development.

President Evenson mentioned two camps they are working on for player development this summer. One of the camps is a Goaltending Camp. They have found a couple of ex-goaltenders who are willing to take on the challenge and run the camp. There is a weekend scheduled in Grand Forks and one scheduled in Minot. The hope is to be able to work in both on ice and off ice components throughout the weekend for goalies across the state. President Evenson said that as these clinics get put together, we will make sure to get the information out to everyone. We want everyone who wants to participate to be able to.

VII. 2015 Proposals

|   |                    |                  |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| A. <b>Class of Play/Player Count</b>      | <b>Halstengard</b> | <b>Withdrawn</b> |
| B. <b>NDAHA Squirt League</b>             | <b>Halstengard</b> | <b>Withdrawn</b> |
| C. <b>Team Classifications</b>            | <b>Frei</b>        | <b>Withdrawn</b> |
| D. <b>Team Classifications</b>            | <b>Frei</b>        | <b>Withdrawn</b> |
| E. <b>Class of Play/Player Count</b>      | <b>Frei</b>        | <b>Withdrawn</b> |
| F. <b>Replacing a Rostered Goaltender</b> | <b>Clark</b>       | <b>Failed</b>    |

Crosby made a motion to bring to the floor and West Fargo seconded the motion  
 West Fargo made a motion to vote on the proposal and Crosby seconded the motion

|   |                 |               |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| G. <b>Coaching Education Requirements</b> | <b>Sullivan</b> | <b>Passed</b> |
|---|-----------------|---------------|

Hazen made a motion to bring to the floor and Bismarck seconded the motion  
 Bismarck made a motion to vote on the proposal and Hazen seconded the motion

|                                     |                 |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| H. <b>Coaches Evidence of Level</b> | <b>Sullivan</b> | <b>Passed amended</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|

Fargo made a motion to bring to the floor and Bismarck seconded the motion  
 Fargo made a motion to approve an amendment that was made by David Hoff that replaces the wording of the original proposal with the wording in bullet points 1-4 brought forth by David Hoff. Crosby seconded the motion.  
 Bismarck made a motion to pass the proposal with the amendment. Dickinson seconded the motion.

|   |                 |                       |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| I. <b>Youth League/Geography of District Play</b> | <b>Sullivan</b> | <b>Passed amended</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|

Fargo made a motion to bring to the floor and Dickinson seconded the motion



Fargo made a motion to amend the proposal by removing page 5 except for the sentence at the top of the page along with leaving Peewee A/B and Bantam A/B still crossed off. Langdon seconded the motion.

Bismarck made a motion to vote on the proposal with amendment and Fargo seconded the motion

- |   |                 |                       |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>J. Class of Play/Player Count</b>                                | <b>Bye</b>      | <b>Withdrawn</b>      |
| <b>K. AA/A League Requirements</b>                                  | <b>Bye</b>      | <b>Passed</b>         |
| Bismarck made a motion to bring to the floor and Crosby seconded    |                 |                       |
| Hazen made a motion to vote on the proposal and Dickinson seconded  |                 |                       |
| <b>L. Fall Meeting Schedule</b>                                     | <b>Gillen</b>   | <b>Withdrawn</b>      |
| <b>M. Hall of Fame Committee</b>                                    | <b>Gillen</b>   | <b>Passed amended</b> |
| Hazen made a motion to bring to the floor and West Fargo seconded   |                 |                       |
| West Fargo made a motion to vote on the proposal and Hazen seconded |                 |                       |
| <b>N. USA Hockey Cross Ice Mandate</b>                              |                 |                       |
| <b>Required for NDAHA</b>   | <b>Stockert</b> | <b>Died</b>           |
| <b>O. Girls League Governance Committee</b>                         | <b>Olson</b>    | <b>Passed</b>         |
| Bismarck made a motion to bring to the floor and Crosby seconded    |                 |                       |
| Fargo made a motion to vote on the proposal and Crosby seconded     |                 |                       |
| <b>P. Live Scoring Requirement for</b>                              |                 |                       |
| <b>League Games</b>   | <b>Arendt</b>   | <b>Died</b>           |
| <b>Q. Roster Submission Deadline</b>                                |                 |                       |
| <b>For League Play</b>  | <b>Arendt</b>   | <b>Died</b>           |
| <b>Inadequate Numbers</b>   | <b>Schafer</b>  | <b>Failed</b>         |
| Minot made a motion to bring to the floor and West Fargo seconded   |                 |                       |
| Hazen made a motion to vote on the proposal and Lee seconded        |                 |                       |
| <b>State Tournament Rotation</b>                                    | <b>Schafer</b>  | <b>Passed</b>         |
| Bismarck made a motion to bring to the floor and Crosby seconded    |                 |                       |
| Bismarck made a motion to vote on the proposal and Crosby seconded  |                 |                       |

During the proposal discussions, there was a lot of talk about the League Governance Committee. Some of the proposals would be withdrawn if the Committee was to be further expanded. President Evenson said that we would need a two-thirds vote of the Board. Crosby made a motion to discuss a proposal on changing our Governance Committee. Rugby seconded the motion.

The Board of Directors now had to vote yes or no on having a discussion for the proposal on the size of the governance committee.

The Board chose to vote in favor of having the discussion.

Currently there are five people who sit on this Committee; one person from each district and the League Director. There was much discussion on leaving the committee as is for the next year just to see how things go.

A question was raised as to how many games the people on the Committee get to.

An option that was brought forth would be to have four at large members, one from each district. We could use Keith's guidelines from the Girls Section. Each district could vote their own person in. Also, another suggestion would be to have a representative from the State Tournament Committee and possibly combine the Governance Committee and the State Tournament Committee in to one.

We're looking at having nine people on the committee, which would be nine votes. Each district could appoint/vote their representatives as they want. The terms would also need to be longer than a year to keep continuity. The suggestion was to have the terms be 2-3 years long.

The proposal brought forth is the Governance Committee will be composed of a League Director, one district director from each district, and one at large representative voted in from each district for a two year term.

Bismarck made a motion to vote on the proposal and Bottineau seconded the motion.

The proposal was passed.

#### VIII. New Business

West Fargo is getting a second high school. President Evenson mentioned that oftentimes when a new high school comes in oftentimes you'll see people coming forward wanting to be an affiliate for that new school. President Evenson asked West Fargo to take a look whether they as an organization felt they could service both high schools in their affiliate for their community.

West Fargo took a look at what Grand Forks and Fargo had done. They held three town hall meetings and polled their membership. Over 90% were in favor of keeping as one. They feel that they are doing a good job serving both and don't want someone else coming in to serve the new high school.

President Evenson asked for a resolution from the affiliates that says they support West Fargo having both high schools within their association.

All the Affiliates were in favor of this resolution.

#### 2015 State Tournament Hosts

Scott didn't have them all so we walked through them.  
Junior Gold-almost sure, Langdon had agreed to be the lead site and Lee will verify by Monday.

Girls 19u-still in discussion  
Bantam A1 and A2-Devils Lake  
Bantam B1-Grafton

Bantam B Gold-still in discussion but somewhere in the Northwest  
Bantam B Silver-up in the air but somewhere in the Southwest  
Bantam B Bronze-may not have  
Peewee A1 & A2-Bismarck or Dickinson  
Peewee B1-Mandan  
Peewee B Gold-Rugby or Langdon (should know Monday)  
Peewee B Silver-Wahpeton  
Peewee B Bronze-NW but still up in air  
Girls 14u/12u-Jamestown

We need to get this nailed down in short order. The discussion was to have the locations for the State Tournaments decided by June 1<sup>st</sup>. If there is no location by June 1<sup>st</sup>, Scott will start shopping for a location for the tournaments. President Evenson asked for a show of hands to see if everyone was in favor of the June 1<sup>st</sup> date and everyone was okay with it.

Scott also passed along some information from the Referees as an FYI. Since the refs are having a hard time getting refs for state tournaments, so they'd like us to try and watch our tournament rotation.

The other thing the referees mentioned is it is really hard to staff a tournament. They like the idea of combining some of these tournaments into a bigger city, which would help with numbers and make the tournament easier to staff.

Scott suggested we should take a look at some of our referee rules at the state level.

President Evenson suggested that Scott work with the officials and at the fall meeting come forward with some changes or things that need to be done.

The referees would like more money. The referees are going to put something together on pay and bring it forward to our Board.

Bantam B2 Tournament

This was put on the agenda in the interest of transparency and why and how this tournament happens.

The issue that occurred was a Bismarck team using the Park River Rule for their reasons during the season and at the Bantam B2 Tournament. What was learned was the four players who were brought forward on the Park River Rule in December and stayed on the team from December until the State Tournament. Bismarck dropped and added the players as needed. Everything was done properly but the communication and process needs to change. The district directors need to be involved so that they are aware of what's going on and can let other people know when these things happen. This way there won't be any surprises or doesn't understand how this happened. We will follow our rules better in the future of getting the directors involved.

IX. Elections

SE District Director            Bob Bye

NE District Director            David Duckworth

NW District Director            Jarrod

SW District Director            Tom

Vice President                    Scott Schafer was nominated by Betty and seconded by Dan Frei all were in favor

Secretary                         Suzzanne Fuchs was nominated by Greg Evenson and seconded by Lee Haugen all were in favor

X. Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting will be in Bismarck on Saturday, September 12, 2015

XI. Bismarck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Grand Forks seconded the motion. The Spring 2015 Affiliate Meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.