

**FYHBA – BOD Meeting 3/8/16– 8PM  
Fremont Recreation Center**

**Board Members Present:** Connie Wilson, Deb DeBlase, Zach Zender, Jessica Warner; Phone: Mel Covell; Late: Cheryl Miller

**Non Board Members Present:** Sean Moir, Angelo DeBlase

Meeting came to order at 6:05PM

**Motion 03082016-1** - Motion by Jessica Warner, to accept the Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2106 Annual Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> Zach Zender, Yes – Mel Covell, Connie Wilson, Deb DeBlase (Cheryl Miller was not in attendance at the time of vote)

**Coaching Report**

Coaches Report was forwarded to the Board on 2.27.16 from Dave Pulaski: We are already moving forward with next year's teams starting clinic sessions next week. Randy and James are taking the lead on this. Pending official board approval, Randy would like to coach the PeeWees and James the Bantams for next season. Sean would like to return as the HS head coach as well. I am not sure you have voted on this or given any official indication that this is locked in, but I give my highest recommendation to the board to approve all three coaches to return in the capacities they are seeking and we are moving forward assuming approval is forthcoming.

Also, Austin Wilhelm has expressed some interest in coaching the squirt team next season. I have known Austin since he was a squirt player and I think he would be a great addition to our coaching ranks if he can make the commitment.

**Clinic Sessions:** We have upcoming clinics to transition into next year's teams coming up on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. For these clinics, James and Randy will be sharing duties. We have ice from 6:00-8:00 on these Tues & Thurs. An email recently went out to current team managers to forward to their teams giving them notice.

**Squirts and transitioning Future Starts and Try Hockey Players:** Their session will run from 6:00-7:00. (FYI – the most recent Try Hockey and Future Stars combined to give us over 40 players on the ice last week!). Connie has really stepped up and taken the lead on communicating with these new players/families as we secured contact lists from Josh and she has already received some feedback. Our coaches are welcoming EVERYBODY to the 6:00 clinic sessions regardless of the player's experience. (Great attitudes from Randy and James!!!)

**The PeeWee/Bantam** group will run from 7:00-8:00 following the squirts and new players session. James and Randy will again share duties on the ice. We have a handle on 90% of these rosters, so these sessions should run smoothly. Any new skaters at the 6:00 clinic session in these birth years “may” be asked to stay for the PW/BA sessions at 7:00. The coaches will decide at 1<sup>st</sup> session if they are ready or not.

**Clinic Charges:** Pete at the rec. center said he would charge for only 1 hour but give us 2, so we only need to recoup \$120 per day. Pete said if we end up really short, to approach him after the fact and they would consider adjusting the charges if we don't get many kids to show up, but that they just don't want to have to staff for these clinics. This also means, **we need a FYHBA rep. to collect the \$5 at the door for the clinics for both sessions on each day.**

Anyway, this is a good start in looking at what we'll have for next season and priority needs to be placed on fielding a squirt team above everything else by integrating players from the Future Stars and Try Hockey programs. Cheryl has spent all season and done a terrific job in communicating with the Future Stars group and they are aware of their options.

**2016-2017 Squirt Fees:** Previous board approval reduced squirt fees from \$600 to \$485 which should be a huge help in bridging the gap of the cost of the Stars program to our Squirt team. The Squirt team for next season will need to include 2008 birth years skating up as well, but we've been down this road every year with players skating up a level.

In summary, it was a good season for all teams/coaches and we are already moving forward. Please officially make a motion to appoint Sean as Head Coach for the HS team, James as Head Coach for Bantams and Randy as Head Coach for PeeWees for the 2016-2017 season (if you haven't already).

**Motion 03082016-2** - Motion by Jessica Warner, to accept the coaching appointments presented - Sean Moir as Head Coach for the HS team, James as Head Coach for Bantams and Randy as Head Coach for PeeWees ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Zach Zender, Yes – Mel Covell, Connie Wilson, Deb DeBlase (Cheryl Miller was not in attendance at the time of vote)

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Deb DeBlase presented the Treasurer Reports from November 2015, December 2015, January 2016 and March 2016.

As of the end of February 2016 we have an ending balance of \$13,851.60; we still need to pay for jerseys ordered in the beginning of the season and in which the invoice had not been received at the time of the meeting – the projected cost will be approximately \$3,000 - \$3,500. There are other outstanding invoices that will need to be paid.

**Motion 03082016-3** - Motion by Zach Zender, to accept the Treasurers Reports from Nov. 2015, Dec. 2015, Jan. 2016 and Feb. 2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Warner, Yes – Mel Covell, Connie Wilson, Deb DeBlase (Cheryl Miller was not in attendance at the time of vote)

### **League Report**

Was sent to the Board 3.8.16 and 2.29.16 by Dave Pulaski:

**League Report Update 3.8.16** Since the most recent report of 2.29.16 a few other things have transpired. We petitioned the HS league regarding an ineligible player for Wooster who was dual rostered on a Junior team and appeared to have overlapping games. The league investigated and determined that the player did not play past the point of his eligibility, but rather was simply not pulled from the team's website and no violation was found.

Also, St. Ignatius has dropped from our league for next season which was one of our points of contention moving into next year, so that problem appears to have worked itself out.

### **League Report 2.29.16**

We can start this report with the good news. We had all 4 Fremont teams make their respective playoffs. Squirts & PeeWees lost in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, Bantams lost in the championship game and the HS team played to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in their double elimination playoffs with two games going into OT and one into a shootout. The team we lost against, Jackson, went on to win the championship game. Overall, it was a great season for all of our teams and we stacked up well in all of our respective league divisions!

At youth level, there is not too much to report. It is a 40 plus year old league with a seasoned board, great track record and a proven RPI system as evidence by all three of our youth teams this year playing in very competitive brackets. The next CSHL meeting will be in May and I will attend as usual. As stated in my previous report, one of our primary issues here is transferring the responsibility of assigning and scheduling referees for our home games to Don Lewis at the CSHL. Also, tomorrow is our deadline for what we would request from the Roger Shearer Grant. We would need to budget for ½ of what we request.

At the HS level things are a bit different. First some history: The CSHL took over some administrative functions of the NCHSHL in mid December of the 2012-2013 season when the NCHSHL was defaulting on payments to league referees due to an absentee treasurer and any/all financial information and ability to pay them. Fremont and Wooster were the only two programs that had teams both the CSHL and NCHSHL and most of the NCHSHL members were not as familiar with the CSHL & it's leadership. I approached the NCHSHL board and implored them to solicit the help of the CSHL to resolve these problems and salvage the season. We got approval from the overwhelming majority NCHSHL members so I contacted the

CSHL and we started the process of them taking over “some” administrative functions of the NCHSL which started by the CSHL fronting past due payments to the NCHSHL officials to keep our high school season going. This is one example of how the NCHSHL was poorly managed and in complete disarray and our stance at that time (and still remains) was to be thankful that the CSHL came in to help stabilize this High School league. That was a little over three years ago and the CSHL has gradually assumed a little more control every year after earning more faith from the old leadership of the NCHSHL and their respective teams. My point of this history is to let the board know that the HS division has just rounded it’s 3<sup>rd</sup> year under LIMITED CSHL control and continues to show improvement every year.

Moving forward, we have many issues to address at the HS level in the CSHL including Buckeye Cup eligibility. I spent over 40 minutes on the phone with the Commissioner of the league a few days ago on a myriad of these issues starting with our need to define what the primary function of the HS league should be and our need to work backward from a National Championship to a State Championship to the role of our league then down to program level.

Sean & I have discussed the issues at great lengths that need to be addressed at the HS level and we feel the CSHL is making gradual but adequate progress in the few short years they have been involved at this level. I have Sean’s blessing to start attending the HS league meetings with him and Angelo beginning in May and will do so moving forward.

Sean & I believe it may be best for us to first look at what happens at the National Tournament and work it backwards into the Buckeye Cup and our League structure prior to recommending changes.

The USA Hockey High School National Championship is held every year at varying locations. This year it is in Virginia and we actually have some of our league reps attending to “learn” from the process to better help the Buckeye Cup and our respective leagues understand what is going on (or should be going on). One change that was recently made was in expanding periods from 15 minutes to 17 minutes at Buckeye Cup because that is what they play at Nationals (which makes sense). I also asked why there were 3 Ohio teams invited to Nationals a few years ago and was told that the USA Hockey National Tournament had teams drop out and they needed to fill those slots. The tournament director looked to Ohio to fill these openings based on the quality of the past Ohio participants and the fact that our state plays later into the year than other states. Many states have concluded by roughly President’s Day weekend and these teams have already been off the ice for 3 weeks while Ohio teams are usually playing into late Feb. or early March.

In summary, brackets will always need to be filled at Nationals and it’s up to the National Tournament director to decide who/what/how that happens. **We have no input or control in what is done here.**

Therefore, we will simply focus on effectuating changes at our League and State Tournament levels.

Here is a laundry list of what we will address with the League & Buckeye Cup Committee. This is just a rambling, in no specific order, of issues for Sean and I to refer to later at those meetings.

1. What is the ultimate purpose/goal of the Buckeye Cup?
2. What is the ultimate purpose/goal of our HS League?
3. We need to continue the Player Movement Restrictions and Sanctions as we believe this is a primary reason the league had it’s most competitive season in history! This works!! Some league teams are looking to change.
4. We need the league to play under one set of rules (USA Hockey). Any/all teams playing in our league should file and play under USA Hockey. If a team chooses to play under Federation rules, league games should not be mandated, but rather scrimmages can be optionally scheduled at the discretion of each program.
5. Why is a Kentucky team in Buckeye Cup which is supposed to determine a State Champion for Ohio?
6. What is the point of our league playoff system if it has no bearing on who ultimately goes to States as proven out this year?
7. Why is there a “Play-In” game that counts for points in our playoffs?
8. Why is there a combination of My Hockey Rankings and respective League placements that determine who goes to states? Should be one or the other (This year 12 teams going to states are 1-10, 14,16) We are #11 and PHA Prowlers #12 and both locked out of even entering states. How does that make any sense?
9. Why do we use such an early date from My Hockey Rankings to determine Buckeye Cup eligibility? What is used in these Rankings? Who is entering these scores?

10. We believe using My Hockey Rankings only encourages teams to play their top lines forcing them to beat inferior opponents by large margins as their way to guarantee a State bid – **(EXTREMELY FLAWED THINKING!!!)**
11. There are only 19 teams eligible for states (Eastwood is not as they are filed as a Midget 18U and Northern Kentucky is not Ohio) so we should consider expanding the Buckeye Cup to 16 teams over 2 weekends. (16/8/4/2)
12. Buckeye Cup doesn't determine a State Champion, but rather MidAm determines but uses this tournament as a gauge/guide in the decision. So is Buckeye Cup can go back to being a tri-league championship and MidAm can then do whatever they want.
13. What is the point of a double elimination playoff format where our league teams beat each other up for 10 days and go limping into the State Championships?
14. The seeding of the Buckeye Cup is also flawed as three of top 7 teams in SAME bracket this year. Previous seeding was even more flawed rotating league's and whomever got the Cincinnati division always had the easiest path to winning.
15. Why do we keep having officiating issues to this degree at league level? We will be suggesting a 3 official format for any league playoffs as a potential solution.
16. Why do we permit coaches with a conduct history to continue to act a certain way? Here is the USA Hockey Coaching Conduct Policy:  
[http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/0990/2010\\_Coaching\\_Ethics\\_Code\\_FINAL.PDF](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0042/0990/2010_Coaching_Ethics_Code_FINAL.PDF) Who is to enforce this? Why have violations of this rule been ignored to this point? What can we do as a league to MAKE SURE this is complied with? We are not opposed to video on the benches to monitor.

My guess is we'll still be adding to this list of the items to address with our league and Buckeye Cup Committee, but wanted to put this down in writing to give you a good head start on the issues that Sean, Angelo and I will be dealing with moving forward.

Sean will have total authority on all issues pertaining to our HS team in any league issue requiring a vote.

Sean and I wanted the board to know that we are aware of these many issues and plan to address them in the off-season with the League and Buckeye Cup committee.

### **Old Business:**

**Coaches Stipend**– Discussion regarding an additional stipend for Sean Moir since he was coaching Bantams as well as High School and whether or not we need to add an addition stipend. It was also discussed how he had not received the agreed upon stipend as of yet, he is still owed \$50 as his stipend was only \$250 in February and it was agreed and voted upon to a \$300 stipend November 2015 (Motion: 11102015-6)

**Motion 03082016-4** - Motion by Zach Zender, to approve an additional Stipend for Sean Moir of \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Warner, Yes – Mel Covell, Connie Wilson, Deb DeBlase (Cheryl Miller was not in attendance at the time of vote) (Deb will also add the \$50 that is still owed to this stipend to Sean)

### **New Business:**

#### **Fees for 2016-2017 Season**

We had a discussion regarding fees and discounts and decided to only change the date of the Paid in Full Discount for the teams (with the exception of Squirts where we have already agreed to the early registration discount and to include the Paid in Full date for this team).

**Motion 03082016-5** - Motion by Deb DeBlase, to approve the fee schedule for the 2016-2017:

Multi-player per family - \$50 discount (oldest player pays full price and the sibling receives the discount)

Goalies: 60% Discount - Coach approved; No more than two goalies per team

Player Fees – Same as last year for Squirts – High School

Pee Wees - \$730

Bantams - \$850

High School - \$925

Practice Only Player – same as Last Season: That upon a parent's written request, a youth determined by a team's head coach to not yet be prepared for contact hockey and enters the sport at the Bantam through High School levels, a fee of \$300 is

approved for youths during a period where they will practice with their team but will not compete in games. The practice player can not be rostered with another team, a team jersey is optional, if the practice player would like a jersey, the practice player must pay for jersey, no more than 5 practice players per team and a USA Hockey registration is required. If the practice player ultimately joins the team it must be agreed upon between the practice player's parents and the coach(es), the fees will be prorated.

PAID IN FULL DISCOUNT: If all fees are paid in full by September 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a \$50 discount on player's fees ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Warner, Yes – Mel Covell, Connie Wilson, Zach Zender and Cheryl Miller

## **Adjournment**