

NORCAL Hockey Board Sign-In Sheet

March 19, 2005 Meeting

Pete Toft	NORCAL President	P
Ann Wade	NORCAL VP/Penalty Review	P
Carla Dickerson	NORCAL Secretary	P
Irene Kercher	NORCAL Treasurer	P
Chuck Collins	NORCAL Scheduler/Webmaster	
Stephanie Richardson	NORCAL M.A.L.	P
John Hamer	NORCAL Gen. Manager	P
Open	NORCAL Girls Chair	
Lori Diaz	NORCAL Roster Manager	P
Melissa Fitzgerald	CAHA Director	P
Mark Mauro	NORCAL Referee In Chief	P
Open	NORCAL Director of Coaches	
Todd Llewellyn	IHONC President	
NORCAL Club Representatives		
Liesl Songer-Nelson/M. Fitzgerald	1. Berkeley Iceland	P
Chris Hathaway	2. Cupertino – Pres.	P
Brett Bicksler	3. Fresno – Pres.	P
Todd Morgan	4. High Sierra – Pres.	
Andre Lacroix	5. Oakland Ice Center	
Ray Monks	6. Sacramento/Roseville Skatetown	P
Joe Lundy	7. Santa Clara – Pres.	P
Stephanie Richardson	8. San Jose – Rep.	P
Deanna Branski	9. Santa Rosa – Pres.	P
Anna Lane	10. Stockton – Pres.	P
Rich Wilcox	11. Tri-Valley - Pres.	P
Mike Donnelly	12. Yerba Buena/S.F. – Pres.	
Shane Hicke	13. Vacaville Skating Center	
Others in attendance		
Tom Brown	High Sierra	proxy
Bob Tankard	Vacaville	proxy
Mike Stoley	Tri-Valley	P
Bert Jonzzon	San Jose	P
Bill Raimondi	Oakland	proxy
Non attendance notation	Yerba Buena/S.F.	

NORCAL BOARD MINUTES FOR MARCH 19, 2005

General session called to order at 10:05am with introductions.

Some items may not be reported in the order by which they were presented.

REPORTS

1. President – Pete Toft
 - **Action Item:** Pete reminded club president's to submit rule change recommendations to him for 2005-06 consideration.
 - See Old Business Item #1.
2. GM – John Hamer
 - John commented on observations of penalties noted on recent scoresheets. Penalty review hearings scheduled for later today are evidence of increased concern over particular behaviors.
 - John noted that this was the last weekend for regular season play and there were still 5 divisions where teams can finish in the top four. Official game result is scoresheet going to John following the game...not what's recorded on the website.
 - **Action Item:** John recommended faxing scoresheets to him immediately following games on 3/19 and 3/20.
 - NORCAL A/B Playoff entry fee is \$1,000 per team as communicated in the an email sent out by Pete Toft on March 14th. It read, "*I now have 7 votes for the \$1,000 cost per team for the playoffs recommended by the board so that is 1 more than the 50% required and \$1,000 per team is what we will go with. Voting for the \$1,000 were Santa Clara, Oakland, Santa Rosa, Vacaville, Capital Thunder, Fresno, and Tri-Valley. San Jose and Berkeley would have preferred \$950 but were willing to go with \$1,000 if there were not enough votes for \$950. Stockton voted no on the \$1,000 and while not suggesting a dollar amount, felt that the league should pay a larger portion due to the revenue generated from the clubs into the league. Votes were not received from Cupertino, High Sierra or San Francisco.*"
 - Checks due to NORCAL no later than Friday 3/25.
 - Chuck Collins will be coming in for NORCAL A/B Playoffs as directed by a unanimous executive board decision on 3/1/05. The schedule should be out no later than Tuesday March 22nd. John noted the first game on Friday is 9:15am and last game start time on Sunday is 6:00pm.
 - Melissa Fitzgerald suggested a possible 25 game season next year which would allow playoffs to be held comfortably over two weeks. This would allow more clubs the opportunity to take part in the bid process.
3. Vice President – Ann Wade
 - 4 penalty review hearings today. Noted abuse of officials on the rise.
 - **Action Item:** Ann noted that she will create and distribute a report at the end of the season, showing a breakdown of penalties heard in review and what action was taken.
4. Treasurer – Irene Kercher
 - Presented year Balance Sheet which currently indicates \$85,057.63 bank balance, with \$7,491.50 in accounts receivable.
 - February invoices were distributed to clubs.
 - Irene noted that Yerba Buena is late on the Jan. payment.

5. Secretary - Carla Dickerson
 Asked for approval minutes from the February 26, 2005 meeting with the noted correction of the February and March meeting locations.
***Motion** to accept as presented, by Rich Wilcox, 2nd by Bob Tankard, motion to accept minutes as prepared carried unanimously.*
6. Scheduler/Webmaster – Chuck Collins – not present
7. Roster Manager – Lori Diaz
 - Lori reported of 36 teams, 3 teams are missing minor credential items.
 - Coaches not on your roster need to have signed supplementals by Mary Nash to be allowed on the bench. No one else other than rostered coaches will be allowed on the bench!
 - Melissa Fitzgerald questioned the reasoning behind the rink waiver that was distributed as part of the tournament packet to all clubs. She noted surprise at the tier playoff event, but it came with such short notice, there wasn't adequate time research probable reasoning. She questioned "Are we saying the rinks can require a waiver without discussing this at the league level?" **Action Item:** Going forward there needs to be discussion regarding this needing to be disclosed in future bid packets. Melissa also suggested future discussions about the possibility that NORCAL be responsible for creating a waiver...not the clubs.
 - Stephanie Richardson offered some explanation as to the process for requiring the rink waiver, that it could possibly be because USA Hockey is not indemnifying their waiver. Therefore, the possibility exists that Logitech is trying to protect themselves from lawsuits, as will other rinks in the future.
8. Referee in Chief – Mark Mauro
 - Reported scheduling officials for 63 playoff games, 26 officials coming in and IHONC is only using level 3 or 4 rated officials.
 - Appreciated contact by club presidents in the last couple of weeks, alerting him about some possible contentious issues that may arise in some of the final games of the season.
9. Director of Coaches - none
10. USA Hockey Report – Melissa Fitzgerald
 - Melissa noted a new position opening up for a new USA Hockey director based on population demand. California is advocating this and hopes a Californian gets nominated to see how that is received. Following is the email from CAHA President, Charlie Fuertsch, "At its Winter Meeting, USA Hockey changed the method by which the number of directors each district is entitled to is calculated. Under the new formula, the Pacific is entitled to one additional director. Nominations to fill this additional spot are now being accepted. This is a very important position and eligible individuals should have an extensive hockey administrative background. I need to receive any nominations you may have no later than March 30th via email. Nominations received after that date will not be considered. The District will mail out ballots sometime in April for voting by our membership (through team representatives). Please get the word out to your respective organizations for consideration. With the nomination, I need to received a biography of the nominee summarizing his/her qualifications for the position together with a brief statement why he/she would like serve in this position! This is a volunteer, non-paid, position. However, expenses will be reimbursed.

You also need to be aware that, at a special Pacific District meeting a few weeks ago, the District voted 7 to 1 (I was the only dissenting vote) to limit the number of directors from any one state within the District to two (2). California already has Dick Coombs and Frank Lang. Therefore, under the new rule, California would not be able to elect a third director. We would have to wait until Dick Coombs' term expires next year or until Frank Lang's term expires in 2008 to replace one or both of these individuals if we want a change in the Directors from California. Please consider this rule change in your selection for nominees. The March 30th deadline is firm. Please have your nominations to me by that date.” Thank you. Charlie Fuertsch

- Chris Hathaway asked how USA Hockey determines which teams go to nationals, especially when Alaska, Oregon and Washington teams didn't win 1 game. How do they get representation? Melissa explained the selection process is purely random in an attempt to balance out state representation.
11. CAHA – Melissa Fitzgerald
- CAHA tier playoffs were very exciting. For results of that event go to the CAHA website at www.caha.com .
 - 05-06 bids for tier select playing weekends have been received from Oakland, San Jose, Glacial Gardens, Valencia, Simi-Valley and Riverside. Dates will be posted in April along with criteria for games to play and scheduling.
 - Melissa noted the importance of representation of coaches from the north at the CAHA Select Camp. Just as important, is getting the players there. NORCAL ultimately needs to send “the best” kids to represent the north, therefore the importance to leave the Pre-Select weekend open from any other conflicts in scheduling. The following players will be advancing to Pacific District camp the end of April:
1988 - Forwards - Zack Graydon - Gold Rush18AA
1989 - Forwards - Adam Johnson - SJ18AAA(Is this the right level team for him or is he 16AAA)
Alternates - George Hotarek - SJ16AAA, Stephen McHenry - FR18A
1990 - Forwards - Dalton Speelman - SJ14AAMajor
Alternates - Caleb Lister - VV14AA, Troy Gloski - SJ14AAMajor, Adam McKenzie - VV14AA, Garrett Jensen - SJ14AA
1991 - Forwards - Daniel Radke - BK14A, Jason Methot - SJ14A
Alternates - Ian Gibbs - VV14AA
 - The CAHA Youth Council will meet in April/May to review the proposed rule changes for 05-06. Rules will be proposed at the June meeting after the annual USA Hockey Conference. **Action Item:** Feedback for CAHA rule change consideration should be directed to Melissa or Pete.
 - CAHA board elections will be coming up and there will be a few seats open. There is no requirement for serving as a member. Your commitment is to attend 4 meetings per year, most likely 3 of those will be in the southern California area. **Action Item:** Interested individuals should let Melissa know.
12. IHONC – Todd Llewellyn – no report
13. Sharks Fan Development – Rob Jaynes – not present

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mite Jamboree Update – John Hamer thanked all the teams who participated and a special thank you to the Tri-Valley coaching staff for a well run skills competition. The championship game ended in an exciting OT shootout win by San Jose over Santa Clara. A good time was had by all!!
2. NORCAL Playoff Update – See Item Report Item #2.
3. Grass Roots Program Update – Ray Monks presented a first draft of possible questions to include. **See attached document.**
4. Jordan Kocian Award Update – Pete noted 3 candidates are being considered. Recipient will be announced and presented during NORCAL Playoff weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tier Playoff Update – See Item #11.
2. NORCAL Officer Nominating Committee – Carla agreed to be the Nominating Committee Chair. Pete asked for 2 additional club presidents to step forward as committee members. Rich Wilcox and Chris Hathaway agreed take on the duty of assisting in soliciting candidates for the 05-06 executive board.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

1. Melissa Fitzgerald noted conversations she had recently with Derek Eisler regarding closing the gap ideas. Possibly create a schedule to accommodate 4-5 Bantam AA teams with a local schedule.
 - Anna Lane asked what's the need? Expressed concern for kids leaving.
 - Stephanie Richardson responded that if we can create a league here, B teams will be B, A teams will be A, etc.
 - Ray Monks voiced concern about dilution. The current season is too long.
 - Chris Hathaway noted the cost would be reduced by localizing it. At some point, is there a reason why we can't say we're all going to throw our hats in and attempt to create a AA division.
 - Pete Toft noted advancement restrictions would then exist.
2. Deanna Branski questioned are in the position to discuss the current length of season?
3. Melissa Fitzgerald invited informal discussions about any of these concerns as people are around during playoffs. Stop by and see the CAHA officials during CAHA A/B playoffs April 8-10.
4. SWYHL discussions on recruiting.
5. **Action Item:** May 1 SWYHL team deposits are due.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Rich Wilcox, 2nd by Ray Monks at 12:00 noon.

Next meetings – Saturday May 21, Roundtable Pizza, Pleasanton

