

NORCAL Hockey Board Sign-In Sheet
September 10, 2005 Meeting

Pete Toft	NORCAL President	P
Ann Wade	NORCAL VP/Penalty Review	P
Carla Dickerson	NORCAL Secretary	P
Deanna Branski	NORCAL Treasurer	P
Chuck Collins	NORCAL Scheduler/Webmaster	P
Jennifer Clark	NORCAL M.A.L.	P
John Hamer	NORCAL Gen. Manager	P
Open	NORCAL Girls Chair	
Mike Donahue	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
Bobby Barlow	3. Fresno – Pres.	P
Todd Morgan	4. High Sierra – Pres.	
Emery Lykins/Mark Balsi	5. Oakland Ice Center	P
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
Mike Stoley	11. Tri-Valley - Pres.	
Jennifer Clark	12. Yerba Buena/S.F. – Pres.	P
Shane Hicke	13. Vacaville Skating Center	P
Others in attendance		
Rod Romanchuk	San Jose Girls President	P
Lance Burrow	San Jose A/B President	P
Jim Hoyt	High Sierra	proxy
Karen Frank	Tri-Valley VP	proxy
Bernt Jonzson	Cougar Parent	P
Mike Holmes	Tri-Valley Director of Coaches	P
Betsey Crandall	USA Hockey Assoc. Registrar	P
Non attendance notation		

NORCAL BOARD MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

General session called to order at 10:15am with introductions.

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

REPORTS

1. President – Pete Toft

Chicago Showcase – Pete reported that he does not have an answer yet regarding where we should be sending money. Bob Levin has not responded to Pete's inquiries about what the CAHA dollars would be used for. ***Tabled to October 22nd meeting.***

CAHA Meeting – September 16-18 in LA. If you have any issues you would like Pete to take to the Youth Council for discussion at this meeting, please let him know.

2. GM – John Hamer

- We're through the registration period for the most part, so it may be moot in most cases but I wanted to bring it up because there's been a couple of issues around it and there may be some still open things. This has to do with delinquencies. This has to do with a player who is in financial dispute with a club who then tries to register with another club.

I just wanted to reinforce a couple of things about practice and policy. First of all, the clubs relationships with individual players are not matters for NORCAL. Your relationships with the players and their families as clubs are your obligations and your responsibility. So, NORCAL is not here to enforce or advocate contracts. NORCAL is not here to be a collection agency for you. Therefore, putting a player on the delinquency list does not automatically prevent that player from being able to play for another team. What it's saying is that there's an issue, it's a warning, it's a red flag that another club needs to take into account before they go forward with letting a player play or tryout for them. If you read through the rules it's a courtesy that NORCAL provides to the clubs to have a central clearing house for these cases.

My practice has been, when there's a delinquency and a club calls me, what I do is follow a process more or less like this, I say

- A. Is this matter in dispute? If the matter is in dispute, the default is that we try to have players play. So, if the matter is in dispute, I generally will give the new club permission to have the player tryout, but recognize that it may be that this player won't be eligible to play.
- B. Then what I'm going to ask for, is for the clubs to show that they have been in good faith in their efforts to collect the money. So, several times in the past two years, I've had players who've showed up on delinquency lists who have not been contacted by the club in for more than 6 months.
- C. So in a case like that, it's up to the club to show that you've tried, that you have an email trail, that you have a record that

you've tried in good faith reach accommodation with the player and collect the money.

So that's the main goal and that's the main obligation on the club, is to show that you're running your club like a business and you're running your accounts receivable like a business. So, don't expect the other clubs to be your collection agency and don't expect NORCAL to be your collection agency. On the other hand it's not to NORCAL's benefit to have players jumping from club to club or player's walking out on debts that they've incurred or debts that they owe. I'm sure you've all had cases where a family whose done it once, it's likely to occur again. It's a matter of recordkeeping, it's a matter of being good faith, it's a matter if trying to keep the players current all along. Comments?

1. What about player's who have gone to other leagues? John said that NORCAL cannot do anything as the contracts are with the clubs.
 2. There was a question regarding Midget age players who are delinquent who've gone on to play Juniors. John said NORCAL does not regular Juniors. Chuck noted that you should go to USA Hockey Member Services to Rae Briggie Email: raeb@usahockey.org.
- The other thing that I wanted to reinforce was game sheets and game numbers and the importance of having game numbers for teams playing exhibition games and games out of NORCAL. One of the things I do is help clubs manage their suspensions and that all goes on the basis of game numbers. So, if I don't have game numbers, I'll get something that says someone may have a suspension, but I have no record or how or when it occurred. So, you may end up in jeopardy later on of not being able to demonstrate that the suspension was served or taken care of. Plus we have an increasingly complicated set of teams and games and keeping track of these without the games sheets is frankly beyond my core powers to be successful at.

So, I've made the decision that if I don't have a game number, I'm not going to track the sheet. I will keep them, but they will go in a undifferentiated pile without game numbers. In terms of being able to count the games toward the number of games your team has played, or the number of games that an individual player has played for your team, it's going to be next to impossible to use games that do not have game numbers in order to do that. So, please have your registrar or your scheduler get game numbers from Chuck and that those numbers is completed in that convenient blank on the scoresheet. It's one of the things in the rules that you are required to do...to file a completed scoresheet after games and one of the components of a completed scoresheet is a game number.

So, please we're trying to help out the clubs and manage a great number of games, so without those game numbers, it's incredibly difficult.

3. Vice President – Ann Wade
 - Ann reported there were no penalty reviews this month. ***Action Item:*** *She reminded all the club presidents to please provide her with the name of someone who will be designated as a representative to be called to serve on a penalty review.* If this person is not the club president, she needs a name and contact information. Pete strongly recommended that club presidents spend time volunteering with Penalty Review. Ann outlined the criteria for review committee selection.
 - The Scholarship Committee is seeking a new chairperson and committee for the 05-06 season. Carla, Jennifer and Mark agreed to serve as committee members, but we need a new committee chair. Time commitment is estimated at 12 hours. There's \$3,000 budgeted for disbursement. Ann's schedule will not allow her to take on this project this year. ***Action Item:*** *Interested individuals in chairing this committee should email Pete no later than 9/17.*
 - After some discussion, the board decided that the scholarship application deadline will be 10/1 to submit to your club president. The application is currently posted on the NORCAL website for download. ***Action Item:*** *Chuck will post on the website regarding deadline.*
4. Treasurer – Deanna Branski
 - Presented the annual Treasurer's Report dated 8/1/04-7/31/05. Noted balance sheet was missing. ***Action Item:*** *Deanna will have a balance sheet at the next meeting.*
 - Presented the Budget Report for 8/1/05 – 9/10/05
 - Constantine clinic reimbursements to clubs will come out shortly.
 - Deanna noted that all team registration fees had been received from every club except Berkeley.
5. Secretary - Carla Dickerson

Asked for approval minutes from the May 21, 2005 meeting with the noted corrections reflected in the 5/27/05 draft.

Motion to accept 5/21/05 Minutes as presented, by Joe Lundy, 2nd by Ray Monks, motion to accept minutes as prepared carried unanimously.

Carla read a letter from Dalton Speelman and Christy Methot thanking the board for their donations toward travel expenses for attending National Select Camps.
6. Scheduler/Webmaster – Chuck Collins
 - Chuck noted that he's updated the website, but if you find any dead links, please let him know. He is going to be using a new email address for scheduling communications and he's planning on creating some new score reporting features. Wants to create new feature called "Club Announcements" page providing the usual headlines with a link to each club's announcements. He wants to create a way for presidents to create announcements that are published league wide.
 - ***Action Item:*** *Email Chuck if you still want to keep information up on the website about clubs and teams looking for players. Deadline 9/17 or they will be removed.*
 - Check your club contact information on the website and email Chuck if there are any inaccuracies. New map directions...let him know.

- Chuck distributed club/team breakdown spreadsheets for dissemination. Information was gathered based on feedback and declarations from each club president. This information is being provided today to point out where we have potential issues prior to any preseason games being played. He voiced concern over "A/B" structures in some divisions. Our goal is to create balanced schedules, so each team faces the other opponent an equal number of time, although that's not required by our rules.
- Exhibition games are assigned by the league and don't count towards standings.
- Will schedule exhibition games based on best judgement. "Y" games are games that come from Chuck that don't count for standings and they're not really preseason games. They are not optional.
- Girls will appear as "G" games and count toward standings, but they cannot advance to playoffs.
- Noted types of games as G = Standings, C = Championship, P = Preseason, T = Tournament, X = Exhibition initiated by two teams, Y = Exhibition initiated by league, S = Southwest.
- Chuck encouraged those teams who initially declared "B" to look at the possibility they could play "A". Chris Hathaway noted that we might have the opportunity to look at rosters by age to help determine any possible moves.
- Chuck discussed the dynamics of each division relative to the number of teams pre-declared and the preseason scenarios for each.
- Discussed concerns that arise with the Midget divisions currently sitting with 2-3 teams. Pete noted that SCAHA has only declared 2 Midget B teams.
- John Hamer then presented two proposals geared toward a possible solution to the Midget 16 division. Scenario 1 = 11 team division, 1 round of 10 games, everyone plays everyone else once. At the end of the first round the top 7 teams go on and play each other to determine play off teams and the bottom 4 teams go on and play each other with no playoff advancement. Scenario 2 was to divide the teams into two divisions, a 6 and a 5. Between the two divisions the teams would play 2 rounds and then a third round across. The playoff teams would be decided by taking the top two teams from each division and then the next two teams with the best record from either division. After discussion there was a **Motion** that in the Midget 16 division, after preseason game results, the 11 teams will be split into 2 separate groups that will be divided Group 1 with 5 teams and Group 2 with 6 teams. Group 1 will be 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 and Group 2 will be 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11. At the conclusion of the regular season the top team from each group will be the number 1 and 2 seeds into NORCAL playoffs, and the next 2 teams based on overall play will be 3 and 4 seeds into NORCAL playoffs. The next 4 teams will participate in a NORCAL-only B playoffs. Motion presented by Chris Hathaway, 2nd by Anna Lane. With a vote of 9 in favor and 4 abstentions (Berkeley, Fresno, High Sierra and Santa Rosa), the motion carries.

- Discussion regarding the positives to keeping as many Midget's "A" so as to be eligible for Select Camp.
- Went over scheduling procedures handout. Chuck will be sending out a test email shortly, so please reply back.
- There was discussion regarding Squirts in the Southwest League schedule and what accommodations Chuck can make. No guarantees on blackout dates. Melissa suggested that for next year that consideration be for discussion by the board not to allow Squirts to do Southwest league. Club President's were reminded of Pete Toft's email regarding scheduling accommodations that was dated August 10th which stated:

"A question has been raised on the scheduling of NORCAL teams who also play in the southwest league. As we have mentioned in the past, Chuck has always tried to accommodate teams playing schedules to allow them the most flexibility and playing opportunity as possible, no matter where they wish to play. However, a question was raised this year on what happens if a team from one club also contains players from several other clubs in NORCAL, a "rep" team so to speak. Chuck will not be reviewing the rosters of teams who request changes to the schedule. If a team from one club requests an off weekend in the NORCAL schedule and Chuck can accommodate them, he will do that as he has done in the past. However, don't expect Chuck to schedule off days for 3 or 4 other teams from other clubs in the same division just because they happen to have a player who also plays for that same team. I just want to make sure that people understand that Chuck will make some accommodations but if the requests get out of hand or the expectations get out of hand then he will not be making those accommodations."

- When bits of the schedule are released, DO NOT assume that any unused ice you submitted will be returned. Within about 3 days, Chuck will notify you of any unused slots that are officially returned to your rink. Remind me if I forget.
 - Melissa questioned procedure being followed regarding tier scheduling for playoffs. **Action Item:** *John Hamer and Chuck will discuss offline and release to Club Presidents by 10/1/05.* Shane questioned why are we doing playoffs? Melissa Fitzgerald indicated that CAHA directs that we have to.
7. Roster Manager
Pete introduced Mike Donahue of Santa Rosa, who is interested in filling the Roster Manager position and has committed to finish out the 05-06 season. With no objections from the floor, Pete confirmed his appointment effective immediately. Mike noted that he would be trying to play catch up and communicate directly with all the club registrars in the next week. He is in possession of several team declarations and rosters, just handed over to him and will need some time to review things.
8. Referee in Chief – Mark Mauro
- Seminars have been held in So. Lake Tahoe, Fresno and Santa Rosa. 2 Seminars were cancelled. Upcoming dates are 9/17 in San Jose (beginner only); 9/24 in Dublin and 10/4 & 5 in Fremont.
 - Mark noted this is a USA Hockey rule change year. There are various new rule changes. The USA Hockey manual that the officials received

was different than those received today, as the officials manual has a situation section.

- Mark noted that the officials association did a good job of covering both the San Jose and Oakland Labor Day events. Notification regarding future upcoming tournaments to be hosted should be done as early as possible to schedule from the largest pool of officials.
 - Pitched any clubs requesting a 2-man system, please let him know.
9. Director of Coaches - none
10. USA Hockey Report – Betsey Crandall
- Betsey noted that she works with the club registrars and has been pretty successful connecting with all of them before today to assist in the team registration process.
 - USA Hockey on-line registration has worked relatively well so far. If you have people who still have to register, please make sure to provide the correct DOB and name as it appears on their birth certificate. All corrections that have to be made will only appear on the club database for now and will appear in the USA Hockey database next year.
 - CAHA checks for registration need to go to her. There have been some errors in manual computation. The fees are \$2.00 per coach, \$4.00 per player (age 7-18), \$2.00 (19 and over). Nevada charges \$5.00 for all.
 - No team fees this year.
 - Betsey will still sign team membership applications for “A” and “B” teams and get them back to you. She only gets rosters for “Tier I” and “Tier II” teams.
 - Email her at bdcrandall@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.
11. CAHA – Melissa Fitzgerald
- Tier playoffs are scheduled for the last weekend in February. “B” playoffs will be 3/31-4/2. “A” playoffs will be 4/7-9. Midget tier II – TBD. Tier II schedule on or before 9/15.
 - Mary Nash’s position has still not be replaced. Discussed 2 weeks ago at a YC meeting. Need to discuss again next weekend. Tier rosters go directly to the tier registrar on file. Attempting to keep records in order. Photocopy signed rosters.
 - In the meantime, membership applications are currently being handled by Rosemary V. (CAHA Secretary).
 - **Action Item:** *Bid packets for CAHA playoffs going out by 10/1 with a 2-week turnaround.*
12. IHONC – Todd Llewellyn – not present
13. Sharks Fan Development – Rob Jaynes – not present

OLD BUSINESS

1. Kevin Constantine Clinic – Carla reported that the clinic went well with 47 attendees. She has created a binder that will be turned over to the clinic organizer for NORCAL, should the board decide to sponsor this event in the future.
2. Team Declarations – **Motion** to amend NORCAL Rule 5.06 that the GM will place the teams in their respective divisions, based on his assessment of their preseason performance. Motion presented by Chris Hathaway, 2nd by Ray Monks. A friendly amendment to add ...and any other factors that may deem

relevant made by Melissa Fitzgerald, 2nd by Ray Monks. With a vote of 11 in favor and 2 opposed (San Jose and Stockton), the motion carries.

3. Grass Roots Program Update –
 - Chris Hathaway noted that we need to be feeding our own teams to stay in our programs. Tryouts revealed kids racing to tryout in multiple locations.
 - Overall numbers are diminishing.
 - Recommendation made that all clubs hold tryouts the same weekend and possibly require a pre-registration with restrictions.
 - Ray Monks noted that we should challenge the process. Tryouts are crazy. We need to stop parents from shopping their kids. Recommendation was to register one place and they have to stay there if that club has a team age appropriate to that child.
 - John Hamer noted that the kid should be allowed to play where ever he wants with the guidelines that are currently in place. Maybe consideration should be made to increase the 25% PDR requirement.
 - Ann Wade noted consideration might be given to residents of their own city for the first tryout only.
 - Lance Burrow suggested possibly a regional draft.
 - **Action Item:** *Chris Hathaway will head the committee along with Ray Monks, Jennifer Clark, Pete Toft, Shane Hicke, Mike Holmes and Liesl Songer-Nelson to make a first draft of recommendations to present to the board at the 10/22 meeting. Recommendation should go out email to the board by 10/15 for review.*
4. Proxy Voting Reminder – Pete reminded as discussed at the July meeting that Bylaw Article 6. Z. A. expressly forbids proxy voting. No longer can you leave a meeting and ask another club president to vote on your behalf. Proxy voting must be a “constituent” of the voting member.
5. Final 2005-06 Rules Review – Pete noted there were a couple of minor changes as noted by Joe Lundy that were incorporated in the newly adopted rules. Allowed for any discussion or objection to those noted changes.
6. NORCAL Roster Manager – See Item #7 above.
7. Mite Travel Rule – Pete noted that the Mite travel restriction Motion made at the May 21, 2005 meeting under Item #4 could not currently be upheld due to the fact that the application was never created. Chris Hathaway noted he would not pursue putting the form together, because at this point tryouts are over and what’s done is history. **Action Item:** *Someone needs to step forward to create this form for next year.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. High Sierra Status – Pete noted that High Sierra was only able to field 2 teams this year. NORCAL Bylaws Appendix A. 2. I. States that each member club must field a minimum of 3 teams. After discussion a **Motion** to leave High Sierra a member will full voting rites was presented by Deanna Branski, 2nd by Anna Lane. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Delinquent Accounting System – See above Item #2.
3. Playoff, Mite Jamboree and Select Camp Bids – **Action Item:** *John Hamer will get bid packets out by 9/21.*

4. Girls Dual Rostering Item – Stephanie Richardson asked that the board review the girls dual rostering situation and how it pertains to NORCAL rules. John Hamer presented that NORCAL Rule 3.05 and 4.03 do not allow the girls to be rostered on two NORCAL teams playing in the full schedule. All girls should be given the opportunity to choose which team they would like to participate on.
5. Coaching Clinics – Information on upcoming coaching clinics can be found on the USA Hockey website. Warren Smith is the local coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting made Chris Hathaway, 2nd by Joe Lundy at 3:00pm. **Action Item:** Pete is looking for a new meeting location for the 10/22 meeting. Any club willing to provide space and accessibility to provide lunch (compensated by NORCAL) please email Pete ASAP.

Next meeting – Sat. October 22, Oakland Iceoplex

ADDENDUMS

None

Respectfully Submitted by Carla Dickerson, NORCAL Secretary
Draft 10/10/05