

NORCAL Hockey Board Sign-In Sheet  
January 21, 2005 Meeting

Pete Toft	NORCAL President	P
Ann Wade	NORCAL VP/Penalty Review	P
Carla Dickerson	NORCAL Secretary	P
Deanna Branski	NORCAL Treasurer	
Chuck Collins	NORCAL Scheduler/Webmaster	
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	
Mark Mauro	NORCAL Referee In Chief	
Open	NORCAL Director of Coaches	
Todd Llewellyn	IHONC President	P
<b>NORCAL Club Representatives</b>		
Liesl Songer-Nelson/M. Fitzgerald	1. Berkeley Iceland	P
Chris Hathaway	2. Cupertino – Pres.	P
Mark Goodenough	3. Fresno – Pres.	P
Todd Morgan	4. High Sierra – Pres.	
Emery Lykins	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.	
Anna Lane	10. Stockton – Pres.	P
Mike Stoley	11. Tri-Valley - Pres.	
Jennifer Clark	12. Yerba Buena/S.F. – Pres.	P
Shane Hicke/Ernie Hicke	13. Vacaville Skating Center	P
<b>Others in attendance</b>		
Jim Hoyt	High Sierra	proxy
Rich Strauch	Santa Rosa	proxy
Karen Frank	Tri-Valley VP	proxy
Aaron Olson	Oakland	P
Norbert Tydingco	Santa Clara	P
Lance Burrow	San Jose A/B	P
Bob Tankard	San Jose Girls	P
Joe Licolli	San Jose AA/AAA	
Non attendance notations		

## NORCAL BOARD MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2006

General session called to order at 10:00am with introductions.

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

### REPORTS

1. President – Pete Toft
  - Thank you to Oakland for hosting the meeting today. **Action Item:** *Pete is looking for a new meeting location for the 3/11 meeting. Any club willing to provide space and accessibility to provide lunch (compensated by NORCAL) please email Pete ASAP.*
  - I sent you all a note about the Kocian Award. It was awarded to Devon Luna on December 31<sup>st</sup> in Berkeley. The Kocian's flew in from Denver for the tournament, so Devon actually received the award from them.
  - CAHA meeting weekend coming up. Youth Council on Friday 1/27, board meeting on Saturday 1/28 during the CAHA Select Camp in Lakewood.
  - Continue to send your rule change recommendations for 06-07 to Pete and John.
  - Pete noted he did not hear back from either candidate he solicited for Director of Coaches.
2. GM – John Hamer
  - See Old Business
3. Vice President – Ann Wade
  - There are 4 penalty review hearings today.
4. Treasurer – Deanna Branski – not present
  - Pete reported that he received the IRS packet from Irene Kercher and the IRS has waived all the fees. To give you a perspective on the fees 02-03 was \$10,000 and 03-04 even though we applied for an extension, they waived \$4,000. Irene wrote a very good letter to them and we have committed ourselves to all future filings being done by using an independent tax preparer in all future years.
  - Carla reported for Deanna that she would have an extensive report at the next meeting. We currently have \$57,015.73 in the bank, of which \$1,500 is reserved for the scholarship fund.
  - Clubs were reminded to send their payments to Deanna promptly after they receive their invoices, to avoid late charges. We currently have \$2,806.50 in accounts receivable.
  - Clubs will also be receiving a bill shortly for the balance due on their team membership fees. \$200 per team (\$100 for Mite teams). **Action Item:** *Fees will be due February 15<sup>th</sup>. No club will be allowed to participate in NORCAL playoffs if balances are unpaid.*
  - It appears as though we late filed 2 years worth of tax returns for 02-03 and 03-04. The IRS did send a letter and Irene sent a letter back asking those late fees be waived. Deanna's personal experience is that they will waive this fee, but we haven't received that formal letter yet.
  - **Action Item:** *Deanna will present her recommendations for the Constantine clinic at the March meeting.*
5. Secretary - Carla Dickerson
  - Asked for approval of the minutes from the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
  - **Motion** to accept 12/3/05 Minutes as presented, by Joe Lundy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennifer Clark.
  - *Motion to accept minutes as prepared with date revision under #8. Motion carried 12 in favor, 1 abstention (Santa Rosa).*
6. Scheduler/Webmaster – Chuck Collins – not present
  - Pete read Chuck's 1/21 email that was sent out:

### Webmaster:

Please continue to submit club-approved announcements, they seem to be working well. I expect the facility to be much more popular as the season winds down and clubs and rinks start running spring and summer events. I will advertise commercial programs, such as Robby Glantz, but only if there is a club president who wants to sponsor the announcement as theirs.

Score reporting is smooth. I've had to do almost no nags for scores.

The standings display for the 16A division needs mention. The teams are ranked without regard for the 2 subdivisions. Remember the ruling was that the top team in each subdivision advances, as well as the next 2 teams overall. Since it seems apparent that neither San Jose 1 nor Cap Thunder 1 are ever likely to fall as low as fifth, both divisions are represented in the top 4. So the top 4 teams by record are almost sure to meet both criteria.

The teams that advance to 16B playoffs, however, could come out differently. Right now, the 5-7 teams are from one division, and the 8th team is from the other. It is possible that 5-8 might all come from the same division, in which case the #8 team will not advance, and the next highest team from the other division will advance.

Also please note that, although the games against the girls teams count for standings for the boys teams, that the girls teams were not integrated into the standings. So someone trying to mathematically balance a standings board would find wins and losses not in balance.

**Scheduler:**

I'll create a mite jamboree schedule as soon as ice times are given to me.

I'll create a schedule for the A and B playoffs as soon as ice times are given to me. Please tell the rink to NOT produce a preliminary schedule, just hand me ice times. Note that each day MUST have an even number of ice slots. Some extra ice slots, which would be released, would be appreciated.

Please also remember that the Playoff bids specify 90-minute slots for all ages including squirts.

Concerning length of season, I have one important comment. This season there are some teams that are playing at a level that appears incorrect. Just suffice it to say that never would have happened with a longer pre-season. We lengthened the pre-season several years ago because of the problem with teams being incorrectly placed. With only 4 games, there is just not enough time nor flexibility to give the teams the tests they need to be correctly evaluated, and it puts artificial demands on the division sizes in order to attempt to get in at least 2 games against each opponent.

So if the board elects to keep the season this same length, plan on teams being incorrectly placed.

Another item concerning pre-season. Sending teams to Lake Tahoe for multiple games during pre-season makes the effective pre-season evaluation time even shorter for the High Sierra teams. If there are only 4 pre-season games, the High Sierra teams need a solution that allows me to schedule their teams against 4 different opponents. Playing all 4 pre-season games in the Bay Area seems like the obvious solution, with High Sierra purchasing ice at one of the rinks.

I also need to point out another brewing problem. There are several clubs whose ice times appear to be deteriorating over time. Scheduling both Capital Thunder and Berkeley were simply terrible this year. I used every single "prime time" ice slot without exception, and then was forced to micro-manage the remaining awful ice times. 7AM games in remote rinks and 8:30 PM Sunday slots in general should be reconsidered as whether they qualify as appropriate ice.

I don't have a solution at hand, but the clubs with good ice allocations should be as unhappy with this situation as I am.

**7. Roster Manager – Mike Donahue**

- Where we are now with the rosters is I'm collecting signed originals from the Registrar. I have probably about a third of the teams who've sent them in. I've answered a few questions, but that's going fairly smoothly. I'm going to send out a reminder to get the balance of those by the end of this month, so we can wrap that up. What will happen next month is...apparently what has happened in the past the Roster Manager has gotten full team book copies from all teams. I don't think we really need to do that. The Registrar's should be policing their own teams in terms of having them be up to

- date. In fact, the rules say that I can walk into any rink and ask to see their book, it should be right...it doesn't say what the consequences. I haven't done that, they should be right...they need to be right.
- **Action Item:** *What we do need to do is make sure their books are in order for teams going to playoffs. I'll be sending out an email in the next couple of weeks looking for teams that are or who will think they will be going to playoffs. Those I'll want in the first two weeks of February so that I can get through those before the first of March and not be running at the last minute.* What's different about those is that all the USA Hockey forms signed by players and coaches and copies of all the scoresheets that they have to play on that team in order to be eligible.
  - Stephanie asked isn't that kind of early to ask for that? Some still have games to play. Some teams have met the requirement already. Those who haven't we'll track. The sooner I can get most of these done and out of the way sooner, the better for us all.
8. Referee in Chief – Mark Mauro – not present
  9. Director of Coaches - none
  10. USA Hockey Report – none
  11. CAHA – Liesl Songer Nelson
    - CAHA Meeting – 1/28/06 in Lakewood during CAHA Select Camp.
    - Jill Miller was appointed the new Member Services Director. Please continue to communicate with CAHA the way you have been, but please cc Jill.
    - **Action Item:** *Rule considerations for 06-07 should go to Liesl S.N. to present to the Youth Council.*
    - Joe L. asked about a CAHA Midget 18B state championship. Pete said there would not be one, because there are no teams in SCAHA.
    - Jim H. (High Sierra) asked if they could challenge the ruling regarding their eligibility to participate in the CAHA state championships. Liesl S.N. said she would research the exact ruling regarding membership and population. Pete encouraged Jim to write a letter to petition CAHA for discussion and consideration at the 1/28 meeting. This came up at CAHA last year and they decided to table it for a year. It will come up this year and with having 100% playing rules and mandated playing weekends, it has a strong chance at succeeding when it comes up again.
    - Shane expressed some concerns over the tier playoffs. Pete asked if there was something specific that he would like taken to the CAHA Youth Council. Shane said that he was in favor of eliminating the automatic berth for NORCAL and SCAHA teams into the tier playoffs. Pete said he would take that back to the Youth Council.
    - Pete noted that up until this year we didn't even have mandated playing weekends. We made a huge step this year and hopefully there's enough positive feedback from all the clubs that that will continue. For the first time there's actually a CAHA overseer of the tier playing stuff. It's the first time we've had that. Remember this year there was two divisions that were scheduled just to try it out. The push is now to extend that to all the other divisions. Joe L. mentioned that they should take care of the heavy divisions first. Pete noted that when this was originally decided on how they were going to do this and what divisions were picked, they didn't know what the team declarations were, they based it on the prior year's numbers and the Bantam division was huge this year.
    - The more feedback we get back to CAHA about how much we like this, the scheduling out of the other divisions isn't going to be an issue. You have to remember one thing though, that those tier playing weekends are bid on by the rinks. If no rink in northern California submits a bid for a tier playing weekend, you'll be playing all your games in southern California. That's why it's critical to work with your rink management. CAHA is very open to having some of them up here. Stephanie noted that you don't have to have tier teams to bid on them.
    - Ernie H. asked if all the tier teams can play by the same sets of rules and regulations. Pete noted that there is one set of rules and if you have any issues you should go to your tier commissioner, Therese Phillips for guidance.
  12. IHONC – Todd Llewellyn – no report

- Carla noted a thank you from Winter Classic regarding the officiating during the weekend and passed on there was a lot of positive feedback.
  - Ernie H. also thanked IHONC for providing officials for their first tournament over Labor Day.
13. Sharks Fan Development – Rob Jaynes – not present
- Pete noted that he followed up with Rob regarding possibly hosting an event for our scholarship recipients this year and unfortunately the Sharks couldn't accommodate the larger group of 24 people we have this year.
  - Pete also noted that Chuck pointed out that we have an Stockton Thunder and Fresno Falcons team, shouldn't we be inviting them to our board meetings? I've followed up with Mark G. and Anna L. to extend the invitation to them to get involved with NORCAL.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Jordan Kocian Award Update  
See President's Report
2. Select Camp Update
  - Will be next week in Lakewood. NORCAL is sending 51 players, we're short a 92 goaltender. We had only two tryout, so that's the number that will go. We had 147 people in Vacaville to tryout, which was great. We've grown considerably in the last three years. 69 of those were selected as a select player or alternate. Those 147 players came from 11 different clubs and the select players came from 8 out of the 11 clubs. Of the 69 players who were selected, 46 were AA/AAA players, 23 were A players. Out of the 51 who were actually selected to go, 37 were AA/AAA players and 14 were A level players. So it was possible for an A player to break in. 8 of the clubs have a player to move on to the select team and 9 of the clubs had a player that was either select or alternate.
  - We'll also have two injured players who were invited to the camp, who will be going as well.
  - In terms of finances we will have netted approximately of about \$3,500. The expectation of that would be to support NORCAL players who advance to the Pacific District Camp the last weekend in April or the first weekend in May in Seattle, and any player who may move on to the National Camp in Minnesota later on. Any additional funds remaining, my recommendation would be that it go directly to the NORCAL Scholarship fund.
  - John noted that all the players who were invited, accepted their invitations. One player has dropped out due to injury and has been replaced by an alternate. Pete noted that the clubs are to be congratulated for getting your kids there and for getting the message across about the importance of the commitment.
  - Justin Alonzo, Shane Hicke, Ernie Hicke and possibly Goaltender Huemann will be going as invited coaches to help out at the CAHA camp in Lakewood. All expenses should be covered by CAHA. Should something not be covered, coaches will submit to NORCAL for consideration.
3. CAHA Screening Update - Pete
  - USA Hockey has mandated to all of its affiliates that they must put a screening program in place. So, CAHA did a big study, it took them 2 years to come up with something and the best one they could find is ChoicePoint. There's a been a lot of things flying around in the press on the shortcomings of ChoicePoint. It is currently being used by some fairly large organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts. The bottom line is we've come to a place where CAHA is requiring that volunteers need to be screened. Now, what does volunteers mean? That is not defined and there's no way I can give you a definition for it.
  - Mike D. came up with probably the best definition that we could have that CAHA would agree with is, is there's a name on the roster, they need to get screened. Now, this can get to be a very emotional issue and we can talk about this for a long time, but we're not going to do that, but I'd like to make a couple of points. The thing CAHA is trying to get at is they are trying to screen people who have access to the kids in unsupervised

- environments. So, you know people have asked me “does that mean the board has to get screened, does the manager have to get screened”. There is no “list” per say, but you know your coaches absolutely have to get screened. Managers are on tier rosters, so they should be screened. If a club decides, my team manager is never in the locker room, never with the players alone, you could probably make a case that your managers and your board doesn’t have to be screened. You can make that decision within your own board. Those are the kinds of things you have to look at individually, but CAHA is mandating that volunteers who have access to the kids need to get screened. So definitely your coaches need to get screened, you need to get that done. I will leave it up to you guys after that to decide what works best for your club. If you put them on the roster, you should get them screened.
- Joe L. asked is it a felony screening that they’re doing or a financial screening. Have they been any clearer at what they’re actually doing? Pete replied it is a felony screening. The only objection that I’m getting is the financial. Stephanie R. noted that the question that has come up is, yes, they are only looking for felony screening in California only and it’s not even throughout the United States. The issue is that they still have access to the information and ChoicePoint may continue on their own to do further investigation.
  - Pete interjected that we could talk about this for months, but wanted to give a couple of points. One is that how far you go into looking at criminal records as a direct correlation to the product. That’s why they’re only looking in California. So, in California they will search criminal records in California. So, if you have a coach coming in from New York City, they’re not searching the state of New York. They’ve asked for the information they think will best allow them to get at the information. You could get a lot deeper, you could ask a lot more information, but what we have is a form that comes from ChoicePoint and they’re not going to change their program and they’re not going to change their forms. Bottom line is that you need to have your coaches do it. You know yourselves within your clubs what people are in situations like that and should be screened. Based on what we have today, that’s what you have to do. CAHA is mandating it, so that’s what has to be done.
  - Joe L. if that is what CAHA is mandating, do they need a parachute or an exit plan for rosters to be altered to allow the conscientious objectors to it to be taken away. If you’ve got a manager on a AAA team who they believe that this organization is going to dig into their financials, not their criminality and choose to conscientiously object. Is CAHA, or are we are going to give people the opportunity to be dropped off the roster, as a manger, so that it doesn’t effect the performance standards of the team participating in play. Mike D. noted that who ever certified the roster, in a Tier I case it would be Betsey Crandall, Betsey can lineout anyone on that team, right up to the day of the thing and sign it herself. You don’t have to have a new one issued or new signatures. Stephanie R. asked how do I get a new manager on that roster? Mike D. replied, you can’t get a new one on. Stephanie R. noted, I have to have a manager on a Tier I roster. Pete noted that she should talk to your Tier Commissioner go to them with specific questions. My suggestion is that you go to Liesl S.N. to have her make a recommendation. Remember we just started this program and we don’t have all the bugs worked out.
  - Stephanie R. suggested that maybe USA Hockey might consider screening coaches at the registration stage. The whole point of the screening is mandated by USA Hockey.
  - Pete noted that at a minimum you need to get your coaches screened. If you have suggestions or ideas forward them to Carla D. as she’s on the CAHA committee.
4. Mite Jamboree –
- To be held in Fresno March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$685 per team for each of the 6 teams. That’s based on Fresno ice costs and officiating costs. ***Action Item: Invitations will go out to all 6 teams this week.*** The event will begin on Saturday morning and conclude around noon on Sunday. Saturday night the skills competition will take place and will be part of the jamboree and the results will be equivalent to a game. So we will send out a list of 7 events that the teams can prepare for and 5 out of those 7 will be chosen and actually used in the skills competition. Some of the events are hardest shot,

- obstacle course, relay, chariot course and a variety of things like that. The point is that every team goes into the jamboree with the opportunity to be one of the top two teams. There's an opportunity for luck of the draw, it's not all about the winning and losing.
- Would like to get a coaching staff to work with me to run the skills competition on Saturday night. Last year the Tri-Valley coaching staff did an outstanding job. Have your coaches contact me if they are interested. 90 minutes on Saturday night with the expectation that they'll take some time to work on it. They will work with me and I'm very serious about this being less about hockey and being more about fun for 7 and 8 year olds.
5. Grass Roots Meeting – Ray Monks
- Ray reported that the group had one meeting/conference call that was pretty successful and they made good headway. In attendance were Pete T., Ray M., Ann W., Mike H. Jon G. and Jennifer C. The second meeting was cancelled. Some items discussed at the first meeting were:
- Suggestion regarding shortening the season.
  - Discussed what the surveys showed.
  - Suggestion to do something with PDR. Right now is too open and does nothing from keeping players from moving around. The next step we we're trying to do was come up with a fair number to increase PDR percentage...50% of players that need to be from that club?
  - Pete responded that he agreed to go take to the Youth Council is discussing that we can never make our rules more lax than CAHA's, but we can tighten them up. My questions will be along the lines of, could PDR be instituted for B teams as well as A teams? Could PDR be taken down to the Squirt level from the current PeeWee level? Could PDR in northern California be increased to 50%? What are the kinds of issues with those things? I expect to be discussing this at the Youth Council on Friday 1/27. Based on the answers, it doesn't put anything in place for NORCAL. In fact one of the things I would say, is this only addresses retaining players or discusses players that you already have. I think there's a whole other area of grass roots that we haven't even discussed. On the PDR things, even if they went ahead and said "yes" you can go ahead and do all that stuff, I'm not sure we want to do that, because there are pitfalls to every one of them. You have to look very carefully at, okay if you put that in place was that the right thing to do. **Action Item:** *Pete noted he would report back to club presidents on this after the Youth Council meeting on Friday night 1/27 and it may even come up at the full board meeting on Saturday 1/28.*
  - Pete noted that one other important thing that came out of the grass roots meeting was a point Jon Gustafson made regarding a program that was instituted recently at San Jose to get new hockey players in. That discussion needs to be happening with every club. The question is, what has every club done, not just stuff that has worked or hasn't worked. What has every club done. We need to get some kind of record of that information to share with one another. That's the part of grass roots that we have to take ownership for...we haven't done that yet. **Action Item:** *We are looking for all of the things that your club has done to bring in new players into your organization. We want to know everything that you have tried, what worked, what didn't work, quantify it if you can, go as far back in your club history as you can go. Ask people in your organization. It could be ads in local papers, delivering letters to schools, radio promotions, free learn to play hockey or skating classes, buying equipment up front for players to use to get them interested, etc. anything that you have done. We want to know what has worked and what hasn't worked. Please email all of your information to Pete and Ray M. by February 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Tryout Dates -

- Just to give you a little background...we are restricted by CAHA on how early we can have the A/B tryouts dates, I believe they had the date put up back in early July. Last year CAHA set the tryout dates as after the first Friday in August. In past years we have started the season in the beginning of September, the weekend after Labor Day. So, in

the past we had tryouts the beginning of August, a month of practice and then we started games the beginning of September. This last season, the season we're in right now, the board voted to shorten the season from 26 games down to 20 games and not start the preseason games until the beginning of October. So, this year because all the teams had already set their tryout dates early enough, they had already notified their parents, players and all that. The decision by most of the clubs was we'll leave the tryout dates the beginning of August and have two months of practice prior to the first game...which is fine, we can do what we want to do. So, this year we just need to set our tryout dates based on what you guys want to have as the length of the season. We need to decide in this meeting when we're going to have the tryout dates. CAHA has set what it is for tier, I think mid July. This is only for 2006-07 A/B tryouts, so let's open it up for discussion or a motion.

- Jennifer C. noted that the way she looks at it there are a couple of choices. We can leave the season the way it is and move tryouts to September and give everybody their summer to go to hockey camps or whatever they want to do. Or, lengthen the season back to the way it was and leave tryouts the way they were.
- Chris H. noted that looking at from a rink management perspective, shortening the season is trouble. But, from a hockey growth standpoint, I know we got kids back this year that played football, who didn't play hockey last year. They were excellent hockey players and were very good high school football players and since they only missed the preseason this year, they came back and played. Part of what I've heard is the reason they're not having fun is because season is so long. The only potential thing with shortening it up is we have the state championships. But I really don't think our teams would be at a great disadvantage if we start our season later as far as A playoffs go. Realistically if we started it in September we'd get more people to participate. So I'm suggesting after Labor Day.
- Anna L. noted that part of the Grass Roots program, if she remembered it correctly, was to try to allow other athletes the opportunity to play hockey and reduce it. So, that's probably what we should be doing if we're still on the same page of trying to reach out to a larger group of athletes.
- Stephanie R. asked how many of your teams participated in Labor Day tournaments? Almost everybody did. I actually would make a motion that we keep the dates as August 1<sup>st</sup> and return back to a 26 game season. Pete noted that it couldn't be August 1<sup>st</sup>, it would have to be the first Friday in August.
- Anna L. mentioned that was a real brief raise of hands about the majority actually participating in Labor Day, that wasn't a good count and I'm not sure that the majority actually participated in Labor Day. So, could we actually get a real count of how many teams and how many teams actually participated?
- Jennifer C. wanted to make a comment about Labor Day that the reason their teams went to Labor Day, was because we already had tryouts. If we hadn't...no one would have cared.
- Emery L. mentioned something about setting up additional practice time, no matter when the tryout dates are set for.
- Shane H. made references between tier and travel needs regarding starting so early. He said clubs could and rink could make money by hosting tournaments, setting up additional practice time. We're talking about shortening the season, that's fine, but shorten the number of games. Why don't we add more games?
- Ray M. noted as far as tournaments, you could always put tournament rosters together. I agree with Shane that you can always do a lot of skills and drills, kids going to hockey camps. In our case we have that tryout date and then they start up again, it's kind of a waste of time. I think that after Labor Day is a great way to get going, get started and go hard.
- Mike D. noted that one of the problems with tryouts after Labor Day is that you would have to verify that everybody trying out had re-registered through USA Hockey because their cards expire August 31<sup>st</sup>. Whereas if you have them in August, anybody who skated by the end of the year they all had their cards and walk-ins could just come in and you knew they were registered. If you did it after September 1<sup>st</sup> or later, you have

- to have a new registration and since it's still new, it might be hard to verify. So, logistically that could tough.
- Chris H. talked about public skate session volume during the holiday season and learn to skate programs.
  - Shane asked about making it mandatory to go online, fill out the registration form, and bring it to tryouts. Pete noted any club can mandate that, NORCAL cannot.
  - Pete suggested that someone make a motion, get a second and open it up for discussion. **Motion** to keep tryouts the first Friday in August made by Stephanie R., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emery Lykins. **(Motion tabled)** Jennifer noted that she could support that motion if the season went back to 26 games. Stephanie noted part of the reason why she wanted to discuss again the season going back to 26 games, is the preseason. How many complaints and problems did we have, that there weren't enough games to look at all the teams, that some of the teams got placed in the wrong divisions. I think it was a mistake going to a 20 game season and I'd like to see it go back to 26. Ray noted that he thought the past couple of years things have gone pretty smoothly. Did anyone else have a problem with how the teams were placed? Pete noted that he had a note from Chuck indicating that this was probably the most difficult because there were not enough games in the preseason to effectively evaluate all the teams and he's received more complaints because there wasn't the same record time to evaluate. Remember for the past 2 or 3 years we've had 8 preseason games with the opportunity to evaluate teams to more accurately place them. It was at a few levels. Ray M. was curious if it was really more than any other year? Chris H. commented that it really doesn't when we start, it doesn't matter how many games there are, the whole point is development of the hockey player and to send the best teams who are playing the best hockey come playoff time, to the playoffs. If you had 8 preseason games and 8 regular season games, you can still attain the same goal. In the larger divisions we did see some disparity. This is all hindsight now.
  - Pete asked if maybe consideration should be made to motion on the length of season first? You guys all discussed that and voted on that in May, that you wanted to change the length of the season from 26 games to 20. Do you want to revisit that? Ray M. noted that personally his thought was that we need to be thinking about what's best for our kids playing the game. Pete suggested putting the current motion on the table on the back burner until we can settle on the length of season. We're already tight on weekends right now for a number of weekends, Select Camp, SAT's, suggestion for blocking MLK weekend, so we're tight on the number of weekends available to us. There's also discussion at CAHA about they should look at when they set their playoff dates because if the leagues are setting their seasons schedules and they are too long or too short based on where CAHA is doing it. Then maybe CAHA is not doing what they need to be doing for their customers. Liesl S.N. noted that SCAHA is also discussing this. **Motion** to change the season back to a 26-game season made by Stephanie Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shane Hicke. With a vote of 10 against, 3 in favor (San Jose, San Francisco and Vacaville), the motion is defeated.
  - Let's re-institute the original question on the tryout start dates. The original motion on the table has been seconded, so is there any further discussion. Mike D. noted that for your information CAHA's rule is that you need to make your preliminary team declarations by September 5<sup>th</sup>. With early September tryouts, you're going to have a hard time doing that. He cited a CAHA rule regarding team declaration. Pete noted that he didn't think there would be any issue with the league petitioning CAHA for an extension on that date. Joe L. asked for a friendly amendment to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of August. Stephanie rejected the friendly amendment. **Motion** to keep tryouts the first Friday in August made by Stephanie R., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emery Lykins. With a vote of 9 against, 4 in favor (Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose and Vacaville), the motion is defeated. **Motion** to have tryouts begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in August made by Anna Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Lundy. After discussion and points made by Chris H., Stephanie R., Mike D. noted USA Hockey registration date deadlines, Ray M. commented about football tryouts, so **Anna Withdrew her Motion.** **Motion** to have tryouts begin the first Friday after Labor Day made by Jennifer Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Monks. Discussion with points made by Emery L, Ray M.

Shane H., John H. noted that this board will be back next year banning Labor Day tournaments. *With a vote of 9 in favor and 4 against (Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose and Vacaville), the motion carries.*

- Additional discussion by Chris H., John H., Ray M., Emery L., Mark G. and Shane H.
  - Stephanie asked about future consideration regarding when ice is due to be submitted.
  - Initial discussion regarding a possible preseason game weekend. Pete recommended having this discussion now is premature. He recommended that if any club is interested in this idea, they should put together a proposal to present to the board regarding that and have it voted on. Stephanie asked if clubs are considering a tournament format, consideration should be given to coach's evaluation time with their teams.
  - **Action Item:** *Pete will bring to CAHA our new tryout dates to see what recommendations are for deadline dates.*
2. 2006-07 Board Nominating Committee –  
Pete requested that we get going early on getting together nominations for 06-07. One of his concerns was getting people interested to run. Ann W. noted that most of the executive board has been around a long time and we all can't count of them returning. Pete is not planning on coming back next year and neither is John Hamer. Each club needs to dig deep and come up with names to help keep this board going. Pete asked for a nominating committee chair and no one would volunteer for that. Chris H. and Anna L. agreed to serve as committee members. **Action Item:** *Pete will email everyone the GM job description. This is a paid position.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting made Chris Hathaway, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Lundy at 1:00pm.

Next meeting – Sat. March 11, location - TBA

#### ADDENDUMS

- CAHA Report – Pete took a poll of all clubs with tier teams and decided against presenting to the Youth Council regarding eliminating automatic berths. This was based on follow-up e-conversations regarding the subject and clubs not coming to a general consensus on a viable plan.
- Scott Scherer volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee, with Anna L. and Chris H. and Ann W.
- Saturday March 11 meeting location will be in Santa Rosa.

Respectfully Submitted by Carla Dickerson, NORCAL Secretary  
Draft 2/12/06