

Empire Amateur Hockey Conference
Meeting Notes

Empire Meeting: July 11, 2006

Members in attendance:

Jeff Chamberlain-Geneseo, Jeanne Barreca-RYH, John Sage-MCYH, Lisa Mekeel-Geneseo, Jim Young-PYH, Sean Grady-Tri Cty, Rick Abraham-WYH, LeAnne Johnston-Batavia, Roger Salmons-PYH, Dave LaPenna-Tri Cty, Steve Taft-CKH, Steve Langdon-RYH, Kevin Pacer-Batavia,

Call to order: 6:35 pm

Review of May Meeting Minutes (tabled from June)

Review of June Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: John Sage

2nd: Steve Langdon

All in favor

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary- Barb Klee (Webster) - Absent

Treasurer-LeAnne Johnson (Batavia)

Reported July balance as of 7/11/06 was \$2891.49

Receipts are needed for pizza parties for the following: PW-B, SQ-A, & SQ-B

Vice-President- Sean Grady (Tri-County)

Nothing to report

President- Jeff Chamberlain (Geneseo)

Introduced and welcomed Steve Taft (current alternate for Canandaigua) and Kevin Pacer (Representative for Batavia) to Board.

Presented completed list of Carry-over (player & coach) Suspensions & Probations for upcoming season.

OLD BUSINESS

Banner updates: Tabled for next month

EAHC Website and Referee Evaluations: Tabled for next month

RIHOA Website Reporting: Tabled for next month

Scoresheets:

1 change to scoresheet: to read Home team to send in scoresheet.

Board gave approval for Jeff to order scoresheets for upcoming season.

Fees per team:

Team fee's are currently at \$80 per team.

Discussion was made about team fees and whether they should change. We discussed making improvements to Championship Weekend (Banners, paying someone to operate scoreboard, scoresheets, etc.). Non-profit/Lawyer fee will also be a cost.

Decision was to leave team fee at \$80.

RULE CHANGES

List of items reviewed:

- Official Roster – Stamping & Signatures;
Discussion as to whether rosters needed to be signed prior to being stamped from USA Hockey. USA Hockey does not require signatures prior to stamping unless team is tournament bound which does not apply to Empire. No change was made to our current regulation other than date due to Empire (Jan. 09).
- Coaching Certification (Policy)
USA Hockey requires a documented policy for non-compliance of proper CEP level for which is coached (USA Hockey Rules & Regulations Sec 7 B.3, B.5)
Proposed Empire Policy;
All rostered coaches, both Head and Assistant, must submit a photocopy of BOTH the front and back of their USA Hockey coaching card to their division Commissioner by December 31 of the current season or a fine will be assessed to the offending organization.
All coaches, both Head and Assistant, who do not obtain the proper CEP level for the team he/she is coaching for the current season by December 31 of the current season may face suspension from the Conference.

Motion to approve – Roger Salmons

2nd – Jim Young

All in favor.

Side note to discussion – John Sage added that there will be at least two coaching clinics in the Rochester area and one in the Buffalo area this season.

- Team Petition Process;
Discussion to eliminate actual petition process and petition approval. Organizations would still be required to register one half or greater of teams for a division at the “A” level but can choose to register a team at the “B” level if that is where the organization determines the skill level is for that team(s). A letter of explanation along with supporting documentation is required with this request by September 30.

Motion to approve – Jim Young

2nd – John Sage

All in favor

- Re-scheduling of league games;
 Discussion of non-acceptable reasons for rescheduling conference games. Implement a process to discourage coaches from trying to re-schedule a Conference game in favor of a tournament. Once scheduled, all EAHC games must be played as scheduled (at Scheduling Meeting) unless agreed upon by both Head Coaches, or the team attempting to make the change will forfeit the game. Any re-scheduled game must have proper curfew.
 Motion to approve – Jeanne Barreca
 2nd – Steve Langdon
 All in favor
- Fines Procedure;
 Discussion as to how to notify an organization of a fine and making sure it's paid. Procedure put in place for President to notify organization (rep.), Division Commissioner & Conference Treasurer of fine and procedure to pay in order for team to be eligible for playdowns and championships. Also added "*missing proof of coaching certification*" as a reason for a fine.
 Motion to approve – John Sage
 2nd. – Jim Young
 All in favor
- Re-wording of "10 Game Rule"; (Administrative – Player Eligibility)
 Re-worded to clarify that a rostered Empire player can not play more than 10 games total for a Travel Team and/or Select Team for current season (Aug. 1 thru completion of Empire Championships) or player forfeits Empire Conference eligibility. Also clarified girls playing in an All Girls League is not subject to this rule.
 Motion to approve – Steve Langdon
 2nd - Jim Young
 All in favor
- Review of accumulated penalty minutes for suspension;
 Discussion that four game suspension was too stiff once a player reached the accumulated penalty minutes that required suspension for their level. Point was made that by lessening the game suspension from 4 games may make a player more likely to not withhold from aggressive penalties.
 No motion was made to change penalty minute totals or number of games.
- Carry-over Suspensions;
 Discussion as to how any suspensions that carry-over from a previous season are to be served.
 Any suspension that carries over from the previous season must use the first scheduled Empire Conference Game as the first gamed served in such suspension. A player is eligible to participate in any scrimmages or tournaments prior to the first scheduled Empire Conference game.
 Motion to approve – John Sage
 2nd – Jeanne Barreca
 All in favor

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

This is what we have so far. This is not final yet.

Mite A: Canandaigua
Mite B: Sherri Dolan (Geneseo)
Squirt A: Mark Angelo (RYH)
Squirt B: Roger Partridge (MCYH)
Peewee A: Roger Salmons (PYH)
Peewee B: John Sage (MCYH)
Bantam A: Tom Klee (WYH)
Bantam B: **BATAVIA**
Midget A: Jeanne Barreca (RYH)
Midget B: Dave LaPenna (TCYH)

NEW BUSINESS

Guidelines for scheduling Mite, Bantam & Midget Games;

Discussion was held mainly on how to help organizations to have Bantam & Midget games more fully rostered to not conflict with players who also play on High School teams.

The Conference strongly recommends that organizations schedule Mite games for Friday nights with games beginning no later than 7:00pm or as early as possible on Saturday mornings. The Conference also strongly recommends that organizations schedule Bantam and Midget games for Sunday afternoons during the High School season.

The Conference also requests that ice schedulers attend the Conference Scheduling Meeting in October.

Team Rosters for Midget Teams;

Discussion over whether to eliminate “A” and “B” divisions for Midget level teams and go with 18U and 16U instead. One of reasons for was to reduce size/physical mismatches. One of reasons against was uncertainty of smaller organizations being able to fill roster accordingly. Empire reps. were asked to discuss issue with their organizations and issue was tabled for August.

Fair Play Policy;

Discussion on instituting a Fair Play Policy for Midget level as a trial for one season.

Policy overview – each team would be entitled to one (Fair Play) point for each game if the team was able to stay under a certain number of penalties for the game. If the team was able to stay under the number of penalties, the point given would count in season standings.

Midget A Commissioner, Jeanne Barreca, used last season’s Midget A statistics to show two different scenarios – one using 12 penalties per game and the other using 15 penalties per game – to show how the policy would affect the standings.

Issue was tabled for August.

Aggressive Play Policy;

A copy of WNYAHL's Aggressive Play Policy was handed out for review.

Tabled for August

Equal Ice Time Guidelines: Tabled for August

A copy of Snowbelt Youth Hockey League's Equal Ice Time Policy was handed out for review.

Championship Weekend Committee:

EAHC would like to "dress up" championship weekend.

Any ideas can be brought up at future meetings.

Official Calendar for next season and meetings:

8/8/06	meeting
9/12/06	meeting, Preliminary team counts due
10/3/06	Pre scheduling meeting; Final team counts due, Commissioner's Meeting
10/10/06	Scheduling meeting – Minnet Hall 6:00pm
10/25/06	Start of season, Conference fee statement mailed
11/14/06	meeting
12/12/06	meeting
12/31/06	Final team rosters are due
12/31/06	All head coaches must be certified at proper coaching level.
1/1/07	Conference fees due
1/9/07	meeting, Copies of official (stamped) rosters due to commissioners
2/13/07	meeting
2/19/07	End of regular season
2/20/07	Start of Playdowns
3/1/07	End of Playdowns
3/3-3/4/07	Championship Finals
3/13/07	meeting, election of officers
4/10/07	meeting
5/8/07	meeting
6/12/07	meeting

Organization Reps 2006-2007 season:

Representative:

Rick Abraham: Webster

Kevin Pacer: Batavia

Tim Eddinger: Canandaigua

Scott Carley: MCYH

Tom Poelma: Perinton

Lisa Meekel: Geneseo

Steve Langdon: RYH

Sean Grady: Tri-Cty

Alternates:

Tom Klee

Mike Reich

Steve Taft

John Sage

Jim Young

Steve Pullyblank

Jeanne Barreca

Dave LaPenna

Please review: Let Jeff know if any of this information is incorrect.

ADJOURN 8:45 PM

Motion made by: Dave LaPenna

2nd – Jim Young

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Barbra Hess-Klee