

USA HOCKEY, INC.
2008 WINTER MEETING
ATHLETE DIRECTORS
2007-2008 Season
MINUTES (of Record)

Present: Shawna Davidson, Alana Blahoski, Jim Campbell, Tom Chorske, Colleen Coyne, Manny Guerra, Jamie Hagerman, Sarah Hood Fraser, Chris Imes, Mike McNeill, Kevin Miller, Cindy Curley

Absent: David Emma, Chris Ferraro, Peter Ferraro, Chanda Gunn, Mark Johnson, Katie King, Matt Martin

Staff: Dave Ogreaan

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME

Shawna Davidson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to make their introductions.

ATHLETE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Dave Ogreaan addressed the group and thanked them for the great turnout. There are some important electoral decisions coming up. Dave reminded the group that to be elected an Athlete Director you must be within a ten-year window of your last appearance on a U.S. National or Olympic Team in Ice Hockey, Inline Hockey or Sled Hockey. We have five Athlete Director positions that are coming up for election as well as one Executive Committee position for an Athlete Director opening up. Dave stated that every four years there is also a position open on the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Athlete Advisory Committee and it is time to elect that person. This is a critical position. The USOC is going through some transformations and we need to have a voice for best interest of our sport. Cindy has done a great job for us in the past and we need to have someone in the position that will work as diligently as she has for us. It is important to get Athlete Directors that are qualified and excited to be part of USA Hockey and it is really important to recruit people that can contribute and serve our organization in a valuable way. Ballots will be sent out in the spring for the Athlete Director positions. It would be helpful if the position could be filled by someone able to participate longer than just one term in order to give them some time to get familiar with our program. Dave encouraged the Athlete Directors to get involved and to encourage their peers to participate in our program by running for the open Athlete Director positions. Dave also asked the Athlete Directors to talk with the other athletes and encourage them to update their mailing addresses with our office so we can stay in touch with them. The Athlete Directors have a significant influence in our organization and an important role on the USOC Athlete Advisory Committee.

U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cindy Curley addressed the group on a recruiting mission for her replacement. She stated the importance of the position. The position has changed a lot through the years and events do happen that greatly affect hockey. She stated that USA Hockey is by far the best NGB out of all of them. The USOC is trying to make rules to manage all their programs for all of the sports that don't necessarily benefit hockey. For example, USA Swimming wants to make a rule for a curfew at the Olympic Games because some of their swimmers are fourteen years old. This rule may not benefit our sport and possibly

be detrimental to our sport. The consequence to breaking curfew would be the guilty parties would be thrown out of the Olympic Games and for a team sport such as hockey, without the entire team, we would have to drop out of the Games. Your role as an Athlete Director is much different than the role as a representative of the USOC Athlete Advisory Committee. As an Athlete Director you are representing the athletes at USA Hockey but at the USOC you are an advocate for the athletes as well as USA Hockey. What might be good for the athletes, might not be good for USA Hockey. It is a great opportunity to meet a lot of different people and it is critical that you are involved at the meetings because without representation it could be detrimental to USA Hockey. The position is a four year term and the representatives meet four times a year. The term begins January 2009. She feels it has been a great experience and encouraged anyone interested to run for the position. Shawna stressed that we still have time and we will know who our new Athlete Directors will be at the June meeting.

APPROVAL OF 2007 ANNUAL CONGRESS MINUTES

Chris Imes moved that the Athlete Director meeting minutes from the 2007 Annual Congress be approved. Manny Guerra seconded the motion. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ATHLETE DIRECTOR ASSIGNMENTS

Shawna welcomed all of the new Athlete Directors to the group. The Athlete Director assignments to the various councils, committees or sections that you have been appointed to are made by Ron DeGregorio or Dave Ogrian, with recommendations by the Athlete Directors. If there is an area of expertise for which you feel you are suited, please let Shawna know so she can share that with Ron or Dave. The present Athlete Directors attendance is up to date. Athlete Directors must attend at least one of the two meetings per year. Special circumstances can be reviewed as they occur. Shawna indicated that at this time there are eighteen Athlete Directors with three of those directors serving as Athlete Directors to the Executive Committee.

COUNCILS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chris Imes reported on the Junior Council. He stated that Dan Esdale is the new Vice President/Junior Council Chairperson. Dan has submitted a proposal to restructure the Junior Council. By restructuring the council, it will down-size the group and Chris feels that will be beneficial to the council. The Junior Council has 53 proposals, but a lot of them are just housekeeping. Chris agrees with Jim Smith's recommendation that legislative proposals be voted on every four years and that proposal will be addressed in June.

Manny Guerra reported on the Disabled Section. The section is excited about the Sled Lending Program. They have purchased 26 sleds that are available for use by submitting an application for short-term use. "One kid – One sled – One shot – a hockey player for life" is the motto. They also discussed the Military Outreach Program, the Disabled Hockey Festival and 2008 Sled Hockey World Championships.

The Youth Council has been busy working on growing the game and has been working on the Hockey Weekend Across America scheduled for February 2008.

The Girls'/Women's Section reported that there is a proposal on The Destiny Tour. There was a discussion on single roster and dual rosters for girls. They feel it is important for the girls to be able to play on a boys team when they are young players. Dual roster is when players can play boys or girls and this develops better hockey players. There was also a discussion on the proposal of the Girls'/Women's Section wanting to become a council.

The Adult Council has a proposal to bring the adult Women's portion of the Girls'/Women's Section under the Adult Council. The Girls' Section would still be under the Youth Council in this proposal. These proposals will be addressed and voted on in June.

The International Council activities were reviewed by Jim Campbell. In its meeting, the council members discussed the upcoming tournaments. They also discussed how we are losing players to Canada and what can be done to prevent this from happening.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL DISUSSION

There are no major issues that we are voting on at the Board meeting. Shawna advised the group not to be intimidated by the volume of Legislative Proposals. There is nothing that we are voting at this time. The proposals will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow, but the actual voting will take place in June at the Annual Congress.

Shawna reminded the group how influential the Athlete Directors voting power is in the voting process with eighteen votes.

ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shawna said she spoke with Ron DeGregorio on the Alumni Advisory Committee and they are getting some more emails out about some possible gathering in the future.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Chris Imes addressed the concerns that USA Hockey is losing numbers. The Adult Council continues to grow but younger players are declining. How do we get the numbers back up? We need to address the younger players and what we can do to encourage the younger players to learn the game of hockey. This is an issue that will continue to be addressed. The studies show that retention isn't the problem, but getting the new players introduced to the sport is the problem.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Alana Blahoski and the motion was seconded by Chris Imes. THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

Submitted by: Shawna Davidson, Chairperson