



Yale Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 16, 2015

Present: Charles Andriole, David Henderson, Andrew Plano, Robert Zyskowski, Jess Kane, Simon Gore-Grimes, Mike Ursini, Lydia Keller, Pat O’Neill, Jonathan Macey, Melissa Minickene, Ryan Hardy (via phone)
Absent: Mike Henrici, David Loomis

Call to Order; Quorum; Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2015, meeting

President’s Report (C. Andriole): Overall, the season is going well; YYH has the largest membership and the most diverse group in terms of ages we’ve ever had.

Disciplinary Issues. (C. Andriole): We have had very few disciplinary issues. Two players have had disciplinary hearings. One has been banned from USA Hockey as a result. It is very important that all of our players embrace the YYH philosophy.

- **Discussion:** A few members reported that there have been complaints by parents about inappropriate behavior in the locker rooms. Members discussed the USA Hockey Safe Sport policy, which required that at least one “responsible screened adult” (e.g. a coach, manager, or other volunteer) be either present inside the locker room or outside the door within earshot to enable the person to monitor the locker room.
- **Agreed:**
 - M. Minickene will send an email to all team managers reminding/educating them about the SafeSport policy with regard to locker room behavior and monitoring.
 - The board will prepare a handbook for all managers prior to next year’s season, which will include information on disciplinary policy and code of conduct. R. Hardy will share the handbook his team uses as a potential model.

Scheduling (C. Andriole): Ice scheduling is difficult process. Managers are asked to report any discrepancies to Charlie ASAP so we do not waste ice. Managers need to be reminded that next year, as this year, teams are not to play CHC games until after October 15th.

Tryouts (C Andriole): Ice has been booked for the first two weeks of March for tryouts. There may also be ice at Ingalls but we will not know for a while.

Registrar (M Minickene): Deadline to change rosters is December 31st.

Finance (C. Andriole on behalf of D. Loomis): On Dec. 16th, there was an outstanding debt of \$112,000.

- **Discussion.** The board discussed options for collecting outstanding debt from current and past YYH families. Suggestions included an email to families with outstanding balances with a deadline for settling or agreeing to a payment plan, and to consider certified letters and small claims if necessary. On a related note, one member noted that some parents have raised questions about whether the different benefits

provided to each team are reflected in tuition rates each team pays. C. Andriole stated that next year, we have to price each team based on its' costs.

- **Agreed:** D. Loomis and D. Henderson will reach out to a member who may be able to help with collections. D. Loomis will send an email to all families with outstanding balances with a deadline of January 15th; players who fail to pay or agree to a payment by the deadline will not be allowed on the ice for practices or games.

Development. (M. Ursini) Yale Youth Hockey is hoping to grow from the younger teams and provide an alternative for players who may be frustrated with elite organizations. Everything is going well with the elite teams.

- **Discussion:** YYH is filling the needs of all players, from elite to recreational and it is important for Yale to continue to represent all levels of hockey. We now have three clinic session. We need to continue to bring in younger, professional coaches, who are able to help the newer coaches. We also need to build awareness about our higher-level teams.

By-Laws & Governance (J. Macey): Reviewed changes in by-laws to reflect comments by members at last month's meeting.

- **Discussion.** The board thanked J. Macey for stewarding this effort.
- **Agreed:** The Board voted unanimously to adopt by-laws as amended. They will be posted on the website.

Manager Training

- **Discussion.** Parent managers should receive a handbook outlining the policies and practices, and roles of the manager.
- **Agreed:**
 - A handbook, including a code of conduct, will be developed (as discussed earlier)
 - A managers' meeting will be held at the beginning of next season to review handbook

Tournament Coordinator (A. Plano): Most tournaments are booked, with exception of Mite A and Squirt B which are in process. Balances on tournaments will have to be paid by the first of the year.

Grow the Game (Jess Kane, Dir. Grow the Game): Try Hockey For Free Day was a success; 55 kids came out, 5 of whom registered for the Learn to Skate second session. We will work with more school districts next year to advertise. We have a closet full of equipment that we need to find a place to store for next year.

Fundraising (R. Zyskowski) Toy drive at Lincoln-Basset School is Friday. New Haven Register going to cover.

- **Discussion.** A member asked about our policy for supporting fundraising efforts by individual teams. C. Andriole stated that teams are able to fundraise but that YYH cannot promote these fundraisers unless they are for tournaments that teams earn by advancing beyond the regular season.

Communications (L. Keller): Role of this new board position should be to promote positive and transparent communication with our members. One area of focus will be ensuring the website is user-friendly and kept up-to-date, including all current policies. Once approved by the board, board meeting minutes should be posted on the website in a timely manner as should announcements about our next meeting schedule and agenda. Keller will also help administer the YYH Facebook page.

- **Discussion.** One member suggested we provide a scholarship to a member player to help with Facebook and ensure that we have proper permission before posting player images. Another member suggested that we create a new front-end website that is more user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing (with the League Athletics applications for scheduling, online payments, etc. behind it).

Marottolo Award

- **Agreed:** Needs to be scheduled.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted by Melissa Minickene, YYH Secretary