

GSL Meeting Minutes August 18th, 2021

This meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Present: Tim McMahon, Jodie Hollister, Kelly Huard, Ryan Scott, Brad Dakers, Allison Lapierre-Houle

Representatives from:

Present - Amherst, FCHA, Ludlow, Pioneer Valley, Yellow Jackets, Brattleboro, Holy Name, Nonotuck, Enfield, Westfield.

Absent: None

Meeting Agenda Topics:

- President's Report - McMahon
 - Springfield Thunderbirds – Return to Hockey Night 10/16, 7pm
Andrew Buchanon and Matt McRobbie attended the meeting to discuss Return to Hockey Night. It's been 18 months since there has been a game there so there is a lot of excitement. A flier will be sent

Street Hockey Tournament – Aug. 28, 9-3pm, 10-12 age group
<http://www.springfieldthunderbirds.com/community-1/street-hockey-tournament>

Andrew's contact info: abuchanan@springfieldthunderbirds.com

Matt McRobbie: mmcrobbie@springfieldthunderbirds.com

Unsure if the AHL players will be allowed to have community visits. NHL players are not allowed. Hoping they will be able to visit with GSL teams.
 - USA Hockey & Mass Hockey Rule Changes for 2021-2022
A couple of big rule changes: automatic offsides and the icing rule for all age groups

Minor: game stickers and admin changes.

Please review them all. (There were no questions.) All league rules are in alignment except for penalty times. There is a synopsis online. https://www.mahockey.org/news_article/show/1171263
 - State Tournaments in Western Mass
10U Squirt Tier II Small: Olympia
10U Squirt Tier II Medium: Amelia Park

10U Squirt Tier III Medium: Olympia

12U Pee Wee Tier III Small: Olympia

14U Bantam Tier III Small: Olympia

2019 -2020 season has the same hosts if you look there.

Westfield's Fire and Ice will be held on MLK weekend.

Holy Name's Ice Breaker on November 19-21st

Amherst's Western Mass Freeze Out is on MLK weekend.

- 1st VP Report – Dakers

- 2021-2022 Suspensions Carryover

2 suspensions that weren't served last year. They will need to be served the 1st and 2nd game this year.

- Coaches Meeting in September?

We will try to schedule this. Good opportunity for new coaches in the league. Inform and educate and meet Board members.

Is there a preference to do in-person or virtual? Please let us know.

Kevin Torchia – The more lead time we can give the coaches the better the attendance regardless of virtual or in-person.

Brad Dakers – prefer virtual, sometimes it's difficult to find a location preventing the ability to give everyone enough lead time. Tim agrees.

- Coach Certification

Brad assumes that the waiver to have the coaching certification updated will go away. It's imperative that coaches enroll in classes so that don't expire December 31st.

The virtual classes fill up fast.

Ryan Scott – The waiver expired last season so those coaches are technically ineligible. As of Sept. 1st you cannot step on the ice.

Tim provided an overview of the waiver for those that were not familiar.

Virtual classes should be available now. The coaching modules were updated.

<https://www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification>

Level 4 is booked solid. You should check every day. You can take them anywhere. It doesn't matter what state. Ryan Scott reached out and was told they would be adding more.

Tim – Coaching education and certification is a problem at the beginning of the season. Please communicate information as soon as possible.

- Schedulers Report - Huard
 - Important Dates for Season can be found on website
 - Need # of teams and Ice needed by August 16

Organization:	Bantam	Peewee North Teams	Peewee South Teams	Squirt North Teams	Squirt South Teams	Squirt East Teams	Mite North Teams	Mite South Teams	Mite East Teams	Midget Teams
Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Franklin County Hockey Association	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Greater Springfield Jr. Yellow Jackets	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Westfield Youth Hockey Association	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Nonotuck Valley Hockey Association	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Amherst Youth Hockey	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Ludlow Hockey Association	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	1
Holy Name Youth Hockey	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	4	0
Brattleboro Hockey Association	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	8	12	4	10	5	8	8	12	8

There was a lengthy discussion about some issues with the Bantam and Squirt levels and number of teams. Some points from the discussion:

- We don't have enough Bantam teams. We can't have a 3 or 4 team division. Brad is suggesting a 5 team division. Organizations have to make some decisions about what teams could move up.
- We do not have enough Squirt North teams. We need teams in the Squirt South to move up or down. We cannot do the schedule until we sort this out.
- We have to have a minimum number of 5 teams in a division.
- One suggestion is that teams could do an independent team in September and let Kelly know.
- Currently, there are no plans for evaluation games in the schedule. Per Kelly we could maybe do some mini-games in a weekend. Just for the squirts.
- Westfield Squirt A – Strong team
- Yellow Jackets Squirt A – It's the B team from last year that won the championships. They are solid but not the strongest.
- Amherst Squirt A – It's a mix of B and C from last year.

- Pioneer Valley is concerned about the goalie being a first year that will keep them wanting to play in B division.
- FCHA – Squirt B will be a struggle to compete in the South. They would rather opt for the EAST.
- Holy Name would like to see some evaluation games to make the effort to try and make it right.
- We still have a Brattleboro team that hasn't picked yet.
- Talk to your organizations and get that information to Kelly by the end of week.
- If Kelly doesn't hear about a team going up to A there will only be one division.
- Kelly cannot make a schedule without these decisions.
- 20 Pee Wee teams. Not enough for an East division.

- Ice Information due August 23 –

Please let Kelly know if you won't have your ice contracts

- No play dates due September 13
- Novice Jamboree Hosts are needed for each session.

Kelly will call for teams soon.

- Mite Jamboree

- September 25-26 – Host Ludlow

- Pre-Season Midget Scheduling Meeting

Kelly would prefer a virtual meeting. We have 7-8 teams.

Yellow Jackets does not have a Midget team. Chad is working on one.

- Treasurer Report – Lapierre-Houle

- Account Balance – Same as it was at the end of the spring. Just under \$13K

- Ice fees and Ref fees 2021-2022

Olympia increased and Willison increased – This will be shared on the website

Referee costs went up and a couple of rinks increased by a few dollars.

- Scholarship Update – 3 \$500 scholarships awarded

Kyle Barnes, Kouji, and Ishida Matt McMahon

- Statistician Report - Scott
 - Game Sheet Reporting process

There will be a link (widget) google form like last year.

You have to use labels. No handwritten game sheets will be allowed and there will be a fine.

Please read the rules. CEP # are required for the coaches and a few more items.

The question was asked if you can make hand corrections? Yes.
- Secretary - Hollister
 - March 2021 Minutes Approval

With no questions regarding the March 2021 minutes a motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
 - Meeting schedule – 3rd Wed of Month at 7pm
 - August 18th - Virtual
 - September 15th - In person Olympia
 - October 20th - Virtual
 - November 17th - In person Olympia
 - December 15th - Optional, virtual
 - January 19th - In person Olympia
 - February 16th - Virtual
 - March 9th - In person Olympia, election
 - Organization Contact Information

Still need Westfield and Enfield

Went through list to identify registrars
- Registrar – Hollister
 - Roster submission process –

Must send me the link from the USA Hockey portal once it's approved. NO pdf. I will be communicating this process to all registrars.

MA Hockey rule - SEPT 1ST. ROSTER HAS TO BE SUBMITTED BEFORE YOUR TEAM STEPS FOOT ON THE ICE. ITS AN INSURANCE ISSUE.

There will also be a google form for roster additions after the deadline. Those have to be approved by the Executive Board. There will be a communication.

- Medical Waivers – get them in early

Rule -players with approved medical waivers to play down one age level may be granted participation on the organization's lowest team pursuant to Mass Hockey rules. Associations may petition the league to place a player on another team excluding the North Division with the approval of the board of directors.

*Please make sure that parents understand this and that they understand that playing down can prevent them from playing in State Tournaments or other tournaments.

https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0106/3101/Mass_Hockey_Medical_Waiver_Form.pdf#_ga=2.234997313.1103649803.1629321007-79877938.1629321006

We need the approval letter from MassHockey once it's approved.

- Out-of-Town Roster Approval – Ryan

District 6 needs to approve all rosters and if a roster is not approved those players will not be able to play anywhere.

Mass Hockey Rule – They will allow up to 3 players per roster outside of an association's area.

Organizations are required to have out-of-town players sign a form stating that they are aware they are not playing for their home organization.

The form is on the Mass Hockey website.

<http://files.leagueathletics.com/Text/Documents/8037/48652.pdf>

If you have 2 and you add another person later on then that roster needs to be approved. It is possible for all the associations in District 6 to decide that they can't play anymore.

This rule was written for Western MA because in the EAST they do not approve these rosters.

- Old Business

- None

- New Business

- Masks

- It was raised that many communities and/or facilities may require masks indoors impacting rinks we use.
- It was recommended to please have your child carry a mask in case you are asked to wear one.

- The feeling from some is that parents and teams will walk if a mask rule is not enforced. There was some discussion and debate about mandating and/or creating a rule. Ultimately, it is up to the rink and may be difficult to enforce.
- GSL Executive Board.
 - Kelly Huard, Scheduler, and Tim McMahon, President intend resign at the end of this season after 8 years of service. Tim is asking organizations to consider taking on the President and Scheduler role within the next 5-6 months. Additionally, there may be other roles that are aging out as Board members children are or no longer will be with GSL.
 - The people involved in the league should run the league.
- Yellow Jackets is offering the Jr. Bruins if anyone is interested.
- FCHA is also running the program.

Meeting ended at 8:31pm

The next GSL Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 15th, 7pm. In-person @ Olympia.