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Delaware Valley Hockey League

Date | time May 9, 2024, 7 PM | Zoom Meeting was called to order by President Jay Finnigan















Respectfully Submitted by Michael DeRose, DVHL Secretary

Attendance:




Executive Committee Members Present:

-  President – Jay Finnigan
-  Executive Vice-President – Joe D’Angelo (Absent)
-  1st Vice President & Co-Commissioner (18U, 16U, 14U) – Dave Jackson (Absent)
-  2nd Vice President & Co-Commissioner (12U, 10U, 8U) – Joe Spagnolo
-  Vice President Marketing – Larry Sechuk
-  Vice President Legal – Terry Wochok
-  Treasurer – Beth Ritter (Absent)
-  Secretary & SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose (Absent)

Represented Member Clubs:

 Campus Wild,  Central Penn Panthers,  Chester County Cougars,  Delmarva Raptors,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,  Delco Phantoms,  Dynamites,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  Genesis,  Hatfield Ice Hawks,  Hershey Jr. Bears,  Philadelphia Little Flyers,  Quakers, Reading Jr. Royals,  Snider Hockey,  Wilmington Nighthawks, and  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins

Associate Members:

-  Referee & Chief – Mike Campbell (Absent)
-  COVID Coordinator – Lisa Silvotti (Absent)
-  DVHL Scheduler – Mike Wiercinski (Absent)

Members Absent:

None

Guests:

None




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Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **March 13, 2024**, DVHL monthly meeting was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
 - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by: **Central Penn Panthers**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the minutes by: **Genesis Hockey Club**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
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Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **February 2024 and March 2024**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by: **Hershey Jr. Bears**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by: **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
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Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
 - Absent
-

1st Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
 - Absent
-

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Joe addressed the placement tournament. Joe stated that he believed that it was very successful.
 - There were several teams that were urged to move up or down and as a result twelve (12) of the teams accepted the recommendations and placed their team in the appropriate division. Joe went on to state that the majority of those involved were of the same opinion during the discussion.
 - Joe added that from the 2021 season, the DVHL is up ten (10) teams at the Squirt (10U), fourteen (14) teams at the Pee-weet (12U), and nine (9) teams at the Bantam (14U) levels. This is a 30% increase across the board which is very significant. Joe went on to inform the membership that if you take out the organizations that we recently added and went with just the previous existing



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organizations such as Genesis, Delco, Chester County, and so on, the DVHL has still increased at each level. The DVHL is up two (2) at Squirt (10U), eight (8) teams at Pee-ewe (12U), and four (4) teams at the Bantam (14U) levels. This shows that not only are we expanding by adding new organizations, but our original organizations are continuing to grow as well. Joe commended the administrations of the original organizations for doing a great job in moving their respective organizations in a positive direction which is shown by their growth. Joe acknowledged the Quakers who have increased by five (5) teams, Delaware Jr. Blue Hens and Chester County Cougars who have both increased by four (4) teams each, and Genesis who have increased by three (3) teams. Joe went on to state that the remaining original organizations are either up or down by one (1) team and added that is a testament that ALL of the organizations within the DVHL are doing an outstanding job and he very much appreciates it.

- Jay Finnigan asked Joe if he received the date on the Mite (8U) waiver and Joe stated that they had to be in before evaluations. Joe went on to state that as on this date he had not received anything back from the Atlantic District.
 - Jamie Haslett (Quakers) and Wil Younger (Central Penn Panthers) informed Joe that they have received approvals back.
 - Jay asked that the organizations who did receive approvals forward them to both him and Joe so that they have the information as well.
 - Zach Overholtzer (Dynamites) asked if the membership could see the numbers on who is submitting waivers and getting approved by the district in order to see how many every organization is doing a year to get a gauge on how many are being submitted and approved. Zach went on to state that he's only done it four (4) times in ten (10) years.
 - Wil Younger (Central Penn Panthers) added that his organization generally moves one (1) every two (2) years.
 - Jay Finnigan asked who sent the approvals.
 - Wil Younger (Central Penn Panthers) stated that he received it from Nathan Nussbaum (Atlantic District ADM Coordinator).
- Jay Finnigan thanked Joe for all of the hard work he has done and been doing regarding the placement tournaments, subsequent meetings with the executive board, and all of the organizations in making it the success that it was. Jay also thanked Joe and Ave Jackson for putting together the spreadsheet of percentages to help solidify some of the information we picked up at placements. Jay added that he went out to Ice Works and Hatfield to watch the games and had some great conversations with people there. Jay stated that it gets better as we do it each year.





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- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry stated a lot of the feedback he received regarding the placement tournament was positive.
 - Chris Saitta (Exton Kings) agreed with Larry but stated that he did receive a significant number of complaints from the parents of the Bantam age players (14U) in his organization. They felt that the tournament was scheduled too close to tryouts, and they felt rushed and flustered. Chris suggested that the tournament be pushed back a week or two (2).
 - Wil Younger (Central Penn Panthers) agreed with Chris and added that the only age group that had real concerns was that of the Bantam age players (14U)
 - Joe Spagnolo agreed with Chris and Wil and apologized stating that he made an error when scheduling the tournament and added that this year the tournament will either be the first (1st) or third (3rd) week in May to accommodate everyone.
 - Brian Pecca (Ice Hawks) stated that in his opinion the third (3rd) week of May is reasonable for everybody. Brian added that he feels that it gives everybody more time to do what they need to do.
 - Zach Overholtzer (Dynamites) relayed a request from Jeff Grable that we set the date or agree on a tentative date so that the host rinks can block those dates out.
 - Larry added that he wanted to thank Jeff Grable for going above and beyond to help accommodate one (1) of the Delco Phantoms teams and not impede any of the other teams.
 - Kelly Figueroa (Chester County Cougars) added that Jeff Grable did the same for her organization on very short notice to make it work for them as well.
 - Joe Spagnolo informed the membership that this was the end of the two (2) year contract for that event. The bid will be open to all and he will be putting together a bid sheet and sending it out shortly.
 - A Motion was put to the floor to have the placement tournament weekend on the first (1st) and third (3rd) weekend in May by: **Ice Hawks**
 - Motion seconded to have the placement tournament weekend on the first (1st) and third (3rd) weekend in May by: **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Vice President Legal Report:



- V.P. Terry Wochok
 - Terry announced the winner of the DVHL Scholarship will be awarded to Clayton Smart from the Quakers 18AA.



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President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
 - Jay addressed a suggestion to include 16U in the tournament and after much discussion, it appeared that there was little to no interest in including them. Jay asked three (3) times if anyone wanted to make a motion to add a 16U bracket in the placement tournament and none of the organizations replied with any affirmation.
 - Jay addressed the 3rd jersey requests that were sent out by Wilmington Nighthawks and Wilkes Barre Jr. Pens. There was no opposition from the membership and their requests were approved.
 - Jay stated that Karen Fund, the district registrar, sent out an e-mail on player verification requirements to the registrars. Jay also sent it to the organization presidents and DVHL representatives. Jay advised everyone to pay close attention to that e-mail and take care to ensure that you don't get to the point where a player becomes ineligible at the start of the season. Jay went on to state that there has been a lot of discussion nationally.
 - Jay announced that on your 2024/2025 roster, the team's locker room monitor must be identified to ensure compliance with Safe Sport. This is for ALL levels.
 - Jay informed the membership that anyone who is an officer in an organization needs to have their background checks done in compliance with the Pennsylvania. Delaware is different, those in Delaware need to do whatever Delaware requires and/or whatever USA Hockey's minimum requirement is.
 - Jay then asked if anyone had any suggestions regarding the DVHL Rules and Regulations. Jay added that he has sent out requests a few times for anyone that may have them to send them to him. Jay stated that he will send out the request again and informed the membership that it needs to be done by July 1, 2024.
 - Jay addressed the league meeting dates which he sent out in an email on two (2) occasions. Jay went on to state that for the last couple of years, the DVHL and the CBHL have been in talks about having an event at the 12U level due to there not being a national tournament at that level. Jay added that the DVHL does not do any type of event once our playoffs are over like we do with the Battle Across the Delaware. Jay went on to state that the potential exists to do a 12U event at the AA, A, and B levels. Jay stated that some of the dates proposed were February 28 through March 2, 2025, or the last weekend in March. Jay then stated that he is on the playing rules committee and informed the membership that this year is a playing rules change year. The rule changes will take effect for the 2025/2026 season. Jay went on to state that while at one (1) of the meetings he sat next to the Midam Representative and Jay asked if there was any interest in Midam participating in the 12U event. Jay announced that Midam committed a team from



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Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and possibly a team from the Pittsburgh area. Jay went on to say that there may be the potential to add even more teams if we can move the dates a little further out due to conflicts with their playoffs. Jay then asked if having this event would be something that the DVHL organizations would be interested in participating in. Jay added that this would be run in a similar fashion to The Battle Across the Delaware.

- Jay also added that when he was discussing this, he was with the Sled Hockey representatives from the District and Maureen Thompson Siegel in particular, indicated that the district could help coordinate the event as well from a logistical standpoint.
 - Brian Pecca (Ice Hawks) asked if this would take the place of what they have been discussing with MAWHA regarding the Battle Across the Delaware.
 - Jay stated that this would just be a bigger version of the Battle Across the Delaware. It would involve the DVHL, NJYHL, CBHL, and some of the affiliates within the Midam District. Jay polled the membership, and everyone showed great interest in participating. Jay stated that he will discuss it further with MidAm and stated that he may have to look into alternative weekends besides the two (2) that have already been proposed to satisfy some of the Midam teams.
- Jay then stated that he tried to set this up with the 14U, 16U, and 18U to bridge the gap in the alliance with NJYHL, but they are still working with their numbers. Jay added that in this situation, the CBHL is willing to participate in it. Jay stated that teams could get three (3) non-league games over the weekend of September 13 – 15, 2024 weekend and the total cost to each team would be \$825 for three (3) games. Jay asked the membership if this was something that the DVHL would like him to continue to pursue in conjunction with the NJYHL. Jay then added that if the NJYHL did not have enough teams to fill the slots, should he include the CBHL as well.
 - Brian Pecca (Ice Hawks) stated that if the NJYHL is not involved or not involved enough, he doesn't see the purpose in it because we're taking away a weekend that normal scheduling is going to take place for the DVHL and whatever else.
 - Kelly Figueroa (Chester County) agreed with Brian and asked if there was a reason it was so early in the season.
 - Jay stated that it was designed this way due to the NJYHL regarding the 16U and 18U playing a shortened season. NJYHL plays a ten (10) week season at 16U and 18U from September through November.
 - After some discussion, the membership agreed that he hold off until we hear from the NJYHL.



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- Jay then went back to the DVHL season schedule stating that one (1) of the suggestions was to split up the championship weekend between the levels. We would have the younger levels on Friday and Saturday and have the older levels on Sunday and Monday.
- Jay then took a straw vote regarding having the DVHL championship on one (1) weekend:
 -  Campus Wild - Yes
 -  Central Penn Panthers - Yes
 -  Chester County Cougars - Yes
 -  Delmarva Raptors - Yes
 -  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens - Abstain
 -  Delco Phantoms - Yes
 -  Dynamites – N/A
 -  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club - Yes
 -  Genesis - Abstain
 -  Hatfield Ice Hawks - No
 -  Hershey Jr. Bears - Yes
 -  Philadelphia Little Flyers - Yes
 -  Quakers - Yes
 -  Reading Jr. Royals - Yes
 -  Snider Hockey - No
 -  Susquehanna Stampede - Yes
 -  Wilmington Nighthawks - Yes
 -  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins - Yes
 - The result is as follows: Thirteen (13) Yes, two (2) No, and two (2) abstain.
- A motion was put to the floor to hold the DVHL championship over one (1) weekend by: **Central Penn**
- Motion seconded by: **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Pens**
- The motion passed to have the DVHL Championship over one (1) weekend, President's Day, with all voting along with the poll results.
- Jay then discussed the projections. (Note: Excel spreadsheet subsequently distributed.)



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Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the May meeting was made by: **Central Penn Panthers**
 - The motion seconded by: **All.**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Next Meeting:

The June meeting will be in-person on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7:30pm at IceWorks.