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Delaware Valley Hockey League

Date | Time July 18, 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
-  2nd Vice President & Co-Commissioner (12U, 10U, 8U) – Joe Spagnolo (Absent)
-  Vice President Marketing – Larry Sechuk
-  Vice President Legal – Terry Wochok
-  Treasurer – Beth Ritter (Absent)
-  Secretary & SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose

Represented Member Clubs:

 Chester County Cougars,  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,  Susquehanna Stampede,  Wilmington Nighthawks, and  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins

Associate Members:

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

Members Absent:

 Campus Wild,  Central Penn Panthers,  Delmarva Raptors,  Reading Royals, and  Snider Hockey

Guests:

Paul Bardell




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Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **June 12, 2024**, DVHL monthly meeting was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
 - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by: **Delco Phantoms**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the minutes by: **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
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Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **June 30, 2024**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by: **Genesis**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by: **Hershey Jr. Bears**
 - 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
 - Dave announced that the schedules are up on GameSheet
 - Dave will be putting up the updated suspension sheet with the holdovers from last season.
 - Dave will be sending out an email when the time comes to upload the rosters into GameSheet
 - Griffin Helm from the Wilmington Nighthawks asked who the clubs should contact in relation to game times that need to be changed or fixed on GameSheet.
 - Dave informed the membership that they should contact the DVHL head scheduler, Mike Wiercinski.
-

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Absent



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Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry stated that Wil has assembled a team to update the website and upgraded the forms. Larry went on to state that Wil has a lot of good ideas in store that will be forthcoming.
 - Will has created the ability for parents to communicate with organizations through the platform. Whatever that communication may be, that communication will go to a specifically assigned DVHL board member. This is not to micro-manage the individual organizations, but to offer assistance.
 - Jay Finnigan added that Will completely revamped the website and made it more user friendly.
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DVHL Head Scheduler:



- Mike Wiercinski
 - Mike announced that the DVHL portion of the schedule is in GameSheet and Dave Jackson went live with it today, 07/18/2024. Mike asked that the schedulers go over it and ensure that everything was entered correctly. If there are any changes whether it is now or later in the season, Mike stated that all he needs is the HOME team to email him and copy the visiting team on the email and let him know what the changes are and he will make the changes as soon as he receives the email.
 - Mike elaborated on what Dave Jackson was stating regarding getting our league (DVHL) and the New Jersey Youth Hockey League (NJYHL) into GameSheet so that it will count toward the standings for both leagues.
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Vice President Legal Report:



- V.P. Terry Wochok
 - Nothing to report.
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President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
- Jay brought up a request that Jamie DiDomenico from The Campus Wild made regarding broadcasting of playoff games. Jamie has found another outlet where we can do (24) games at \$150.00 a game as an introductory offer that would include a camera, a commentator, and live streaming. The following year the cost would increase to \$225.00 a game.



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- Jay called on Brian Pecca from the Hatfield Ice Hawks for an update on the MAHA (Mid-Atlantic Hockey Alliance)
 - Brian stated that he had a meeting on 07/17/2024. They discussed how the standings and schedules will work with GameSheet. They are working on how to link the DVHL and NJYHL together due to both leagues being on two (2) different accounts. The reason they are trying to do this is so they will be able to link the cross-over games, otherwise they will run into double entries etc., They are also working out how the standings will display because of the National AA teams and the district bound levels because they don't want to create confusion to their paths to Districts or Nationals. They need to come up with how the standings are going to be displayed from a GameSheet standpoint. Brian also stated that they are working out how the suspensions and discipline will be handled correctly and that the rules are not confused between the two (2) leagues. Brian went on to state that they have a follow-up meeting scheduled for after the NJYHL has their meeting to work out and finalize the details. Brian further stated that they discussed how they want to schedule the cross-over games, and they want them to obviously be done quicker due to some of the rinks only having one (1) or two (2) sheets of ice.
 - Ian MacKenzie from the Delaware Jr. Blue Hens asked how we can get a quicker response from the schedulers over at the NJYHL due to the slow response they've been receiving when contacting them.
 - Brian told Ian to send him an email with which specific organizations he's reached out to, and he will certainly help him along.
 - Ian MacKenzie then asked a question about scheduling games with the A National level. He asked for clarification that the NJYHL will schedule cross-over games prior to the NJYHL scheduling their regular season games.
 - Brian stated that the NJYHL has a three (3) week period of pre-season games which is basically their parody event. After their second (2nd) weekend, the NJYHL will pretty much know where they are and will put out their matrixes for the cross-over games, so the schedulers and the teams know who the cross-overs are. After the third (3rd) week, they're going to put out the whole thing for the rest of the organizations.
 - Ian asked if Brian knew the timeframe on that.
 - Brian stated it's the first (1st) three (3) weekends after Labor Day. Brian went on to state that after the games over the weekend of September 14th and 15th, they will put the information out. After the third (3rd) weekend the NJYHL will put out the NJYHL side of it.
 - Chris Saitta from the Exton Kings asked Brian if we're only doing the cross-over games at the A National level.
 - Brian stated that was correct.



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- Chris then stated for the other levels such as B or American, he recalls that there were talks of getting lists together of teams who would be interested. Chris asked if anyone had done that yet.
 - Brian stated that they have not done that yet, but there was discussion at the meeting he was part of, and the NJYHL is gathering the information currently.
- Jay stated that he will be sending the presidents of the organizations an email that they can sent out to their members so that we can get their managers names and contact information. Jay also stated that NJYHL is going to do the same.
 - Chris Saitta from the Exton Kings asked that perhaps we setup a MAHA Facebook group discussion that was setup similar to the DVHL Facebook discussion group. Chris went on to state that the feedback he got from his managers and schedulers found that it was very good cross-communication.
 - Dave Jackson stated that there is a Facebook page setup for Mid-Atlantic alliance.
 - Chris stated that whatever we're doing on the DVHL site is working out very well and asked if we can mimic that, from his managers, they found it very effective.
- Jay stated that he sent out the updated DVHL Rules and Regulations.
 - Chris Saitta from the Exton Kings asked if we're going from two (2) game suspension to a one (1) game suspension for fighting.
 - Jay stated that was correct because what was happening with USA Hockey and the progressive stuff, USA Hockey asked the leagues to just follow their protocol, so that is why we amended that to go in line with USA Hockey's rules as well as it aligns with NJYHL for the sake of the cross-over games.
 - Chris also asked if the coach's suspension is going from fifteen (15) penalties to twelve (12) penalties in a game in order for the coach to be suspended.
 - Jay stated that is the way it's been for the last two (2) years.
 - Chris then asked if the overtime periods are going from five (5) to three (3) minutes.
 - Dave Jackson stated that we were working on the rules with regard to crossing over to New Jersey. Dave went on to state that overtime for all levels, if after three (3) periods of completed periods there should be an overtime, the overtime will be three (3) on three (3) for five 5 minutes. Sudden win.
 - Chris stated that the copy the membership received states there (3) minutes, stop time and actually crosses out Squirts, but it looks like it's a three (3) minute overtime at all levels.
 - Jay asked what page he saw that on, and Chris stated that it was on page fourteen (14)



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- Brian Pecca from the Hatfield Ice Hawks stated that speaking from a pure rink perspective, he is in full agreement with making the overtime three (3) minutes.
- Chris then asked for clarification that it will be three (3) on three (3) for Squirts (10U) and above.
 - Jay confirmed that was correct.
- Jay asked if anyone wanted to put a motion on the floor to adopt the updated Rules and Regulations
 - Motion to adopt the updated Rules and Regulations was made by: **Delco Phantoms**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the updated Rules and Regulations by: **Hatfield Ice Hawks**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
- Jay addressed the annual membership budget that was sent out to the membership as well as the pole that was sent out as well. Jay stated that the results of the pole was eleven (11) to seven (7) in favor of including the fees for the placement tournament next year in the annual budget that the membership wanted the fees for the placement tournament next year included. He went to the rinks and got their price point and was able to include their numbers in there. The next question: did the membership want billing per organization or per team and the results were ten (10) to eight (8) in favor of billing it per team. Jay then added that he subtracted the Dynamites from the pole due to the DVHL not assessing fees to on mites, so the final results are ten (10) to seven (7) in favor of including the fees for the placement tournament next year in the annual budget and ten (10) to seven (7) in favor of billing it per team.
 - Jay showed the final budget which includes the placement tournament goes to one-hundred ninety-two thousand, one-hundred forty dollars (\$192,140.00) as opposed to the roughly seventy-seven thousand dollars (\$77,000.00) last year. This brings the total per team to be one-thousand three-hundred eighty dollars (\$1,380.00) per team to be paid in three (3) instalments of four-hundred sixty dollars (\$460.00) to be billed in August, October, and December.
 - Jay added that the budget for the Battle across the Delaware has been put on hold for now due to the way it was run last year, which was not run by either one (1) of the leagues (DVHL or NJYHL), it was run by a Marketing group. There were teams that were 3-0 and were sent home and organizations in the NJYHL were not happy about it. Jay added that he personally agrees with them but added that they are trying to work out something to make it more amenable to all.
 - Brian Pecca from the Hatfield Ice Hawks added that was something that was on his addenda to discuss once everything gets finalized for this season with MAHA. Brian added that he believes that it would be better to postpone it until the following season.



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- Larry Sechuk added that he is in agreement with Brian and further stated that he does not want to lose the Battle Across the Delaware because he believes that it is a very good thing for the league.
- Jay asked if anyone wanted to put a motion on the floor to adopt the Annual Budget and League fees.
 - Dan Schindler from the Delaware Jr. Blue Hens asked how the placement works if we don't know the teams. Dan went on to state that it seems like we're paying for tournaments that we don't need.
 - Jay stated that it's similar to the premise with regard to how we do playoffs, even if you don't participate, you're still assessed.
 - Dan stated that he feels it hurts smaller clubs stating that some of the clubs that only have two (2) teams across the board whereas some of the larger clubs that have heavier at the bottom will make out better.
 - Jay understands Dan's point and states that it was well taken. Jay went on to state that he put things together based on what the membership wanted.
 - Larry Sechuk added that a survey was sent out.
 - Dan agreed and stated that we all participated in it but did not discuss it afterwards. Dan then asked if anyone feels differently or sees or understands the point.
 - Jay stated that he acknowledges and understands Dan's point but stated that we are a membership driven organization and if the organization wants to proceed that way, then that is how the DVHL will proceed.
 - Dan then asked if we ever discussed the pros and cons of it.
 - Jay stated that it was discussed if we wanted to do it the old way, the new way, or another way.
 - Dan then stated that going forward we should have discussions before we put these surveys out to weigh the pros and cons of it and see everyone's point of view and vote on what they feel is best for the league.
 - Jay stated that we discussed it at the last meeting and Larry backed that up and stated that we did.
 - Motion to adopt Annual Budget and League fees was made by: **Wilmington Nighthawks**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Annual Budget and League fees by: **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Pens**
 - All but the Delaware Jr. Blue Hens were in favor of adopting carried.
- Griffin Helm from the Wilmington Nighthawks asked if his 18AA team would still be participating in the DVHL play-offs due to his organization being the only 18AA team from Delaware.



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- Brian Pecca from the Hatfield Ice Hawks stated that there was a discussion during the meeting he attended regarding 18AA DVHL teams participating in NJYHL playoffs, but the idea got rejected because the NJYHL team's determination in participating in Districts and they did not work out the NJYHL blackout period.
- Jay stated that he will look into Griffin's question and get back to him when he has the answer.
- Jay then addressed the DVHL fee schedule and noted that the only changes on it is clarifying late payment fee for the Annual Assessment and final payment, adding and dropping a team after the schedule is finalized, and including in the league fees set annually for scheduling partners, permanent and associate members.
 - Jay asked if anyone wanted to put a motion on the floor to adopt the League Fees
 - Motion to adopt the League Fees was made by: **Quakers**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the League Fees by: **Delco Phantoms**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the July meeting was made by: **Genesis**
 - The motion seconded by: **All**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Next Meeting:

The August meeting will be via ZOOM on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 7:00pm.