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Delaware Valley Hockey League

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

Represented Member Clubs:

 Campus Wild,  Central Penn Panthers,  Chester County Cougars,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,
 Delco Phantoms,  Delmarva Raptors,  Dynamites,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  Genesis,
 Hatfield Ice Hawks,  Hershey Jr. Bears,  Philadelphia Little Flyers,  Quakers,  Reading Jr. Royals,  Snider Hockey,  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 (Absent)

Members Absent:

NONE

Guests:

Karen Fund and Pete Rothman






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Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **July 18, 2024**, DVHL monthly meeting was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
 - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by:  **Genesis**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the minutes by:  **Delco Phantoms**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **July 31, 2024**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by:  **Campus Wild**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Central Penn Panthers**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Atlantic District Registrar



- Karen Fund
 - Announced that this year, USA Hockey is asking that associations form a board of director's roster. All of the registrars were given the information on how to form the roster, but they need to be provided with a USA Hockey registration number for anyone who makes any type of decision for their particular organization, therefore these individuals need to be screened and be SafeSport trained.
 - Jay Finnigan sent out a template that needs to be given to your program's registrar with everyone's USA Hockey registration numbers on them. The registrar will form the roster and it will be sent to Karen. Karen will then check their screenings and SafeSport and let the organizations know if someone needs to update or do a screening for the first time.
 - Joe DiPierro from Chester County Cougars asked Karen about some of his board members who are on the board, but are more connected with figure skating. Those members are questioning why they need to do this because they have their background checks done through US Figure Skating.
 - Karen explained that USA Hockey looks for different things in their required screenings than other organizations. She was uncertain if US Figure Skating looks for the same things as USA Hockey, but she will look into it and get back to Jay with that



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- answer so that he can pass it along to clubs such as Chester County, who are not just a hockey club, but also a skating club.
- Jarod Champeaux from the Wilmington Nighthawks asked if there was a due date regarding when this information is due.
 - Karen stated that USA Hockey would like it done this year, but has not definitively provided a specific date.
 - Sue Gornich from the Delco Phantoms asked if there are board members who do not make decisions, but just do a specific job; does this also apply to them?
 - Karen stated that they do have to be included on this requirement.
 - Karen then spoke on team requirements for this year. Karen stated that they have changed a few requirements this year. Karen went on to state that one (1) of the requirements is that ALL of the players are properly verified regarding their date of birth and citizenship. A team manager is required to be listed as well as the head coach and a locker room manager. Karen went on to state that the last three (3) requirements can be covered by two (2) people. The head coach and the team manager because the head coach or the team manager can also be the locker room manager. They want this information so they know who to contact if there is a SafeSport claim or a problem with the roster. The other new requirement is when the organization's registrar is forming the rosters, they start the name of the team with the league or leagues. This allows to keep better track of the path to Districts and Nationals to ensure that the correct teams at the end of the year.
 - Jarod Champeaux from the Wilmington Nighthawks asked if the locker room manager needs to be registered with USA Hockey as a volunteer.
 - Karen again stated that if the manager is not a coach or team manager then they need to also have a background screening and SafeSport as well.
 - Joe D'Angelo asked if all of the individuals who have to get screenings and SafeSport need to get the PA Act 15 done as well.
 - Karen stated that if they live in or do volunteer work in Pennsylvania, they do have to get that as well.

Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
 - Nothing to report.



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1st Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
 - Dave announced that as far as the current website goes, we're not really doing much with that right now as Wil is currently working on the new one. Dave did state that he does have the forms up right now. Dave is asking that all of the Code of Conducts be completed as soon as possible; they are due no later than August 31st.
 - Dave also stated that all of the rosters that he has received have to be approved by Karen Fund before he can enter them in GameSheet.
 - Karen Fund stated that they are currently running approximately one (1) day behind on roster approval. Karen added that the reason for the delay is because some registrars are not following the team requirement instructions. Therefore, they put those into a pending file and they notify the registrars and the registrars are informed by a tag that comes back to their registry portal that shows there are issues with the roster and the issues are listed and when the issues are rectified, they are supposed to notify her that the issues have been corrected. Once Karen receives that notification, she will then go and check that the issue has been corrected and approve the roster, they will then have the team ID number so that they can put it into GameSheet.

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Joe announced that the DVHL Mite Jamboree will be the weekend of September 7th and 8th. The schedule will be forthcoming. To ensure that the teams are placed in the appropriate place, there will be a survey conducted, as the DVHL has done in the past. It will be incumbent upon the coaches of those teams to complete the survey. The survey will be posted on the DVHL website, Ice Works website, and Joe will also send it out to all of the organization's presidents. The District is having their Mite Jamboree on September 21st and 22nd at Ice Vault in Wayne, New Jersey. The registration for the District's Mite Jamboree has to be completed by August 25, 2024 and it's on the District website.
 - Larry Sechuck added that Stéphane Charbonneau from Ice Works is planning on having some fun activities and possibly a cookout for the teams to make it more appealing and exciting to all participating. Larry is working on getting some entertainment such as a String Band to come through and play to help create a fun, family friendly environment for the participants and their families.
 - Anthony Lorusso from Ice Works confirmed what Larry just spoke on. Anthony went on to state that he contacted Rob Baer, the Philadelphia



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Flyers Director of Community Relations and asked to possibly have some Alumni players attend the event as well.

Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry announced that he and Jay Finnigan have worked with Dick's Sporting Goods to do a back-to-school event the first weekend after Labor Day, September 6th, 7th, and 8th, they will offer a deep discounts event for that weekend. As soon as Larry gets the bar code and information, he will forward that information to Jay, so that he can disseminate it to all of the organization's presidents as well as Dave Jackson, so he can post it on the website. Larry expressed that the more the barcode gets scanned for the back-to-school event as well as the year long discount coupon, the more support the DVHL gets from Dick's. The barcode is good, anywhere in the United States, so Larry asked that the organizations please impress upon their members, the importance of getting this information out and utilizing the coupon.
 - Larry stated that he has only had a few organizations ask him for helmet stickers. Larry added that he hopes that more will so that we can get the DVHL brand out to everyone within the hockey community. Larry added that the sticker should be placed on the left side on the back of the helmet.
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Vice President Legal Report:



- V.P. Terry Wochok
 - Absent
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President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
 - Jay called on Wil Younger from Central Penn Panthers to talk about what he has been working on.
 - Wil stated that as we all know, we have started to get through the initial research and background information. The DVHL has sent out the information requesting the organization's team's contact information. Wil has sent some information to Jay and Larry regarding the initial club spotlights leading up to opening weekend. They've done a lot of work regarding content on the revised website. Wil anticipates that they will build out the structure of the website withing the next week in hopes of launching the new site by opening weekend or soon



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thereafter. Wil further stated that there is a lot of new content that will be added to the aforementioned website.

- Larry added that Wil has exceeded the expectations that he and Jay had regarding the web site. Larry went on to state that what Wil is doing is going above and beyond.
- Jay asked that all of the organization who have not responded yet, please do so as soon as possible to help get this up and running.
- Jay called on Brian Pecca to give an update on MAHA and the scheduling.
 - Brian stated that they are looking to post a master team list with all of the managers and coaches between the DVHL and the NJYHL for non-league scheduling, especially for the younger and lower levels. Brian asked that you get him that information as soon as possible so he can compile the list.
 - Brian addressed how the standings are going to work. They are still trying to nail that down, they had a Zoom call with Maureen Thompson-Siegal a few weeks ago and they also had a Zoom call with GameSheet, last week. After talking with them, the best way to do this is at 10U AA, we have one (1) DVHL team playing under the NJYHL umbrella, but they are not District and National bound. The District and National bound levels, 12U AA, 14U AA, 16U AA, and 18U AA, the safest and best course in year one (1) of this is ensure that the DVHL and NJYHL paths are separated, so that there is no questioning the legitimacy of our AA levels to Districts and Nationals. What you will see when everything is finalized, you will see on the website, a DVHL standings and you'll see an alliance (MAHA) standing. The alliance (MAHA) standings will show all of the games that have been played, whether it's DVHL vs. DVHL, NJYHL vs. NJYHL, or DVHL vs. NJYHL. The league's standings which will be DVHL or NJYHL, they would be your intraleague standings. Any game involving two (2) DVHL teams will count in the league's standings, they're also going to count in the MAHA standings, but in the end, they want to make sure that path is transparent. The best way to do this after talking with GameSheet is to put it under one (1) umbrella, since the DVHL is already setup and the NJYHL was not, they are basically putting the DVHL and NJYHL under the same umbrella in teams of GameSheet, so they're not the same leagues, they're just under the same umbrella for GameSheet. If you go on the DVHL website, right now, for the standings, you will see the DVHL level selected, but you will also see, if you go to the filters, the NJYHL levels. Brian added that you don't have to worry about them, but you will see them because it's under the same umbrella. You will also see this in reverse if you go on the NJYHL website. This is to ensure that everyone's path is transparent and that there is no questioning what is going on. This is how there are going to set it up for the District and National bound levels.



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That is including the A National level (10U A, 12U A, 14U A) that we are going to be utilizing. They haven't scheduled the cross-over games yet.

- Dave Jackson stated that as far as the DVHL website, they are still working out the framing, some NJYHL teams snuck in, so they are fixing it so that only DVHL teams show in that category. There is also going to be a MAHA page showing the cross-over standings. Those will all be transferred over to the new website.
- Brian added that you will also see the Flyers Youth and Princeton Youth, they are basically going to have two (2) separate teams, but they are the same team because the way to integrate those teams into the DVHL standings is to basically have a Flyers Youth DVHL or Princeton Youth DVHL team and then a regular Flyers Youth and Princeton Youth. The Flyers Youth and Princeton Youth DVHL will be incorporated into the standings, but obviously not be eligible for playoffs.
- Brian then stated that at the A National level, it's going to be the same thing. After the first two (2) weeks of September, after pre-season play that NJYHL is doing, what they are planning to do is to hopefully get the schedule matrixes out first before NJYHL starts scheduling for their intraleague games, so that this way they can get the DVHL teams a head start because our rinks, don't have as many slots to work with at that point.
- Dave added that the Rules and Regulations draft that has been submitted to everyone who is participating in the alliance as well as a cheat sheet so that everyone can understand how it's going back and forth. They plan on using an intraleague suspension sheet so that everything can be tracked. Dave stated that he will be sending out our individual team codes after all of the rosters are in. Dave will also be sending out the code for scoring the games as well.
- Brian added that we are putting all of the DVHL and NJYHL teams under the same umbrella for one (1) GameSheet code, so that way for all of the games, it's going to be the same code.
 - Bob from the Campus Wild asked when the NJYHL is expected to deliver a schedule to us.
 - Brian stated that the NJYHL's first three (3) weeks after Labor Day is their pre-season timeline. Brian again stated that after the first two (2) weeks of September, that NJYHL is pretty much going to know where everyone is going to be, after that second week, the DVHL will be able to put out a Matrix for the cross-over games.



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- Jay introduced Pete Rothman, Atlantic District Vice President of Girls / Woman's Hockey and SafeSport Coordinator.
 - Pete addressed a few things regarding SafeSport. Pete stated that he sent over two (2) different documents. Document number one (1) is basically the rules for SafeSport regarding locker rooms, locker room monitoring, and locker rooms where you have multiple genders on the team. Attached to that document is a locker room policy from USA Hockey that the organization could incorporate as part of their standards.
 - The second is with regard to reporting to the US Center for SafeSport. Under the US Center reporting requirement, if you have any sexual misconduct, you have to ensure that you report this to the US Center within twenty-four (24) hours. In the past the US Center required everyone that knew about the allegation to report it separately and if they didn't the center would sanction those individuals. The Center has since relaxed that.
 - If you have any questions regarding SafeSport violations, Pete welcomed anyone to contact him.
 - Pete stated that a document will be coming out shortly for every organization to sign indicating that they will be following SafeSport. Pete further stated that it is required and that it will be a DocuSign document. This is a requirement from USA Hockey, they will be auditing various different Districts to ensure compliance.
- Jay then invited Jamie DiDomenico from the Campus Wild to speak on the organization he spoke with regarding broadcasting of DVHL games.
 - Jamie spoke to Ari from the company who did the Flyers cup and he gave us a pretty good inaugural offer. Jamie went on to state that he can do each game with one (1) commentator, Live Stream. Ari can set it up so it goes on his YouTube channel or our YouTube channel for one-hundred, fifty dollars (\$150) per game. That would include instant replay for those games as well. Ari can also set it up if we wanted to have one (1) guest appear on the show as a guest commentator. Jamie also talked with Stéphane Charbonneau from Ice Works who stated that he would set it up in rink #3 and we could have Ari there all weekend and try to rotate everyone through as well as have all of the championships on rink #3.
 - Jay asked that Ari or Jamie forward the proposal to him so that he can work it into the budget.

Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the August meeting was made by: **Jay Finnigan**
 - The motion seconded by: **All**



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- All in favor to adopt carried.

Next Meeting:

The August meeting will be via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00pm.