A meeting of the MPA Ice Hockey Committee was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the MPA office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Nason, Rob O’Leary, Susan Pilote, and Robert Riley.

LIAISONS PRESENT: Scott Rousseau, A.J. Kavanaugh, and Mike Keaney.

LIAISON ABSENT: Jamie Belleau.

GUEST: Brian Little, Vice-President, MIHOA.

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Burnham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a MOTION by Pilote/Nason, the AMENDED minutes of January 17, 2019 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: The ice hockey correspondence was reviewed and place on file.

REVIEW OF REGULAR SEASON: The regular season went well but there continues to be a concern about the declining number of girls and boys playing high school hockey.

REVIEW OF CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Ice Hockey Championships were reviewed and discussed. The committee recognized Jason Fuller, Sean Keenan, and Gary Hoyt for their work as site directors and assistant directors at the championships.

COACHES’ REPORT:

Girls’ Hockey: Mr. Rousseau reported the following:

- There is a concern in the immediate future about declining numbers. There seem to be much better numbers in the youth programs.
- Recognized the officials for their efforts to put top officials on many of the girls’ games.

Boys’ Hockey: Mr. Kavanaugh reported the following:

- Boys’ ice hockey is also concerned about the declining numbers at the high school level as more players are now playing on junior teams.
- There is a concern about the “shuffling” of schools on some of the boys’ cooperative teams.
- The boys’ coaches are anxious to see the proposed changes to boys’ ice hockey.

OFFICIALS’ REPORT: Mr. Keaney reported on the following:

- There was a total of 929 games that were covered this past winter, with a total of 2,176 assignments made.
There was over $178,000 paid to ice hockey officials this winter.
The feedback regarding the assignment of officials for the girls’ games was positive.
Mike Keaney will no longer be the President of the MIHOA. He will be replaced by Chris Parsens and Brian Little will now be the Vice-President of the Association. The committee thanked Mr. Keaney for his outstanding work as the president.

REVIEW OF BULLETIN: The 2019-2020 Ice Hockey Bulletin was reviewed and updated.

OTHER: The following items were also discussed:

Classification: The classification proposal that was approved by the membership was reviewed.

Super 6 Proposal: There was a discussion about a Super 6, top six programs in the state, and how that would affect Maine high school hockey. The committee asked that the item be placed on the next agenda.

Mercy Rule: After discussion, it was decided that the changes implemented last season worked well and to leave the rule unchanged.

Committee Openings: The committee discussed the openings available for next year.

Playoff Schedule: After discussion, it was the feeling of the committee that a Southern Maine site for the girls’ regional finals should be explored (PIA, UNE).

Cooperative Team Requests: There was a discussion about the process of applying for a cooperative team and the fact that schools were being “recruited” to change partners.

ELECTION OF CHAIR: On a MOTION by Pilote/Nason and SUPPORTED with a 2-0-1 vote, Bob Riley was elected chair for the 2019-2020 school year.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Ice Hockey Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the MPA office.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by Pilote /Nason, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Burnham
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
7/23/19

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