

ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 20, 2017

Members present: Sal Follo, Dave Harackiewicz, Ken Henrici, Greg Maxey, Drew Pettola, Marty Roos, Tom Neagle (Chair), George Hall (Tournament Director) and Joe Tonelli (CIAC)

The meeting was called to order by Tom Neagle at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes – On a motion by Sal Follo, the minutes of April 4, 2017 were approved.

Tom Neagle confirmed the future meeting dates and announced that the annual coaches and captains meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at CIAC. Pizza will be served at 6:00 p.m. The remaining meetings are: Thursday, March 1 at 12:00 Noon (Penalty Review); Friday, March 2 at 9:00 a.m. (pairings); Thursday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. (hockey and boys basketball press conference at the Sheraton Hartford South in Rocky Hill); Monday, March 19 (division placement) at 3:00 p.m. and Monday, April 9 at 3:00 p.m. (division appeals and the annual review). Please mark your calendars!

Correspondence – There were no formal letters, but George mentioned that he received very positive feedback and sincere thanks from Tom Cross for the honor that was bestowed upon him at the finals.

Old Business – Tom Neagle reviewed and updated the status report. One addition to the report is that the Suffield/Granby/Windsor Locks co-op was added to Division I. On a motion by Dave, the updated version of the status report was approved. Joe Tonelli clarified that the SGWL co-op has requested “opt-out” status, which means they will not participate in the CIAC tournament. The CIAC Co-op Committee meets next week, and if anything changes with the regard to their “opt-out” status, the hockey committee members will be informed. The committee also discussed the co-op numbers, and by unanimous consent, it was decided not to recommend a change to the current numbers. The main reason being that an increase in numbers would make additional stand-alone teams eligible to co-op, and thereby reducing the number of total teams, which could lead to a two (2) division format. The committee will continue to monitor the situation.

New Business – NFHS Rule Changes for 2017-18 – Tom Neagle, a former member of the NFHS rules committee distributed the new rule changes which will be highlighted along with the points of emphasis in the packet. The new rules will be covered by the NIHOA rule interpreters at the coaches and captains meeting on Wednesday, November 15. Lev Torgerson is a member of the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee and has two years left on his term, which is a big plus for Connecticut. He is currently in Indianapolis attending the in-person rule interpreters meeting.

Tournament Sites – George announced that Ingalls Rink will continue to be the site of the 2017-18 semi-final and final games. The quarter-finals at Yale is always a hit or miss thing depending on Yale’s ECAC tournament rankings.

Tournament Dedication – A discussion regarding the tournament dedication took place. George will review his list of nominees. One other worthy individual was recommended for consideration. The committee was encouraged to contact George with other worthy candidates and he will solicit the committee at a later date to make a final selection.

Coaches Association Report – Sal said that plans are under way for their annual CHSCA All Star games and the Hobey Baker award. He also mentioned that new coaches were recently hired by a few schools, and a few other schools have not yet filled their head coaching vacancies.

2017-18 CIAC Tournament Packet – George distributed the draft of the edited version of the packet which saved the committee significant time in the reviewing and editing process. George highlighted some of the additions to the packet such as, but not limited to, adding the specific days and dates that each division will play in the early rounds, committee meeting dates that indicate when the proposed divisions are formulated, the appeal deadline and the date that appeals will be heard. After all the necessary date changes, revisions, additions and deletions were made and discussed, and on a motion by Sal Follo, the 2017-18 CIAC ice hockey tournament packet was approved.

Season Limitations Committee Proposal – Joe Tonelli informed the group that based on the input that was received on the current calendar, the Season Limitations Committee made some recommended adjustments for the 2018-19 school year. The recommendation that affects ice hockey is that the proposed start date for practice will be the Monday after Thanksgiving (November 26, 2018) and the first game date will be the same as girls' basketball and wrestling, which will be December 10, 2018. If all goes well, the proposal will be presented to the CIAC Board of Control in November. If approved, it will be implemented the following year (2018-19). We will keep you posted.

Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next committee function will be the coaches and captains meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Pizza will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The next official meeting of the committee is Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 12:00 Noon.