

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2013

I. Call to order

Simon Hoskins called to order the regular meeting of the USA Field Hockey Club Task Force at 9:00 PM EST on April 2, 2013.

II. Roll call

The following members were present: Brian Bernatchez, Karen Collins, Simon Hoskins, Richard Kentwell, Kathi Liszewski, Emily Thomas and Nigel Traverso, The following members were not present: Wayne Gersoff, Tony Gulotta, Steve Locke. Miki Osherow, Lauren Powley and Barbara Weinberg.

III. Agenda

1) Indoor Qualifier and NIT Review

i) Review survey feedback

- (1) **Playing Surface** – The playing surface in VA Beach was very slick and received a number of comments. The surface was addressed by USFHA after the 1st day of play and there was improvement noted.
- (2) **Court Size** – There were concerns noted that the courts were short and did not have the proper 2 : 1 length to width ratio.
- (3) **Side Boards** – The side boards received positive remarks and had an overall rating of 4.2
- (4) **Umpire Rating** – The majority of the comments received was regarding the level of umpiring.
- (5) **Richmond** – The majority of the comments regarding Richmond was surrounding the parking.
- (6) **VA Beach** – The majority of the comments regarding VA Beach was surrounding the space limitations inside the convention center.

ii) **Qualifier Registration Process** – There are concerns about teams registering for multiple qualifiers and then dropping out after they have selected the “easier” site. It was recommended that the full tournament fee be collected up front to help alleviate this practice.

iii) **Review Qualifier Pool Formation/Tournament Format** – It was recommended that there should be a set format for all qualifiers based on the number of teams at a qualifier. There were many instances where qualifiers with the same number of teams had completely different formats. Also it was recommended that USFHA have control over how the teams are placed in pools. Many club owners feel some of the pools are formatted to benefit the host. The only way this can be transparent is for USFHA to be in charge of the pool formation.

iv) **NIT Champion** – It was suggested that USFHA revamps the format to play to one winner. Nigel suggesting revisiting his proposed format to assist with this.

v) **U14 Qualifier** – The group questioned if there would be a limit to the number of teams a club could enter. This will be addressed as more information is provided regarding the U14 qualifiers to be held in 2014.

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2) Festival

- i) Super Division – It was suggested that there be a super pool for top ranked teams. The group thought this would be good if it gave teams additional spots at festival but not if there was no impact on the number of teams awarded. A club who only gets 1 U19 team and plays in the proposed super pool could have their ranking points skewed because of the increased competition level. It was suggested that teams in the super pool be awarded bonus points to help with the rankings. USFHA said teams cannot be added for 2013 but they would revisit this for 2014. They will review the current pool structure to allow for top pools possibly in the future.

3) AOB

- i) Indoor Rankings – The group wanted to know if there would be indoor rankings. USFHA said they were considering this but no decision had made yet.

IV. Outstanding Business

1. Review items from prior meeting at the beginning of each new meeting so members know what changes if any were made from our recommendations.
2. Any topics submitted by the task force between meetings.

V. Next Meeting

No further meetings schedule

VI. Adjournment

Richard Kentwell adjourned the meeting at 10:15 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Kathi Liszewski

Minutes approved by: *Emily Thomas*