

# USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2013

### **I. Call to order**

Richard Kentwell called to order the regular meeting of the USA Field Hockey Club Task Force at 9:00 PM EST on April 6, 2013.

### **II. Roll call**

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

### **III. Agenda**

#### **1) U-14 NIT**

- i) It was presented to the Task Force that a U-14 NIT would be created for the 2014 year. It will be held at the Nook facility February 21-23 with a max of 120 teams and a max of 5 teams per club. USAFH presented two types of entry processes: Lottery or First come, First serve. It was recommended the lottery entry process be used. There was concern based on the fact that there are no U-14 qualifiers at this time. USAFH feels that the tournament will be the basis for growth of U-14 qualifiers.

#### **2) NCC Wrap-Up**

- i) Review survey feedback (206 respondents, all ratings are on a scale of 1 lowest to 5 highest)
  - (1) **Playing Surface** – respondents gave the pitch surface a 4.7, a positive jump from last year.
  - (2) **Tourney Format** – the tourney format was received well.
  - (3) **Umpire Rating** – respondents gave the level of umpiring a 3.34. Safety concern of umpires was given a 4.05. The Tech Table – a new addition to the event – was given a 4.14.
  - (4) **Location** – respondents gave the location a 4.13, similar rating to last year.
  - (5) **Value** – 53% of respondents saw good value for their participation at NCC.
- ii) Selection opportunity – It was recommended that the NCC be used as a selection opportunity for futures elite and junior national camps and any advanced USAFH offerings.
- iii) Timing of event – the timing of event will stay the same for next year. The NCC window is dictated by college camps/ commercial events, and the lacrosse season.
- iv) Committed Athletes – It was suggested that USAFH research if athletes already committed to a college should be allowed to participate at NCC.

3)

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### 4) Disney Jr. Wrap-Up

- i) Review survey feedback (all ratings are on a scale of 1 lowest to 5 highest)
  - (1) **Tourney Format** – the tourney format received a 4.2. There were concerns that teams did not know the possibility of not playing the 3<sup>rd</sup> day until the schedule came out 2 weeks before the event.
  - (2) **Value** – 68% of respondents saw good value for their participation at Disney Jr, the highest value percentage for all USAFH events.
- ii) Weather Delay Notification – It was recommended to USAFH they make known the weather delay notification system at the Coach/Umpire meeting.
- iii) Lacrosse Horns – there was confusion due to lacrosse horns accidentally stopping and starting field hockey games during the last day of competition. USAFH corrected the issue while at Disney Jr and will bring it up in pre-event meetings for next year so it does not happen again.
- iv) Junior Coaches – It was suggested that USAFH allow coaches under 18 to coach at Disney Jr to support club's efforts in junior coaching programs.

### 5) Event Sanctioning

- i) It was suggested that sanctioned events receive more press and visibility on the website. Sanctioned events should also be categorized to allow for ranking points if the event meets certain standards.

### 6) Club Rankings

- i) U-14 Rankings – The group feels more U-14 events need to be established before this division receives ranking points.
- ii) Indoor Rankings – The group feels indoor events should gain ranking points as long as the NIT pool seeding is re-structured.

## IV. Any Other Business

1. The group wanted an update on the U-14 Festival division. USAFH answered by saying they have 42 teams signed up for the 7v7, half fields, 25 min halves event.
2. The group asked if the indoor game would be classified as a Winter Olympic sport. USAFH answered no that was not the case.
3. Steve Locke gave an update on the Home of Hockey and invited the Task Force to attend the USAFH Board Meeting in August which is open to the public.

## V. Next Meeting

September. Agenda item: U-16 and U-19 NIT pool structure.

## VI. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: Kathi Liszewski

Minutes approved by: *Emily Thomas*