

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2011

I. Call to order

Laura Darling called to order the regular meeting of the USA Field Hockey Club Task Force at 9:15 PM EDT on November 29, 2011.

II. Roll call

Laura Darling conducted a roll call. The following members were present: Brian Bernatchez, Karen Collins, Laura Darling, Tony Gulotta, Simon Hoskins, Richard Kentwell, Kathi Liszewski, Andy Muir, Tina Reinprecht, Nigel Traverso and Larry Zappone. The following members were not present: Lauren Cornthwaite, Karen Klassner and Steve Locke

III. Items Discussed

1. **National Club Championship U14 Division** – The task force discussed the below proposed format for the U14 team selection. USAFH feels that there will not be enough U14 teams to support a Regional Qualifier for this age group. The task force decided the best way to rank the clubs was to solicit the opinion of all current club members through a survey. The suggested questions for the survey are attached to this email. When the survey results are finalized we can reconvene to discuss if we want to go with top 8 based on records and next 8 based on survey or use the survey for all 16 spots. Since the call there has been some back and forth emails about if we should do 7 v 7 instead of 11 v 11 and if we should accept more than 16 teams to promote growth at the younger age division. This can be a topic added to our follow-up discussions. We also discussed the conflict with the ESPN Rise games. Simon said USAFH tried to work something out that the U14 NCC would be held at the Rise Games but Disney could not facilitate this because of the nature of the games including so many other sports. The Rise games may draw some of the clubs away for the 2012 U14 NCC because the Rise Games offers early registration to the February Showcase for attending the Games. Simon did not anticipate this would be a problem after 2012.

Proposed format:

U14 National Club Championship presented by Harrow Sports

- July 11-13
- National Training Center, Virginia Beach, VA
- 16 teams
- 4 pools of 4
- QF, SF, F.
- Elimination

Clubs

- Top 8 Clubs in country
 - determined from U16 record of 2011 and 2010 NCC, Disney, Festival
- 8 open spots
 - one per Futures region, by lottery OR
 - first on internet registration
 - other

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2011

2. **2011 Festival Feedback** – Simon review the current results from the survey, knowing not all participants have yet completed the survey. The lowest rated item on the survey was umpires. USAFH has approved a full time position for Umpire Manager and also approved the hiring of Regional Umpire Managers (using Futures Regions). The majority of feedback received regarding the change of the pools to a geographic mix was positive. The task force also discussed the topic of teams dropping out. All members were in agreement that if a club drops at any time after teams are announce they should not be permitted to attend the event the following year. There was also discussion about unsportsmanlike behavior from coaches. Karen Collins is aware of the situation and it is being addressed.

3. **2012 Qualifier Process** – With the proposed changes from the Task Force how will the additional spots for the NIT be allocated? According to last year we had 10 U16 Qualifiers and selected 20 U16 lottery teams. We had 14 U19 qualifiers (not counting the CA one) and selected 57 U19 lottery teams. **Karen Collins is working on the numbers but said that they anticipate that for the U16 qualifiers the percentage of teams eligible to qualify will increase from 25% to 30% and the percentage of U19 teams eligible to qualify will increase from 25% to 40%. The task force requested these numbers be emailed when finalized. This will leave no lottery spots for the U16 age division and approximately 20 spots for the U19 age division. The task force requested that the only teams eligible for those spots be the next 2 teams from each qualifier, for example if a qualifier takes 5 teams only the 6th and 7th place team can apply for lottery. In addition, there will be 1 or 2 lottery spots available for teams that do not have Qualifiers in their area. The Task Force discussed what would happen in the event of a 16 team qualifier being reduced to 14 teams due to drop outs. KC said the number of teams to qualify would drop. The Task Force was in agreement that this should not happen. The teams in attendance should not be penalized for the teams who drop. The Task Force would also like some form of penalty for the teams who drop, besides loss of money. The additional penalty was not discussed on the call.**

IV. Outstanding Business

1. Submit questions for a Club ranking survey.

V. Next Meeting

No further meetings schedule

VI. Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by: Kathi Liszewski

Minutes approved by: *Laura Darling and Richard Kentwell*