

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 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 February 19, 2013.

II. Roll call

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

III. Agenda

1) Disney review

- i) Review survey feedback – This is overall feedback. The group would like to see future survey results split out by club coaches, officials, participants and college coaches.
 - (1) **Playing Surface** – This received 4.12 out of 5, most seemed satisfied with the playing surface. Members of the task force did not agree with this. The surfaces are not consistent from field to field. The thicker longer fields do not allow players to showcase their skills.
 - (2) **Umpire Rating** – This received 3.5 out of 5, which was up from last year. This was attributed to an increase in umpire managers, less games per umpire and additional training.
 - (3) **Comments** – The majority of the comments were regarding umpiring, parking and cheer noise. USFHA has addressed the cheer concerns with Disney.
- ii) Review Registration Process – There are many concerns over the first come, first serve process of registration. This often results in good teams being left out. Disney is in charge of this part of the event and has pushed back on changing it. They do want to ensure they have quality competition which is why they granted automatic entry to top clubs. The group proposed this be increased to include the top 25 clubs per age group. The group also questioned how many teams were actually turned away. We also suggested limiting the number of teams a club could bring per age group to 2, so a club could bring a maximum of 4 teams. This could open up a few additional spots for other teams. It was suggested the registration process follow the same process as used for Festival but at this time that is not an option as Disney likes the current registration process.
- iii) Review Pool Formation/Tournament Format – The group overall is happy with the format of the tournament but thinks more thought should be placed in the pool formation, including the crossover possibilities. One concern regarding the tournament is the NCAA black out period. Obviously this is out of USFHA's control. One suggestion was to change the tournament to begin on Friday and end on Monday. The same number of days would be missed from school so not sure the impact would be significant to players and would allow coaches to watch ALL games.
- iv) Review Crossover Format – Due to the way pools were created the crossover brackets had a tendency to be very uneven. Either really good teams all together or weaker teams all together. This made it impossible for the best teams to advance to the finals. We requested USFHA not only snake the initial pool formation but do the same with the crossover brackets. Instead of going down the pool list vertically, if they would have went horizontally from the pool list there would have been more even pools for the 2nd round of play.

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2) Annual Membership Survey

- i) Club Rankings – The majority of people who participated in the survey had no opinion on the club rankings. Out of those who did have an opinion, more like the ranking system than didn't like 23% to 14%
- ii) Club Affiliation - The majority of people who participated in the survey had no opinion on the club rankings. Out of those who did have an opinion, more like the ranking system than didn't like 36% to 15%

3) Regional Club Championship

- i) Review Qualifier Format for consistency across regions – It was suggested that USFHA oversee the tournament format so every region uses the same format based on the number of teams entered.
- ii) Clarify Tie-Breaker for allocating any spots not filled by qualifier – To avoid some of the issues from last year, the group wanted clarification on the tie-breaker process for fill open spots. *The remaining spots will be awarded to the highest non qualifier from the RCCs in order of preference by the most number of clubs participating. This will allow for a set waitlist. Tie breaker (if needed) is the USAFH rankings.*

4) Festival Registration Process

- i) Review Registration Process and Timelines – This was sent by Emily Thomas on 2/19/13. The group discussed it and all were ok with the details. I have included a copy of the email at the back of this document.
- ii) Review Penalty for teams dropping out – The group reiterated their concerns with USFHA for teams dropping out at the last minute with little penalty. USFHA assured the group, in addition to loss of the entry fee, they will be enforcing the forfeiture of eligibility for the event the next year.

IV. Outstanding Business

1. Review NIT Qualifier formats from site to site. This will be discussed after NITs.
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 10:45 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Kathi Liszewski

Minutes approved by: *Emily Thomas*

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2013 Festival Registration Process

In 2012 a new registration process was implemented with the primary objective of making the National Hockey Festival accessible to all member athletes and clubs. The transparent procedure allowed all eligible member clubs the opportunity to register a team, while also recognizing larger clubs with more athletes and providing them with the opportunity to register multiple teams. This procedure has been generally well received in our hockey community and by member clubs.

For 2013 USA Field Hockey will adopt the same procedure with these modifications:

- To be eligible for 1 team, current member clubs must have at least 25 affiliated U19 members* by March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm MST.
- To be eligible for 2 teams, current member clubs must have at least 50 affiliated U19 members* by March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm MST.
- To be eligible for 3 teams, current member clubs must have at least 75 affiliated U19 members* by March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm MST.
- To be eligible for 4 teams, current member clubs must have at least 100 affiliated U19 members* by March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm MST.

*Note: a USAFH U19 membership includes U14, U16 and U19 athletes.

On March 14, 2013 eligible clubs will be identified and ranked in order from most to least affiliated U19 members. These clubs will have the opportunity to submit an online application for preference of up to four teams, depending on how many affiliated U19 members they have. The application window will be April 15-19, 2013, and more information will be sent to the eligible clubs at a later date. Once the application window is closed, the team allocation process will start at the very top of the list and flow down according to preferences given by clubs until all U16 and U19 spaces are filled.