

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2011

I. Call to order

Laura Darling called to order the regular meeting of the USA Field Hockey Club Task Force at 8:30 PM EDT on May 17, 2011. Laura reviewed the agenda with the group in an effort to ensure not one item was given too much time so we could get through the majority of them.

II. Roll call

Laura Darling conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Brian Bernatchez, Karen Collins, Lauren Cornthwaite, Laura Darling, Tony Gulotta, Simon Hoskins, Richard Kentwell, Karen Klassner, Kathi Liszewski, Steve Locke, Andy Muir, Tina Reinprecht, Nigel Traverso and Larry Zappone.

III. Items Discussed

1. **Survey Results** – The group seems to be in agreement that a club must be defined to assist in keeping all clubs honest and to promote the growth of the sport. Based on the input of the Task Force the following are requirements of gaining club status.
 - a) **Define a Club** – The group voted 8-1 to accept the proposed definition for our recommendation. There were 2 comments, which are included in the survey results. There was one objection during the meeting to this definition. It was proposed that person send the group any suggested changes to the definition. Nothing has been received at this point.
 - b) **Player Registration** – The group voted 5-4 in favor of one registration period per year. Due to the closeness of this vote it was further discussed and we decided to revote on this issue. The group voted again in favor of one registration period, but this vote resulted in a majority of 7-2 in favor. There were some comments, which have been included in the attached results. The main concern with this issue is players who play for a club that does not participate in both indoor and outdoor.
 - c) **Eligibility** – The group voted 5-4 in favor of mandating a club must have 25 members in the applicable age group to be eligible for a spot in that age group. The group discussed this further and in the interest of promoting the growth of the sport decided to change the minimum to 15 players. We voted on this issue with the change of a 15 player minimum and the group voted unanimously in favor of the new minimum. Any comments were included in the attached survey. The point was added that this minimum would be 15 players in a particular age group, not 15 players total.
 - d) **Legacy** – The group voted unanimously 9-0 that the legacy system should be eliminated. **No further discussion was needed on this issue.**

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- e) **Champions Position/Ceremony** – The group voted 8-1 in favor of eliminating guaranteed entry for pool winners. The group voted unanimously 9-0 that the awards ceremony should continue. **No further discussion was need on this issue.**
 - f) **Age Groups** – The group voted 7-2 in favor of leaving the age groups as is, U16/U19. The only concern raised on this issue was that some members thought this should remain consistent through all USAFH events.
 - g) **Registration Period** – The group voted 5-4 in favor of leaving the registration period in April. The group discussed this further and thought this issue needed further clarification. It was suggested that we have another vote on this issue with the choices being specific months. The group voted again, with the choices being January, February, March or April. The group again voted in favor of leaving the registration period in April. There were 6 votes for April, 1 vote for March and 2 votes for February. Any comments were included in the attached survey results.
 - h) **Pool Structure** – The group voted unanimously 9-0 that the pool structure should change to more of a geographical mixture. **No further discussion was needed on this issue.**
 - i) **Women’s and Co-Ed Division** – The group voted 8-1 in favor of leaving this division as is. **No further discussion was needed on this issue.**
2. **National Club Championship** – The vision and purpose for this event was explained by Simon. The intent of the National Club Championship (NCC) was to provide a platform for elite competition for the youth of the sport. The goal is for this event to follow the international structure more closely than the other events ran by USAFH. The intent it for this to be a High Performance event for clubs. This event will use only top officials, the best playing surface available and will have full games. USAFH hopes this will promote the sport in all areas of the country with additional playing opportunities provided by the NCC qualifying tournaments. In order to make this event successful and to raise the interest level it was decided that the 1st time for this event there would not be qualifying tournaments. The hope is more clubs will work towards the goal of attending this event once they see what the event has to offer. The number of teams was increased for the first year of this event in the hopes that it would improve the opportunity for the best teams to participate. In addition, Harrow is the sponsor of this event. This is a great opportunity for a partnership between Harrow and USAFH. This will be a platform for Harrow to reach out at to different regions at the qualifying events in addition to those that make it to the championship event.

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- a) **Regional Qualifiers** – The group discussed the different options on how to determine which teams should attend which qualifiers to ensure the best teams advance to the NCC. There was much debate on if there should be regional representation or truly the best clubs. There areas of the country where a large majority of the established clubs are concentrated. There is a great likelihood they would attend the same qualifiers, therefore potentially eliminating each other. Some members thought that to promote the growth of the sport there needed to be a club represented from each region. The group has to further discuss if this should be an all-inclusive event that will have representation from each region or if it is truly going to be a high performance event where the best teams advance, even if they are all from the same region. The group is going to review the attached clubs by state document and the current regional breakdown for Futures to further discuss how the regions should be divided. It was also suggested have sectional qualifiers after regional as a further step to ensure the best teams are not left out. **The group will continue this topic at the May 24th meeting.**
- b) **Hosting** – Discuss site requirements and host requirements/benefits (**This topic was not covered and will be moved to the agenda for May 24th.**)
- c) **Age Groups** – Discuss proposed age groups and the addition of a U15 division (**This topic was not covered and will be moved to the agenda for May 24th.**)
- d) **NCC** – Discuss format, number of teams and scheduling (**This topic was not covered and will be moved to the agenda for May 24th.**)

IV. Outstanding Business

1. Finalize outstanding topics from the Festival surveys.
2. Submit proposed changes to the Legacy working document. This cannot be completed until the above has been finalized.
3. The group requested the athlete percentages per region based on the current Futures model. This was going to be provided by USAFH.

V. Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 24th at 8:30 PM EDT

VI. Adjournment

Laura Darling and Richard Kentwell adjourned the meeting at 9:40PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Kathi Liszewski

Minutes approved by: *Simon Hoskins and Richard Kentwell*