

USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

Meeting Minutes

May 31, 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 31, 2011.

II. Roll call

Laura Darling conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: 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. Brian Bernatchez was not present for the meeting

III. Items Discussed

1. **Survey Results** – The below questions were from the survey created after the 5-24 call.

- **Festival Working Document** – A new range for membership requirements for the suggested Festival registration opportunities was voted on. The new range is 15 – 75 members = 1 RO, 76-150 members = 2 ROs and > 151 members = 3 ROs. Obviously these would only apply if space permitted. Another suggestion was made that after the 1st RO the remaining spots be allocated via a lottery. The group decided a vote was needed on this. The Task Force voted in favor of using number of members to determine eligibility by a vote of 7-2. **No further discussion was needed on this issue.**
- **Demand > Available Space** – KC wanted to know what the group thought the procedure should be if during the 1st RO period more clubs apply than there are available spaces. In the interest of time the group was solicited for their thoughts on this topic, the feedback was provided with the agenda.
- **Policy Enforcement and Consequences** – Task Force members felt their needed to be documented enforcement and consequence procedures in place for violations such as clubs who enter USAFH tournament and do not have enough players for the event, clubs who use players that are registered with another club, clubs who use coaches from another club and clubs who make up fictitious names to gain additional teams into USAFH events. In the interest of time the group was solicited for their thoughts on this topic, the feedback was provided with the agenda.
- **National Club Championship** - The group wanted to vote on if a club should be allowed to have more than one team attend a qualifier. The group voted in favor of 1 team per club per age group by a margin of 7-2. **No further discussion was needed on this issue.**

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2. **National Club Championship** – We are still working through the workflow of the event and trying to cover all the logistics to ensure a high performance like event with all regions being represented and all teams having a fair opportunity to attend. We did not get through all the items on the agenda and will continue the discussion on our next call. The group has a few outstanding items we will vote on. That will be sent out in a separate email.

A. **Define the regions** – The groups seems to be in agreement that we will follow the current USAFH regions. USAFH stated they are currently re-evaluating some of the regions and some changes may be forthcoming. When that is completed we will have a final count on the regions and will then be able to determine how many additional space there will be once one team from each region is selected. **Please note this is all athletes U19 and under, this is not inclusive of just club participation and not inclusive of Futures. This is all athletes registered with USAFH regardless of age group. There are only 2 current membership types for age groups, U12 and U19.**

Region	States	# Clubs	# Athlete
1 - Northeast	VT, ME, NH	8	489
2 - Massachusetts	MA	9	834
3 - Atlantic	CT, RI	7	429
4 - New York	NY	17	1,283
5 - Pennsylvania	PA	50	2,956
6 - New Jersey	NJ	20	1,580
7 - Chesapeake	DE, MD, DC	38	2,329
8 - South	VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, AR, MS, LA	28	1,780
9 - Great Lakes	MI, OH, IN, KY, WV, TN	10	1,390
10 - Central	WI, IL, MO, KS, IA, TX, OK, CO, ND, SD, MN, NE	11	991
11 - West	CA, OR, WA, AZ, ID, MT, NM, WY, UT, NV	32	1,079

B. Should the qualifying tournaments lead directly to the NCC tournament or should there be a sectional tournament to ensure the best of the best make it to the NCC? The group decided in certain areas this would be too difficult due to the distance covered by some regions.

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C. **Qualifiers** – The Task Force discussed the format of qualifiers. Length of halves, number of pools and crossovers. Nothing was decided due to the fact the regions are so different one format may not work in all regions.

- **How are teams selected/placed - Open to all teams or based on previous performance?** The group decided this all clubs in good standing should be eligible to enter a team.
- **Will there be a limit on multiple teams from the same club?** Yes, the group decided there should only be one team per club per age division.
- **Will regions with a high interest have multiple qualifiers?** Larger regions may need to be split resulting in multiple qualifiers. Until we know what changes may be made to the regions we do not know how many additional spots there will be. The group tossed around the idea of 1 qualifier per region with regions having larger enrollment qualifying more than 1 team. This is an item we need to vote on with the next survey.
- **Will regions be combined if there are not enough teams to hold a qualifier?** Since we are trying to gain regional representation the group would like to see a qualifier in each region but does think minimums are necessary.
- **What is the minimum and maximum number of teams per qualifier?** The group discussed the idea of a minimum and a maximum number. Because some of the regions have a small number of clubs it was discussed that the minimum be somewhere around 3 or 4. The idea was also tossed around that teams with low numbers or great distances to travel meet in the middle. Nothing was finalized regarding either. The group discussed maximums and felt maximums should not be imposed because we want all clubs to have the opportunity to qualify. The only problem this may present is if the site cannot handle the number of teams registered.
- **Will the number of teams advancing from a qualifier depend on the number of teams entered and if so what is the ratio?** This was discussed and in certain regions more than one team may advance due to the number of teams and the number of spaces allocated to that region.
- **When should qualifiers be held?** This was discussed, we went through the different possible time periods between Jan-June and there were several conflicts with most timeframes. It was determined that the beginning of June would be the best time for qualifiers to be held. The concerns with this is those requiring air travel would have very limited time to make plans. It was brought up that this same situation occurs with NITs and is manageable.
- **What type of playing surface should be used?**
- **Will there be a requirement for top level umpires?**

D. National Club Championship

- **How many teams should qualify?**
- **How will the number of teams from each Region calculated?**
- **What type of playing surface should be used?**
- **How will pools be assigned to ensure equality?**
- **Will the roster have to be the same as at qualifiers?**

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E. Bid Process for Hosting Qualifiers - how is this handled if using multiple sites in an area - ie Temple, Drexel, Ursinus, West Chester. There are not many sites with enough turf that can accommodate full field play for a 16 team qualifying tournament

F. Age Groups - U15, U17, U19 or U14, U16, U19

IV. Outstanding Business

1. Complete Survey regarding new questions related to the NCC.
2. Submit proposed changes to the Legacy working document.
3. Finish working through the above NCC topics.

V. Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 7th 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: *Laura Darling and Richard Kentwell*