

# USA Field Hockey Club Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2012

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

Simon Hoskins called to order the regular meeting of the USA Field Hockey Club Task Force at 9:00 PM EDT on September 25, 2012.

### **II. Roll call**

The following members were present: Brian Bernatchez, Karen Collins, Wayne Gersoff, Steve Horgan, Simon Hoskins, Richard Kentwell, Kathi Liszewski, Steve Locke, Miki Osherow, Lauren Powley, Emily Thomas, Nigel Traverso, Barbara Weinberg.

### **III. Agenda**

1. **Introduce mission of CATF and key principles** – The purpose of the task force is to provide guidance to USA Field Hockey on any and all issues brought forward during our meetings. The task force is also a resource for member clubs to facilitate the discussion of club issues and concerns with USA Field Hockey.

2. **Introduction of members** – The club members of the task force are as follows:

Brian Bernatchez, Maine Majestix, ME  
Wayne Gersoff, Denver Field Hockey Club, CO  
Richard Kentwell, W C Eagles, PA (Chairman)  
Kathi Liszewski, South Jersey Edge, NJ (Secretary)

Miki Osherow, Charlotte Field Hockey Club, NC  
Lauren Powley, Kapow Hockey Klub, PA  
Nigel Traverso, Jersey Intensity Field Hockey, NY  
Barbara Weinberg, Freedom HKY, MD

3. **Umpiring** – USAFH is aware that this continues to be an area of needed improvement. There are many umpires who only work at the high school level and are members of the NFHS but do not join USAFH. There is a hope to get those umpires to do both to increase the pool to choose from. USAFH and Steve are working together and with other umpire managers to continually improve the level of umpiring. There are a few areas of improvement currently being reviewed, including radios and wireless devices, the use of table umpires and on field training. Table umpires were used at the NCC and worked very well. This is not something that will be feasible at larger events but is being looked into. They are looking into using radios on the field at Festival. They are also looking into using on field training at Festival.

A. **Umpire Training Opportunities....on field** – We discussed the possibility of using Festival as a training opportunity for newer officials. Steve said the plan would be to pair a newer official with an experienced official. The group expressed concerns over this, especially on games that could decide the pool. We discussed ways to ensure newer officials would not be placed on such games. We discussed one of the ways was to use the current club rankings to assign officials. For example, if there were teams playing that were 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in the rankings system this would be considered a higher level game. We also discussed evaluating the standings after the first day of play. When teams at the top of the pool are playing each other we felt there should not be any training taking place.

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- B. **Players Umpiring** – Steve asked that we encourage our players to consider umpiring. The players who are currently playing the game could bring a wealth of knowledge with the current rules and also in many cases a higher level of fitness. In addition, at some point many of the older, more experienced officials will retire, we need to ensure we have plenty of qualified officials to fill those openings.
- C. **USA Field Hockey Code of Conduct** – USAFH will remind all coaches and team personnel that there is a code of conduct for all members participating in tournaments ran by USAFH. This code of conduct will be enforced at all events.
4. **Festival 2012** – USAFH wanted to review how we would like to proceed with pools for festival. Last year we went with a regional distribution of teams. The majority of the group wanted to remain with a regional mix of teams but also using the club rankings in some way. The group discussed distributing the teams throughout the pools by their rank. This would ensure that all the top teams were not in one pool giving them a greater opportunity to win their pool. Since we are using points from all the events for rankings it would not be fair if the 3 top teams had to play each other because only one would receive the maximum point value. By mixing things up it also gives the newer clubs a chance to come to the top of their pool to gain points and move up in the rankings. There were 2 options discussed on assigning teams to the pools. Both options were splitting the teams over pools, for example team 1 in pool A, team 2 in pool B, team 3 in pool C and so on. The differences were once all pools had one team how to go back through the list. One option was to start again with pool A, for example if there were 10 pools, team 11, 21, 31, etc... would be in pool A. The other option would be after 1-10 are assigned go back up from the bottom, for example pool A would have team 1, 20, 21, 40, 41, etc.... The group was fine with either option as long as teams from the same region were kept in different pools whenever possible. The group was in agreement they liked the idea of playing teams they don't normally play at an event like Festival.
5. **RCC and NCC** – To ensure that the problems encountered during the 2012 RCC and NCC, USAFH wanted to review the policies on how many teams are entered in the RCC and how many spots are awarded for NCC. Regions have been combined in hopes to solve the problem of not enough teams to host a qualifier.

### A. Proposed Regional Club Championship model

1. 6 RCCs (Regions: 1-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-11)
2. Bid material will be made available by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Bids due November 1<sup>st</sup>. USA Field Hockey will select the best bid for RCC by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Qualification to NCC
  - For RCCs with 1-4 clubs participating, 1 NCC spot awarded.
  - For RCCs with 5-16 clubs participating 2 NCC spots awarded.
  - That provides for a max of 12 clubs going to NCC. The remaining 4 clubs (could be more, up to 10) would be awarded to the highest non qualifier from the RCCs in order of preference by the most number of clubs participating. This would allow for a set waitlist. **A tie-breaker needs to be determined for the remaining clubs, just in case.**
4. RCCs must be held within a set period. **The group agreed, by May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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5. RCC rosters and NCC rosters must stay the same. The group was split on this issue. The group felt a larger RCC roster would allow provide a club with more options for NCC and would limit problems with fielding a team for NCC in the event of conflicts. The group also felt a date should be set on membership. Players cannot be on the roster if they have not been a member of that club for a certain period of time. That period of time to be determined.
6. On March 1, 2013 USA Field Hockey will pull a list of club's affiliated U19 members. The majority of where your affiliated U19 members reside will determine in what region's RCC you will participate. Individual cases may be brought to the attention of USA Field Hockey and we reserve the right to make exceptions based on case.

### **B. Proposed National Club Championship model – We did not get to this agenda item. This will be discussed at our next meeting.**

1. NCC will take place at the NTC, Virginia Beach, VA on these dates:
  - U14: July 10-12
  - U16: July 13-15
  - U19: July 16-18
2. U14 NCC participant clubs will be based on how many affiliated U14 athletes a club has – to recognize the commitment of a club to youth development. Clubs may submit their interest by March 1, 2013. USA Field Hockey will pull a report of the interested clubs' affiliated members age 13 and under (on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013). From that report, the club with the highest number in each of the 11 regions will be given a U14 spot, USA Field Hockey will go back to top of list and award from top down the remaining 5 spots, and also provide for a waitlist.
3. If a club is awarded at spot at the NCC after winning at the RCC, and pulls out of the tournament, that club forfeits the eligibility to enter in a 2014 RCC therefore forfeiting the eligibility to be in the 2014 NCC.
4. At NCC, only places 1 through 8 will be played out for ranking points. Thus some clubs will only play 3 games and some will play 6 games. ← discussion still needed on this.

### **IV. Outstanding Business**

1. Review the proposed NCC Model.
2. Review the proposed U14 NIT entry process
3. Review the current Disney Registration Process. This will be tabled until after Disney.
4. Review and possibly change the number of players required to enter a team into Festival.
5. 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*