



NSPAHA BOARD EXPLORES GIRLS CO-OP PROGRAM WITH TARTAN

To address various shared concerns and enhance the experience offered to girl players, the NSPAHA board has been exploring the pros and cons of entering into a co-op relationship with Tartan at the 10U, 12U and 14U girls levels for the coming season and beyond.

Currently, the driving force is a common interest between the two associations to address the problem of disparate ability levels within age groups (such that in a given year a number of "A"-caliber skaters are forced to play on a "B" team or vice versa). A related issue is the problem of having more than the desirable number of skaters to field a single team, but not enough skaters to field two teams. By "combining forces," the two associations would have no trouble jointly fielding an "A" team and at least one "B" team every year at the 10U and 12U levels (together with one or more 14U teams).

While the immediate issues driving the co-op discussion are those mentioned above, a more troubling issue is also on the horizon. Looking at the declining number of Mite-aged girls skating in our association, our association may be needing to go to a co-op model in order to even field a 10U team in a couple of years. Meanwhile, Tartan's numbers at the younger ages are quite strong and will hopefully allow for two co-op teams at each age level for a number of years to come.

Although there is enthusiastic support in both associations for adopting a co-op program, no decisions have been made. At present, task forces in each association are meeting to try to anticipate all of the changes that will have to be made to accommodate a co-op arrangement. Tim Cole is the chairperson of the NSPAHA task force. Other NSPAHA board members on the task force are Peter Koller, Jim Krings and Dennis Greeley.

The NSPAHA task force will be presenting the issue to the NSPAHA board at the July Board Meeting -- at 8:30 p.m. on July 11, 2006 at the North Saint Paul American Legion Club. Interested NSPAHA members are welcome to attend and are particularly encouraged to contact task force members in advance of that meeting with any questions or concerns that they may have.

Perhaps the NSPAHA board will ultimately conclude that a co-op program is not feasible or is not in the best interest of NSPAHA skaters. Perhaps the Tartan board will reverse course and conclude that it is no longer interested in a co-op program. Perhaps District 2 (which has the final say in whether to permit a co-op) will not authorize a co-op program. Nevertheless, in the interest of providing as many girls as possible with the opportunity to skate at a level where they can contribute and develop, it is the consensus of the boards of both associations that the co-op concept is one that should at least be seriously explored.

**North St. Paul Area Hockey Association
May 10, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 8:33 p.m., Wednesday May 10, 2006 @ the North St. Paul American Legion

Roll Call: Absent: Frank Helseth, Tim Cole, Jim Krings, Leisa Jefferson

Officers' Reports:

Secretary (Tony Giunta)

- A motion was made/seconded (Dennis Greeley/Pete Donovan) to approve the March meeting minutes as printed. Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made/seconded (David Epland/Dennis Greeley) to approve the April 26, 2006 Special Board Meeting to approve coaches minutes as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

President (Peter Koller)

- Peter announced that board assignments and committee assignments would be provided later in the meeting.

1st Vice President (David Epland)

- David stressed to the returning board members and the new board members that we continue to work as a team. We are a good volunteer organization, and with good communication and dedication we will have a very successful year.

2nd Vice President/D2 Representative

- Absent, no report.

Treasurer (Gary Stadler)

- Gary reported an \$8,845.00 loss, but this was expected, due to all the money we spent on player development. We are in good financial standing as an association.
- A motion was made/seconded (David Epland/Steve Czech) to approve the May treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Forum:

- No none-board members present.

Directors' reports:

Ice Scheduler

- Tony Giunta reported that all the contract information was submitted to Ramsey County Parks and Recreation for the upcoming season. We are waiting on District 622 allocations to us.

Player/Coach Development (Steve Czech)

- The clinic that Scott Steffen will be running at Tartan for NSPAHA Squirt/10U, Pee Wee/12U, and Bantam/14U players is filling up very well.
- A motion was made/seconded (Steve Czech/Dewey Bergland) that NSPAHA subsidize \$100 Acceleration Minnesota costs for any squirt/10U and above association member for the summer program if Acceleration Minnesota gives us the same deal as last year. This would have a \$2,000 cap. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made/seconded (Steve Czech/Dennis Greeley) that NSPAHA subsidize \$100 any association member (squirt/10U and above) for Goalie Camp fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- April Board Elections:
 - A new board was elected on April 12, 2006 at the NSP American Legion.
- Spring League:
 - Jeff provided an email status report to Peter Koller on Spring League:
 - Bottom line, about a \$19,000 profit was made on the Spring League. It was noted that Jeff did a great job pulling the Spring League together.

New Business

- Peter distributed a document with board assignments and tentative committee assignments. There was some discussion and explanation about the positions and committees. A copy of the board assignments is attached.
- There was some discussion about a Girls co-op task force committee. There have been very preliminary discussions with the Tartan Area Youth Hockey Association about the possibility of combining some girls' teams to address shared concerns of both associations.
- There was discussion about Fund Raising following up with past contributors for silent auction items. Other ideas discussed were team sponsors, booster club, charitable gambling.
- Possible changes to how merchandise is handled were briefly discussed. Merchandise committee will look into this issue.
- Tasks for other committees were briefly discussed. Peter indicated that he would follow up with committee chairs via email.
- We need to reconstitute the Rules Committee this summer, and have any changes completed by August.
- Brad Martinson at Polar would like NSPAHA's help selling three open advertising spots at Polar.

June's Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at 8:30 p.m., at the NSP American Legion.

A motion was made/seconded (Dennis Greeley/Dewey Bergland) to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tony Giunta
Secretary, NSPAHA



NSPAHA Board Assignments 2006-2007

President	Peter Koller
First Vice Pres.	David Epland
Second Vice Pres.	Tim Cole
Treasurer	Frank Helseth
Secretary	Tony Giunta
Registration	Kelly Starr
Ice Director	Leisa Jefferson
Equipment	Steve Kalias
Ways & Means	Pete Orme
Volunteers	Denay DeMars
Publicity/Spring League	Tom Kline
Tournaments	Chris Tretsven
Player/Coach Dev./ACE	Steve Czech
Bantam/14U/Girl's Coordinator	Jim Krings
Peewee/12U*	Dewey Berglund
Squirt/10U/Jr. Gold	Josh Mortenson
Adv. Mite/HEP	Dennis Greeley
Initiation/Boy's Coordinator	Pete Donovan
Senior Advisor	Rich Hellquist

* Dewey Berglund will also serve as the D2 Peewee Coordinator.

NSPAHA
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To the family of -

www.nsphockey.org NSPAHA North St. Paul Hockey Polar Pride is a monthly news publication serving the needs of North St. Paul and the surrounding communities. To submit an article, team summary, player profiles and any other misc. info contact your team manager and have it posted to the website.