



Mason Dixon Collegiate Hockey Association

July 23, 2011 - 11:00AM

SUMMER MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: *American, Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Johns Hopkins, Mount Saint Mary's, Penn State-Harrisburg, Wesley*

1) Contact information sheet

- *A contact list was circulated for each club to list their applicable contact information (name, e-mail, and phone numbers). Fr. Jim will consolidate this information and update our "Google Group" listing.*

2) Review and acceptance of 3 teams

- *Three teams were in attendance at the meeting that were petitioning the league for probationary acceptance. A representative for each team gave a brief presentation as to why they should be accepted.*
 - a. **Wesley** *"re-applied" for the 2011-12 season after failing to make full status during last year's probationary season. Amanda Kinkade, Coordinator for Intramural Sports & Recreation at Wesley, gave a presentation that highlighted their program's changes that addressed the league's concerns last year. The club is under the direction of a new head coach, Dan Hebert. Joining Coach Hebert will be returning Strength and Conditioning Coach, Ray Phillips. Ms. Kinkade stated that there were several players who intended to return to the program. That, coupled with new players, will give Wesley a unique opportunity to re-establish itself as a viable team in the Mason Dixon League.*
 - b. **Franklin & Marshall** *was represented by Ray Ferry. Ray has a very strong background in playing and coaching hockey. He is also the proprietor of the Regency Sportsrink in Lancaster, PA. Ray is currently coaching the Franklin & Marshall team and decided during this past off-season, that the Mason Dixon League would be a good fit for his program.*
 - c. **PSU-Harrisburg**. *Unlike Wesley and F&M, PSU is applying for membership without any previous participation in ACHA competition. The team was recently formed by on-campus students who had a desire to compete. They currently play in a "Men's League" program at the Klick-Lewis Rink in Palmyra, PA. The team has just recently acquired a coach, and is being organized by Club President Kevin West. Unfortunately, Kevin could not attend the meeting due to a previous commitment, but player Alex Shuey was in attendance and fielded the question and answer session. Alex is confident in their ability to have sufficient ice slots, and is also confident that their school administration will be instrumental to the success of the program. Alex stated that the club already has secured an "advisor", Julie Stoehr, who is the Intramural Sports Director at PSU-Harrisburg.*
- *Following each school's presentation, the three applying teams were asked to leave the meeting room. The remaining members discussed the presentations. There were some concerns over PSU being brand new to the process, but it was agreed that Dickinson Coach Tom Wolfe will assist the players in the process, and that Fr. Jim Donohue will include Julie Stoehr in the league's communications until they are up and running.*

- A **unanimous vote was given to accept all three schools** as probationary programs for the 2011-12 season.

3) **League Officers**

- Fr. Jim Donohue discussed the fact that our league does not currently have a Commissioner. During the spring meeting this past February, former Commissioner Mike Hinkle resigned his post. In his absence, Fr. Jim and Tom Wolfe have been taking care of any issues that have arisen. Both Fr. Jim and Tom have agreed to continue to act in this capacity while a search continues for a full time commissioner. Tom pointed out that both he and Fr. Jim would recuse themselves from making any rulings that would affect their respective schools. To aid in the process, Ray Phillips (Wesley) volunteered to be a "3rd voice" in the event of any disagreements or situations.
- Fr. Jim made a plea for coaches to be on their best behavior. The majority of problems that required intervention by the Commissioner's office last year were the result of coaches. Coaches should be role models for the young men and women that we are coaching.
- Fr. Jim will remain in the capacity of league treasurer. Fr. Jim currently has the league's financial accounts run through Mount St. Mary's school for greater accountability. He has agreed to continue this process. Fr. Jim noted that fees paid to the Mason Dixon League should be made out to "Mount Saint Mary's University".

4) **Website: Eric Esser (\$500)**

- During the 2010-11 season, Eric Esser (head coach of Gettysburg) operated the Mason Dixon League's web site. It was agreed that Eric did a great job on the web site last year. However, Eric is now coaching a Gettysburg team that will participate in D-II action. Fr. Jim spoke with Eric regarding the web site and subsequently brokered a deal that will have Eric continue to run our league's D-III web site during the 2011-12 season for a one time fee of \$500. Eric has requested that each team inputs their scores and stats into the ACHA web site by Monday afternoon, following weekend games, so he has the information available to post to the Mason Dixon League site. <http://www.mdchahockey.com/>

5) **League Fees**

- The following financial report was given by Treasurer Fr. Jim Donohue:
 - Current balance: \$821.93
 - Cost of playoffs 2010-2011: \$1,500 (refs) + \$2,726 (rink) = \$4,226 (total)
 - Playoffs: + \$328
 - Scoresheets (\$55) trophies (\$100) website (\$500) = \$655
 - \$4,226 + \$655 = \$4881
 - 8 teams x \$550 = \$4,400
 - 8 teams x \$575 = \$4,600
- Following the report, Fr. Jim stated that while we have a current balance, that we are cutting into it pretty well, and that if we kept the fees at \$550 per team, we would be approximately \$481 dollars short (requiring us to use over half our balance).
- Tom Wolfe motioned that the team fees be increased to \$575 per team in order to maintain a reasonable balance in the event it is needed. Ray Phillips seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

6) Scheduling

- *Fr. Jim gave the following proposal for scheduling the 2011-12 season. The proposal consisted of two options. One, play each team twice for a total of 14 league games. Or two, continue with a "home & away" in your home division, and then a single game in the other division against each school for a total of 10 games.*
- *After each team voiced their opinion, a vote was taken and it was determined that the league would continue to use a 10-game schedule (being: home and away against division teams with 1 game against other division = 10 games)*
- Divisions are to be:
 - i. North: Gettysburg, Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, and PSU-Harrisburg
 - ii. South: American, Johns Hopkins, Mount St. Mary's, and Wesley
- Date for playoffs
- *The playoff dates were discussed for either 2/10-12, or 2/17-19. After discussion, it was determined that this year's playoff weekend will be 2/10-12.*
- *Several comments were made that last year's location (Hershey Park Arena) was very accommodating. In addition to being fairly centered for most schools, the lodging and local attractions made it more pleasant. A discussion ensued concerning this season's location, and Dickinson Coach Tom Wolfe volunteered to contact Hershey Park to see if they had the 2/10-12 dates open to have it there again this year. More information will follow on this after Tom has the opportunity to follow up with Hershey Entertainment.*

7) Referees

- *Each club is responsible for contacting their own area's "Referee in Chief" to schedule their games. It was pointed out that for two of our new teams (F&M and PSU-Harrisburg), that Ron Goodman would be the person to contact.*

8) Paperwork and Forms

- *It was reviewed that each club will be responsible for submitting their rosters, registrar information, application, and payments individually. The schedule for these deadlines will be available on the ACHA web site at: http://achahockey.org/page.php?page_id=4527*
- *Tom Wolfe informed the clubs that part of the ACHA fees include the registration of each player/coach in USA Hockey. Individual registration into USA Hockey is not required.*
- *F&M Coach Ray Ferry (past USA Hockey Board Member) educated the attendees on the purpose of USA Hockey in regards to insurance. The insurance is intended for "catastrophic" events, and is not intended for minor injuries and/or accidents.*
- *Note: Teams are encouraged to call Fr. Jim or Tom Wolfe with any questions/concerns during this process.*
- *Fr. Jim announced that the Mason Dixon League fee of \$575 per club is due no later than November 30th, 2011.*

9) Other agenda items

- *Ray Phillips – Announced that the ACHA D-III program might be analyzing a requirement to implement a 4-man referee system. It is currently being looked at in the D-II division.*
- *Ray Phillips – Discussed HECC certifications on helmets. Referees are to be more cognizant of helmets that are not certified in order to reduce concussions and head injuries. (refer to: <http://www.hecc.net/>)*
- *Ray Ferry – Stated EMTs are not required during games, but are good to have at games.*
- *The “tie breaker” issue was brought up for our league’s playoffs after last year’s situation between Mount St. Marys and Dickinson. The consensus was that this was not likely to happen again, and that if it does, it will be handled in a gentlemen’s fashion as it was last year.*
- *Individual game tie breaker procedures were discussed. The by-laws are clear in this matter and were implemented to reduce and/or eliminate ties. Tom Wolfe volunteered to author an e-mail which will be sent to each team’s “referee in chief” that explains how ties should be handled. Tom asked that each club sends the name of their area referee in chief to him (wolfe@dickinsoncollegehockey.com) so that the information can be sent out.*
- *There was a discussion on last year’s rule changes (i.e. icing, delayed penalties). These, as well as other changes should be communicated through the ACHA web page. Each team should ensure that they stay up to date with any changes.*
- *It was agreed that home teams are to wear WHITE jerseys for the 2011-12 season.*
- *A brief discussion was held concerning the lack of appropriate facilities at John Hopkins home rink (visitor’s locker room is not large enough for a team. Showers are shared with the home team in the home team’s locker room). The Hopkins rep said that other venues have been looked at, but that they need to stick to a municipal rink and that they are basically locked into their current location.*
- *The subject of ice cuts was discussed. While the current by-laws state that ice is to be cut between the 2nd and 3rd periods, the “hosting” rink will have the option of providing an additional ice cut after the 1st period if there is sufficient time to still have a full game without shortening periods, etc.*
- *A directive was issued whereby the “home” team for each league game is to e-mail the “Google Group” list each game’s score. This will allow each team to know their standings ahead of the web site posting.*
- *A motion was made by Tom Wolfe to change the structure of playoff bids from having the top 3 teams in each division getting an automatic bid, to having the top 2 teams in each division receive an automatic bid and then award the 5th and 6th bids based on overall records. This would truly place the best 6 teams in the playoffs and would prohibit clubs from being “penalized” for being in a stronger division since each team plays each team in their own division twice, but only once in the other division. The motion was seconded and put to a vote. The motion failed for lack of a majority as the vote was 4 in favor and 4 against.*

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Wolfe