



## **USA Hockey Congress - Colorado Springs June 3 – 7, 2009**

The Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA) Affiliate was well represented at the USA Hockey Annual Congress in Colorado Springs with Affiliate Directors John Coleman, Linda Jondo, Bob Otte, Don Gensler, Brad Surdam, Paul Duquette and Chris Dernetz attending. Also at the Congress from our area were Tom Lenz - District Director, Beth Lenz - Associate Registrar and Ty Newberry - District Coach in Chief.

USA Hockey Awards - Long time area official John Robinson received the Chet Stewart Award at the USA Hockey Awards dinner on Friday night. The Chet Stewart Award was established in 2000 to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the USA Hockey Officiating Education Program during many years of service to the hockey community as an official and volunteer. Look for photos of John on both the USA Hockey and Affiliate web page in the near future.

Registration Issues - The Affiliate did fairly well for registration for the 2008/09 season. Despite a shortened registration season the Affiliate was up 254 players. The Affiliate player numbers for the 2008/09 season was 14,146. The end of season player number for the 2007/08 season was 13,892. Based on a report that I received from Bob Otte before the Congress our Affiliate 8 & under registration numbers were up by 145 over last year and the 10 & under registration numbers were up 68 over the numbers from last year. Our Affiliate female registration was 1478 for the 2008/09 season, up 39 over last season

SE District 2008/09 player registration numbers dropped somewhat over last year's numbers. 2008/09 - 38,015 players, 2007/08 end of season player registration - 38,990.

The USA Hockey player registration numbers for 2008/09 were down by 2,227 (0.5%) over last year. With the shortened registration year and the economy the USA Hockey leadership felt that the total numbers for 2008/09 were good. The Southeast District leads all other districts in online registration with effectively 100% online registration.

Game counts for national bound teams will begin on August 1st.

Our District Associate Registrars will no longer require player signatures on rosters. This will allow local program registrars to email PDF rosters to the Affiliate Associate registers. The Associate registrar will then date/certify the roster and return back to the local association registrar. That should save postage expense for local associations. I assume that leagues can still require rosters with player signatures if they want the signatures. Local associations can check with Beth and Bob on that point.

Playing Rules - While there was much discussion and debate on playing rules the changes adopted were not significant.

- elimination of shorthanded icing was defeated
- the various proposals for tag up at youth age classifications were defeated
- Rule 613(fisticuffs) was amended to add a game misconduct for removing a helmet/facemask prior to or during an altercation. This Rule will not apply to adults and it is my understanding that it does not apply to Juniors since they are covered by a different rule book

- Rule 403 and 405 were amended to provide that when a player receives a non coincidental major or match and is ejected from the game that player does not have to be immediately replaced on the penalty bench by another player from his team. The penalized team may put a player on the penalty bench at a stoppage in play near the end of the major penalty. If the team is unable to place a player on the penalty bench before the expiration of the penalty they will continue to play shorthanded until the next stoppage in play. The replacement for the penalized player may only enter the game from the penalty bench and a violation of that rule would result in a bench minor for illegal substitution. The application of this rule should be fun.
- the head butting rule was moved from rule 603 to the head contact rule 616.

Growing Hockey - Growing hockey at the 4-8 year old age level is being emphasized by USA Hockey. Kevin Erlenbach is the Manager in the Program Services Department that handles the SE District. Kevin's phone number is 719-538-1119, email [kevine@usahockey.com](mailto:kevine@usahockey.com). In discussions on Growing Hockey they emphasized both growth and retention of our players. The Program Services Department is working marketing ideas for rinks and programs to bring new players into the game. Kevin can be a source of information for programs that are trying to add new 4-8 year old players. The Program Services Department will be adding information to their USA Hockey Web page section at [www.usahockey.com/programservices](http://www.usahockey.com/programservices). That section of the web page has just been started and is limited at this point. Kevin indicated that they will be putting more information on the web page during the summer. They will be adding a link to marketing firm that USA Hockey has been working with. For a fee associations and rinks will be able to obtain zip code mailing lists of families with children in specific birth years and income levels that they could use for direct mailing programs to introduce hockey to new players.

Hockey Weekend Across America will be January 29-31, 2010

American Development Model - The American Development Model continues to be emphasized by USA Hockey leadership. While the ADM is a separate program from the Growing Hockey Program they are tied together. At the January meeting there was much discussion and questions on the High Performance Clubs. There was limited discussion of the HPC at the Annual Congress. Two ADM Regional Managers have been appointed and additional ADM Regional Managers will be hired by USA Hockey. Some of the phrases that Ken Martel uses when discussing ADM were:

- change in culture
- work in progress
- guidelines, not mandates
- recommended best practices

An ADM power point is located at

[http://www.usahockey.com/uploadedFiles/USAHockey/ADM/Menu\\_ADM\\_Materials/ADM%20Presentation\\_Web.pdf](http://www.usahockey.com/uploadedFiles/USAHockey/ADM/Menu_ADM_Materials/ADM%20Presentation_Web.pdf)

The ADM section of the USA Hockey web page is <http://www.usahockey.com/adm/>

USA Hockey is working on more specific information for the various age classifications and they anticipate sending out a package to each youth association over the summer re ADM.

High School - Much of the discussion re high school was on the High School National Championship tournaments.

- High School Prep National Tournament March 12-14, 2010 Location TBD
- High School Varsity National Championship - April 14-18, 2010, Bensenville, IL

A short answer to the difference between varsity and prep high school tournaments is that varsity is community based and prep would be boarding schools and non community based high school teams. PVAHA high school teams would fall into the varsity based teams. The Girls Section elected not to participate in any High School National Championships for 2010. Rules on player and team game counts were not clarified at the Annual Congress and I suspect that there will be further clarification on this issue

before the tournaments. It is my understanding that a player can be rostered on both a Youth National Tournament team and a High School National Tournament team.

When the original proposal was made to start a High School National Championship it was to replace the Chicago Showcase event. The High School Showcase will apparently live on and be held April 14-18, 2010 in Pittsburgh. The high school section chair indicated that he wants to keep the High School Showcase in Pittsburgh for 2 years and then move it around the country. It was not clear to me if the high school section was trying to have the high school showcase event become a USA Hockey event. The Chicago Showcase has always been run by AHAI rather than USA Hockey. Our affiliate has not participated in the Chicago Showcase event for several years.

There is a date in the fall that affiliates/states must indicate an interest in participating in the High School National Tournament. The High School Section is looking to the Affiliates/States to determine how teams advance to this tournament. The Affiliate will look to the 2 high school leagues to a) determine if that state participates in the High School National Championship and b) determine the team that advances.

Coaching - The coaching section is reviewing the Coaching Education Program to determine what needs to be changed to bring the Coaching Education Program in line with the ADM. Current thinking is that a coach may attend only 1 clinic per year, but must also take an age specific on-line training program. For example a new coach starting with a midget team would take a level 1 clinic and then an online Midget age training program. The following year that coach would take a level 2 clinic. If he continues to coach a midget team he would not be required to take another online class the second season. If he moved to a bantam team the second year he would take the level 2 class and the bantam on-line class. There are a lot of issues that are being discussed in the Coaching Education Program and it will take some time to develop what changes are to be made to the Coaching Education Program.

The 2010 Level IV clinic will be in Raleigh, NC. The date is not set yet, but it will likely be the 3rd weekend in May, 2010.

Coach Screening - USA Hockey has selected a vendor for the screening program and they are working on the screening questions. They hope to have a national screening program in place for next year.

Girls/Women - 2010 National Championships are

- Women (A, B, C) March 26-28, 2010 Green Bay Wisconsin
- Girls Tier I - April 7-11, 2010 - Green Bay Wisconsin
- Girls Tier II - April 7-11, 2010 Lansing, MI

Girls Tier I/Tier II Guidelines were previously distributed to Girls programs/teams within the Affiliate. Some additional minor changes were made to that document. It will be sent around again as soon as we have an electronic version of the revised document.

The District Girls Tier I/Tier II tournament will be March 5-7 in the Carolina affiliate.

Disabled Hockey - The USA Hockey Disabled Festival will be April 8-11, 2010 in Laurel, MD

Tier II National Championship - A state based National Championship will be held in 2010. Approximately 37 states have now indicated that they will send teams at one or more levels. Norm Spiegel was confident that we will be able to get to a 48 team Tier II Tournament. PVAHA teams will play in the 3A Division. At the peewee Tier II National Tournament Virginia will have 2 teams. Reston will be the host team and there will also be the Virginia state champion.

2011 National Championship - Youth and Girls 2011 National Championships will be April 5-10, 2011

Tier I Hockey - The definition of Tier I hockey had been put on hold last year as the ADM program was discussed. The Youth Council will take another look at this issue to see if it is possible to develop a definition that applied across the board.

Junior Hockey - Per registration info handed out at the meeting there were six 14 year old players registered with a Junior team during the 2007/08 season and ten 14 year old players registered with Junior teams during the 2008/09 season. Tier III Junior teams are restricted from rostering a 14 year old player. Before a Junior team can roster a 14 year old player an appeal must be submitted to USA Hockey to justify the player's eligibility to compete in a Tier III junior program. The appeal is considered by a Youth/Junior Committee. From the Junior Council meeting that I attended it sounds like the Junior Council will move to remove the player fee cap at Junior B and Junior C at some point in the future. In some markets the teams cannot operate using the fee caps published in the Annual Guide.

USA Hockey Block Grants - The Affiliate received \$13,280 in USA Hockey Block Grant Funds.

If you have any questions re the Annual Congress please let me know. As meeting minutes are posted they will be on the USA Hockey web page at

[http://www.usahockey.com/Template\\_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=AU\\_02\\_03&ID=184398](http://www.usahockey.com/Template_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=AU_02_03&ID=184398)

Mike Bancroft

June 9, 2009