

**SAN JOSE JR. SHARKS**  
**HOCKEY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Meeting Minutes: January 10, 2011, 4:00pm, Sharks Ice at San Jose

**Board Members:**

*Present:* Charlie Faas, Jon Gustafson, Dave Maley, Scott McNealy, Katherine Romanchuk, Curt Wozniak, Tony Zasowski

*Absent:* none

*Others Present:* Jim Goddard, Robert Savoie

- *Meeting called to order:* at 4:07pm by Jon Gustafson
- No minutes from previous meeting were available

**Introductions, Overview, Board Structure**

- TZ explained that the Jr. Sharks were formed as 3 separate clubs – Tier, Travel, and Girls/Women’s
- The new Jr. Sharks structure aims to benefit from strength in numbers and drive participation and uniformity by uniting the clubs into one organization with representatives forming the Hockey Counsel
- The Hockey Advisory Board is a collaboration of representatives from Jr. Sharks, Sharks Ice, Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment and parents

**Presidents Report**, provided by Tony Zasowski

- Tier II/Tier AA Budget and Schedule concerns were discussed
  - o Norcal AA league was formed after the Jr. Sharks budget was set which required the movement of funds, ice hour allocations, and tournament funds. Tier II/AA Jr. Sharks teams received more games and less practice slots than they were originally told at the beginning of the season
  - o SM pointed out that communication needs to improve so that teams know what they are getting in comparison to what they were originally told they would be getting
  - o JG stated that Norcal instituted this plan after teams/seasons were set and do have the authority to classify teams as they see fit which could include classifying an A team as a AA team
  - o TZ stated that Norcal’s position is that A teams moved to AA as a result of the Tier II league will incur the same cost
  - o SM stated that players who try out for an A team should not be forced to play AA due to the difference in cost and time commitments
  - o CW pointed out that the Hockey Advisory Board needs to discuss and adopt an official stance of the Jr. Sharks to bring to Norcal
- Current Concerns
  - o A couple minor coaching issues, TZ is dealing with currently
  - o Current lack of goalie coaching, TZ has hired a new goalie coach for the Jr. Sharks
  - o Budget issue due to Tier II/AA league – TZ stated this is his top priority
- Tryout discussion
  - o Tryouts were moved up this year – JG stated the Jr. Sharks and Oakland Bears were the only clubs voting against earlier tryouts
  - o Discussion about kids/families losing summers off and burning out
- Conclusion
  - o Discussion about what HAB members would like to hear from TZ in future President’s Reports
    - Important dates (tryouts, declaration dates, etc.), and any ongoing issues to prevent members being surprised by issues brought to the table

**Survey Discussion**, facilitated by Jon Gustafson, Tony Zasowski

- Members were provided survey results and comments before the meeting to review
- TZ discussed ways to maximize participation in the survey (182 out of 370 participated this year), although it was pointed out that a 49% survey response rate is very good
- SM and DM emphasized the importance of using the survey results to create immediate action plans.

- Discussion of Rankings (what survey identified as club concerns, then each HAB member ranked their top concerns)
  - o CW – quality of coaching/managers, cost, schedule predictability, dress code/rink arrival times
  - o CF – age appropriate ice slots, emphasis of life skills with hockey skills
  - o DM – quality of coaching, club standardization of coaching expectations and development, cost
  - o SM – time (considering families’ proximity to the rink), competition (less travelling to compete), player ability (decreasing the disparity from best to worst player on a team), maximize ice time revenue while minimizing other costs
  - o JG – coaching, cost (including fundraising, and informing members of the scholarships available), dress code/arrival times
  - o KR – coaching (setting consistent expectations), fair ice, cost (especially if travel teams are forced to compete tier), communication (more concise and direct)
  - o OVERALL – Coaching consistency and following a Jr. Sharks system would eliminate some of the equal ice/fair ice debate because players would be at more equal levels. Setting a Jr. Sharks curriculum to accompany the Policy and Procedure manual and a standardized coaching manual to keep expectations of players and coaches transparent

### **New Business/Open Items**

- Discussion of future HAB meetings, how to accomplish concrete goals
  - o SM suggested that the HAB go over one topic per meeting with the majority of debate and information distribution occurring via email prior to the meetings. This structure was agreed upon by the HAB and topics for the next meeting were set:
    - Arrival time to the rink for practices, games, dryland
    - Dress Code (on ice practice, on ice game, dryland, team travel, rink travel)
    - Consequence of noncompliance, and whether these are options, suggestions, rules, or guidelines
- *Meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm*

### **Action items:**

- TZ will provide a list of tryout dates, declaration dates, other important dates relevant to Jr. Sharks
- TZ will provide comparison costs of Jr. Sharks Club to similar competitive clubs, both local and national
- CW will distribute his coaching manual to the HAB as a reference for a standardized Jr. Sharks coaching manual
- TZ will provide coaching manuals from outside organizations/clubs as additional references
- TZ will create concrete and immediate action plans in response to the Jr. Sharks Survey. The results of the survey (without individual comments) as well as the action plans will be posted online
- JG will set the date for the next HAB meeting (monthly meetings)

Notes submitted by M. Taylor for approval