

PAHL Membership Meeting – January 2025

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Meeting Location: virtual meeting

Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

The President called to order the January 2025 Membership Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 7:04 PM. The Secretary is recording the minutes of the meeting.

Roll call of members present (23)

- Allegheny Badgers: Josh Fajt, Mindy Ulyas
- Arctic Foxes: Allison Wix
- Armstrong Arrows: Jim Rearic
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz
- Crawford County Flames: Greg Beveridge
- Erie Junior Otters: Gio Duchini
- Indiana Chiefs: Leanne Smith
- Johnstown Warriors: Vinnie Cannizzaro, Jody Gustkey
- Lawrence County Lightning: Mike Chornick, Brent Fisher
- Mon Valley Thunder: Frank Lopresti
- Mt Lebanon Hornets: Elliott Taylor
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tim Adamosky
- Morgantown Blades: Hillarey Young
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Jeremy Parker
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: John Kohler
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski
- Westmoreland Eagles: Amy Roberts, Rachael Lute

Roll call of members absent (6):

- Altoona Trackers
- Pittsburgh Huskies
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion
- State College Icers
- Wheeling Nailers
- Youngstown Phantoms

Roll call of others present:

- Officers: Glen Scholze, Ron Michalak, Jill Harmon, Courtney Iaccio, Crystal Ochwat
- Staff: Dave Fryer
- Guests: John Folmer (MidAm)

Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the September 2024 PAHL Membership Meeting were presented by the Secretary.
**Motion by Armstrong Arrows, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:
Approve the September 2024 minutes, as presented.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.**
- The minutes from the October 2024 PAHL Membership Meeting were presented by the Secretary.
**Motion by Armstrong Arrows, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:
Approve the October 2024 minutes, as presented.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Report from the First Vice President

- Infractions resulting in discipline are up close to 50 compared to this time last season. Fighting has doubled over last season, and Abuse of Officials penalties have increased significantly.

Report from the Second Vice President

- There are still players with missing/incorrect jersey numbers in our database, which is also what appears on the scoresheet rosters. Please have your teams report errors/updates on jersey numbers to your registrar so that our database is accurate.

Report from the Treasurer

- There is \$135,129.90 in our checking account and \$100,079.59 in our savings account.
- Invoices for paying third installments of dues have been sent, and reconciliations will be provided once we have final player counts for this season. The first batch of invoices for fines also were sent.
- Our taxes have been submitted and accepted by the IRS, and 1099 forms will be issued to our contracted staff this month.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- Playoff hosts are nearly finalized for 12U divisions are listed on the playoff page of the PAHL website.
- We voted to keep ODSETs by agreeing to have more hosts, but instead we got less. The deadline for submitting a bid for 10U ODSET hosts has been extended to 2/2.
- A few points were emphasized about game schedules: please check the PAHL website schedule every week since it is the true master game schedule, please communicate to your teams that forfeiting games is never an acceptable option, and please follow the procedures for weather postponements.
- There are always a few scores/scoresheets still missing every weekend, so associations are asked to communicate with their teams about this since the League Office has tried enough times to get all teams to follow the correct procedures.
- Any rule proposal that affects tryouts, eligibility, and/or budgets needs to be presented to the membership in February. Ideas should be directed to the League Office in the next few weeks.
- The USA Hockey winter meeting just concluded, where delayed offsides was approved to return for 14U and above and not calling icing while shorthanded was approved for 16U and above.
- The Ponytail Jamboree is targeted for March 22nd this year. If your association is interested in hosting that event, please contact the League Administrator.
- We plan to schedule a meeting with Girls Program Reps in the upcoming months. This meeting will be for discussion purposes and could help with any rules proposals we want the membership to consider at our Annual Meeting.

Report from the MidAm Representative

- Teams that qualify for State Playdowns will again be based off MyHockeyRankings and will include games through February 15th. Playdowns will be at Ice Castle again this season on the second weekend of March. Schedules will be put together once the teams are finalized.
- Physical assault on officials is a growing problem this season across the MidAm district, with several lengthy suspensions issued. Associations are asked to remind their players that this will not be tolerated and can result in suspensions of over a year.

NEW BUSINESS

PAHL Per Player Fee

- An increase to the fee is requested to cover staff stipends, possibly implementing GameSheet, and covering the cost of conducting championship weekends. The President stated that the proposed increase should be approximately \$4-5 per player.
- The feedback from the membership was that this increase is reasonable and manageable.
- Associations should be prepared to vote on the topic next month, but all associations need to include this likely change in their discussions now regarding their association budgets for next season.

Scoresheet Rosters

- Many teams are not scratching off their Secondary Goalie, which counts as a game played for that player and therefore exceeds the usage limit in our Secondary Goalie rule. But that has also provided proof that some teams are not scratching off anyone who is missing, potentially allowing players who do not participate in enough games to remain eligible for PAHL playoffs.
- Some of the membership echoed that frustration because this was an avoidable problem if teams were following our rules and reading the information sent out by the league via the PAHL Pulse.
- After lengthy discussions about possible implications and solutions, it was agreed that we need to adjust our approach for this season and consider some changes for next season.

Motion by Johnstown Warriors, seconded by Armstrong Arrows:

Suspend enforcement on the usage limit clause in our rule for Secondary Goaltenders for the current regular season.

Motion passes via unanimous consent.

Motion by South Pittsburgh, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:

A goaltender with a Secondary Goaltender designation can be submitted by an Association President to the League Office for use in a postseason game(s) with a team, which shall only be approved with due cause and explicit to a specific game(s). A team approved to use a Secondary Goaltender in a playoff game shall not be eligible to use a Primary Goaltender in the same game.

Motion passes, 19-1.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:53 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: February 18, 2025