



Maine Coast Storm: September Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
 Time: 6:30pm
 Location: MRC Boardroom

Standing Agenda Topics:

Attendance

X	Kristin Falla	X	Danielle Nelson	X	Iride Piechocki
	Todd Adams	X	Brooke Brewer	X	Nick O'Hara
	Valerie Hilchey	X	Micah Kelly		Monica Karam
X	Kristen Smith	X	Ruth Thyen	X	Jenn Winters
X	Jessica Duffy	X	Andrew Marshall		

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** There were no adjustments to the agenda.
4. **Approval of August Meeting Minutes:** Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes. Nick seconded the motion. All were in favor of the approval of August's minutes.
5. **President's Report:**
 - a. Ice Schedule Update: Progress is being made and a final schedule is getting closer. Groups have shifted which allows for three separate hours of ice time on Mondays.
 - b. Preseason Plan: On the week of October 6th, there will be themed pre-season sessions. MRC may do a power skating session for an hour while coaches are tied up off ice, there may be referee training, etc. It was discussed that this would be free for players. October 10th are fall tryouts/fall skills assessments.
 - c. 18U Program Plan: Because 18U has to be done by the time MPA requires them to be done for the high school season, their season will be shorter this year. It was discussed that the idea of 18U is to give the high school kids time to skate together and give presumptive captains a chance to develop leadership skills. It's a pre-season skate and the kids run most of the practice. It was discussed that Bo will take the lead on Wednesday and Andrew on Friday. The drop-in rate will be enforced. Utilizing Venmo for easy payments may be beneficial. Funds will need to be separated (example: socks separate from drop-in fees).
 -Approve 18U Program Rates: The topic of reasonable rates was thoroughly discussed and reviewed. Brooke made a motion for a \$375.00 registration with a \$40.00 drop-in fee for 18U. Nick seconded the motion. Nine were in favor and one was opposed. The motion passed with a strong majority.
 - d. Family Handbook Review: This will be voted on next month.
 - e. Jerseys, Socks and Jacket Order Update: Socks have arrived but jerseys have not. Team jackets have not been gotten to yet.
6. **Vice President's Report:**

- a. MEAHA Update
 - State Tournament Bid: A bid was made for the 12U Tier 3 state tournament. The ice plan is being worked on.
 - b. Travel Tournament Selections and Bookings: This is in the works.
7. **Treasurer's Report (Brooke):** The Board reviewed profits and losses from July to September. A new accountant will be explored.
8. **Safety Updates (Nick):**
 - a. Locker Room Procedures for 2025-26 Season: Nick went through med kits. Ways to be more efficient/streamline the med bag stocking process were brainstormed. A couple of neck guards and mouth guards will be added into the med kits. Mouth guards will be enforced. The locker room policy is a work in progress. Nick will email a draft ahead of time for review.
9. **Coaching Updates (Andrew):**
 - a. MEAHA coaches meetings: A Coaches Director's meeting was held, where several key topics were addressed. There is a growing movement of referees cracking down on parent behavior in the stands, as well as a shortage of available referees. Andrew participated in Level 5 training, which covered emerging concepts like bio-banding—grouping players based on maturity rather than age. A "constraints-led" approach was emphasized, focusing 30% on skill development while the rest of the practice time is spent playing the game with various constraints to enhance learning. USA Hockey is placing greater emphasis on goaltending and is looking to the American Development Model, drawing inspiration from countries like Finland and Sweden, where high talent exists in smaller populations. Additionally, a meeting with Jesse took place, where MRC expressed interest in supporting the Storm organization. Discussions are ongoing about what this support could look like, including the possibility of his coaching staff helping with skills development through station-based practices. Focus areas include checking and goaltending, with all coaches meeting USA Hockey requirements. Monday seems to be the most likely day for these sessions.
10. **Registrar's Updates (Ruth):** Ruth is keeping track of board compliance. An update is needed on which coaches are onboard.
11. **Marketing and Communications Updates (Kristen):** Kristen will put House Hockey registration in the newsletter and reminded attendees to send information they would like included in future newsletters.
12. **Fundraising Update (Jessica):** Jessica asked about a master email list for parents to reach more people/businesses. Jessica has been contacting people regarding banners.
13. **Program Updates (All):**
 - a. Iride reports that House Hockey registration numbers are currently low. She will be sending out information to encourage registration, with the goal of having sign-ups completed by October 1st. All House sponsors are secured. However, there has been no response from Rick Gunn regarding jerseys.
 - b. Valerie asked to share that she has been actively scheduling and has made contact with all but two 14U and 10U teams. She is currently in a holding pattern with both 12U teams and will not schedule any travel games until the 25th.
14. **Grow the Game Grant:** Monica is working on outreach by working with different schools and calling kids that are aging up.

Action items:

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. The next meeting will be held: October 1st, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Board of Directors:

Maine Coast Storm Board of Directors 2025-2026 Season		
	Role	Director
1	President	Kristin Falla
2	Vice President	Todd Adams
3	Secretary	Danielle Nelson
4	Treasurer	Brooke Brewer
5	Registrar	Ruth Thyen
6	Coaching Director	Andrew Marshall
7	Fundraising and Sponsorship Director	Jessica Duffy
8	Marketing and Communications Director	Kristen Smith
9	Safe Sport/Player Safety Director	Nick O'Hara
10	Scheduler	Valerie Hilchey
11	Girls Program Director	Micah Kelly
12	House Program Director	Iride Piechocki
13	Grow the Game Grant Coordinator	Monica Karam
14	Volunteer Coordinator	Jenn Winters