

PAHL Membership Meeting – May 2024

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Sunday, May 24, 2024
Meeting Location: Comfort Inn, O'Hara Twp, PA
Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

The President called to order the May 2024 Membership Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 4:05 PM. The PAHL Secretary is recording the minutes of the meeting. A moment of silence was conducted for Crawford County player Miles Hall.

Roll call of members present (21):

- Allegheny Badgers: John Gable
- Altoona Trackers: Jill Breton
- Artic Foxes: Alicia Genco
- Armstrong Arrows: Jim Rearic
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz, Mark Perry
- Erie Junior Otters: Giovanni Duchini
- Johnstown Warriors: Vinnie Cannizzaro
- Lawrence County Lightning: Mike Chornick
- Morgantown Blades: Joe Perella, Bob Donnelly
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tim Adamosky
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Jeremy Parker
- Pittsburgh Huskies: Collin Cyprowski
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski, Lindsay Riether
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion: Sean Coyle
- State College Icers: Pete Brumberg
- Steel City Ice Renegades: John Kohler, Pietro Porco
- Westmoreland Eagles: Rachael Lute
- Wheeling Nailers: Cailin Rodocker
- Youngstown Phantoms: Brad Patterson

Roll call of members absent (7):

- Crawford Flames
- Fayette Ice Miners
- Indiana Chiefs
- Mon Valley Thunder
- Mt Lebanon Hornets
- North Hills Vipers

Roll call of others present:

- Officers: Glen Scholze, Ron Michalek, Jill Harmon, Crystal Ochwat, Courtney Iaccio, Dave Fryer
- Guests: none
- Others: none

Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the PAHL April 2024 Membership Meeting were presented by the Secretary.
Motion by Armstrong, seconded by Youngstown:
Approve the April 2024 meeting minutes, as presented.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

First Vice President

- The Executive Administrator stated that submitted and accepted nominations are for Ron Michalak and Mark Petley. No nominations were made from the floor, closing the nomination period.
- Each candidate was granted the floor for campaigning, with the other candidate not present.
- Secret balloting was done electronically, with 21 confirmed voters present.
Balloting for the First Vice President election:
Ron Michalak = 13
Mark Petley = 8
Ron Michalak is re-elected as First Vice President of the PAHL for a 2-year term.

Treasurer

- The Executive Administrator stated that the only submitted and accepted nomination is for Courtney Iaccio. No further nominations were made from the floor, closing the nomination period with 1 candidate.
- Secret balloting was done electronically, with 21 confirmed voters present.
Balloting for the Secretary election:
Courtney Iaccio = 19
Abstain = 2
Courtney Iaccio is re-elected as Secretary of the PAHL for a 2-year term.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Report from the President

- The North Hills Vipers are requesting dormant status for their PAHL membership.
Motion by North Hills, seconded by Armstrong:
Approve the North Hills Vipers for dormant status.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.
- The Fayette Ice Miners are likely to request dormant status, but we have not yet received a formal request.
- The Aviators will be playing all their home games at Shady Side Academy next season, and the Steel City Ice Renegades are becoming the Pittsburgh Vengeance.
- The League Office has received two inquiries regarding new membership: Gilmour Gladiators 19G/16G and Lake Erie Sports Alliance 14U. Neither is a formal application due to restrictions in our by-laws, which the members need to discuss. There was no support for changing the minimum number of league teams fielded by a prospective association, but discussion ensued about the geographic restriction. If PAHL wants to grow, we must consider teams outside of Western PA. An adjustment is also needed in the membership application timeline since there is not the required 30 days from the application deadline to the May membership meeting. A by-laws proposal will need to be written to apply to the 2025-26 season.
- The MidAm Annual Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, June 22nd at 10 AM, conducted virtually. MidAm will be sending a link to association presidents.
- We were approached about sending a 12U AA team to an end-of-season tournament in the Atlantic District. There are some logistical challenges, including a procedure for selecting our representative. This matter will be discussed again in the fall.

Report from the First Vice President

- Discipline reporting is being examined for ways to improve into next season. The goal is to try to streamline the reporting process, particularly for league games.

Report from the Second Vice President

- Declarations for 2024-25 were due on May 15, but ten associations were cited as still missing.
- Registrar training will be done virtually around the first week of June, with a focus on new registrars.
- Rosters will be due on June 30.
- A competition report for 2023-24 was presented. The data shows that we are doing well competitively and hitting many of our targets. The 18U numbers are below the target, but examination shows that they are skewed by the last place teams in each division being well off the pace, suggesting more scrutiny on “bubble teams.” The 12U and 12G levels need slight improvement, and the recommended course of action is to add a third placement game for 12U and have the Placement Committee review 12G rosters.

Report from the Treasurer

- There is \$78,498.82 in our checking account and \$100,059.49 in our savings account.
- Checks for playoff hosts are being distributed tonight.
- The form for reimbursements for referee mentors is due on May 26.
- Any team still owing money for the current season will have an email sent to the president and treasurer.
- We pay approximately \$4,000 for 8U participation medals. MidAm may no longer cover that cost for future seasons, so we need to determine if we wish to continue to provide those medals.

Motion by Allegheny, seconded by Armstrong:

Discontinue the purchase and distribution of PAHL 8U participation medals.

Motion passes via unanimous consent.

Report from the Secretary

- The scholarship selection process was outlined, including the independent committee reviewing the applications and selecting the winners. Applicants are not identified to the committee by name.
- Five PAHL players were each awarded a \$1,500 scholarship, and a thank-you video from each was played at the meeting: Giovanni Porco (Steel City Ice Renegades), Jake Ochwat (North Hills Vipers), Jackson Kramer (Arctic Foxes), Joey Wateska (Steel City Ice Renegades), Luke Valentas (Steel City Ice Renegades)
- PAHL Academic Awards are being distributed tonight, with 786 total recipients. We are no longer mailing these to individuals nor associations. The online application process was simple but still produced many errors. A high error rate is common with our processes, so a refocus is needed for 2024-25.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- The 2024 Ponytail Jamboree was held in March, with 60 participants. Thank you to North Pittsburgh and the Baierl Ice Complex for hosting, with extra gratitude to the help provided by Cody Black.
- For the offseason, we only need to be informed by email if the president or the registrar of the association is changing for next season. A form will be sent in the fall to collect all association contacts.
- A draft of the 2024-25 PAHL Planning Calendar was presented. It includes restricting the start of placement games, moving Girls scheduling to the same dates as the primary scheduling weekend, and removing the designated weekend for “makeup games.” The membership supported those changes.
- Three placement games for 12U teams will be implemented next season, with no objection from the room.
- A new playoff plan was presented for consideration. Playoffs for the 18/16/14U AA and Girls would go unchanged; the other quarterfinals and semifinals would move up one weekend; and all championship games would be played at a single site the following weekend. PAHL Championship Weekend would then be a special event, hosted by the League Office. This option can only be explored at this time because we would need a rink to accommodate, and the membership indicated interest in exploring that option for next season.

- The current policy which restricts teams from playing any single opponent more than 4 times in a season will be proposed for removal in a new Administrative Policy document in the fall but should be discussed now. The change will ensure that all teams in all divisions play the maximum number of regular-season games, which is 20 games for all age groups except 10U. No opposition was stated to that change.
- The USAH rule for neck protection requirement goes into effect on August 1. It is the responsibility of the players, parents, and head coaches to ensure compliance; this cannot fall straight to the referees to enforce.
- Several summer projects are planned by the Executive Administrator: authoring of new Administrative Policies, technology enhancements, updates to league website, and improvements to training materials.
- Consideration will be given to changing the division naming schemes for next season, and the League Office will explore better ways of collecting scheduling data. The return of online box scores will be dependent on the pending rules votes regarding a continued use of the Fair Play Point. A consideration to add a second 16U AA level (major & minor) will be explored for the 2025-26 season.
- Poaching players from other associations is a growing issue and needs to stop. Any player signed up for another team cannot be contacted or recruited. We need a friendly agreement on this matter; rules would be difficult to construct and enforce but will be attempted if poaching efforts continue.
- The 8U participation medals are available for pick-up tonight.

Report from the Rules Committee

- The proposed PAHL Game Manual was presented at the April meeting so that its contents can be reviewed in preparation for approval at this meeting. Dave Fryer covered some preliminary information regarding the goals of the Rules Committee and the creation of the Game Manual.
- For the sake of expediency and efficiency, several specific rules will be presented by the Rules Committee for discussion; any association can then present any other rule that it feels should be specifically discussed. All approvals will be done via unanimous consent unless the room is divided enough to count votes. Any rule that is not specifically addressed is considered to be approved by unanimous consent.
- The Executive Administrator will record and apply all additions, deletions, and adjustments made to the proposed rules. The membership gave its consent for the League Office to make any necessary changes to wordsmithing, housekeeping, and formatting once the final Game Manual is approved. The spirit and purpose of all rules will not be affected by these adjustments.
- The membership formally approved the removal of the Fair Play Point system in the league standings.
- Proposals with lengthy discussion included stipulations for Assignors of Officials, requirements for 2 referees in body contact games, uniform/jersey requirements, minimum number of game participants, and ODSETs.
- The revised PAHL Game Manual is now approved and shall include all amendments and adjustments made at this meeting. The official version of the PAHL Game Manual will be completed and made available in the summer on the PAHL website. Associations are strongly encouraged to have their officers and coaches become familiar with the contents of the Game Manual before the start of next season.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:54 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: *currently unapproved*