



Rhode Island Hockey

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 20, 2025

Location: Virtual via zoom

Executive Session

Call to Order: The meeting began at 7:03 pm and was presided over by Andrew Giuliano with Nicole FitzGerald taking meeting minutes.

Executive Session Attendees:

Andrew Giuliano, Aubie van Beuren, Richard Oliver, Jim Bethune, Nicole FitzGerald, Tina Bapties, Conn Kelly, Ed Benoit, Sebastian Ragno, Dorothy Chin, Greg Ventura, Eric Karoli, Kate Smith, Ray Morgan

Absent: Johnny Sheil, Erika Adams, Amanda Tassoni, Seth Francis

Old Business:

- 1) Secretary's report
 - a) **BOD approved** the [9/15/25 Meeting Minutes](#)
- 2) Finance Committee
 - a) 990s filed earlier this month
 - b) **BOD approved** the statement of financial comparison presented by Andrew
 - i) Opened 2 CDs (1 traditional 7 month with 3.75% interest and 1 flexible 12 month with 3.00 % interest)
 - ii) 347K in current assets
 - (1) Includes approx. 10K in player registration fees
 - (2) Does not reflect 8K block grant just received
- 3) Safe Sport
 - a) Per Aubie
 - i) Learning the role and using CaseIQ to manage the cases, working through 1 open case regarding locker room misbehavior and anticipates another case to be opened in the near future
- 4) Social Media/Grow the Game
 - a) Social Media
 - i) Tina provided a detailed overview of the social media sites that were updated to include consistent posting, branding & be more interactive. The response was overwhelmingly positive and the sites have increased traffic. Tina encouraged members and organizations to continue to like, repost, share, etc.
 - (1) Sponsorships - seek local businesses for paid promotion if they want to be featured on the website or social media sites. Also open to donations from local businesses in return for promotion.
 - (2) Content - Andrew suggested engaging Sebastian for coaching content and Amanda for officials content.
 - b) Grow the Game events sponsored by RI Hockey, spearheaded by Greg Ventura
 - i) 3 vs. 3 completed and social media post on 10/21 announcing the winners
 - (1) Per Greg, 200 people in the rink, tremendous feedback, gave all the teams extra games, each age group had 10-12 teams, a few less teams for the girls. Warwick hockey facilitated the event.
 - ii) Greg scheduled a come try hockey for free 12/6 @ Thayer Arena

- (1) U6 11:00 - 12:00
 - (2) U8 12:10 - 1:10
 - (3) U10 1:20 - 2:20
 - (4) All associations welcome to come and support this day, used gear will be lent as needed.
 - (5) Looking for sponsors for this event - ie. giveaways (door prize), food, etc.
 - (6) Greg expressed his disappointment that funding wasn't secured for a radio campaign, the BOD opted for grassroots promotion and Andy will reach out to media contacts for cross-promotion opportunities.
 - (7) Currently less than 10 registrations and looking to grow this number.
- 5) Player Development
- a) RI has committed to hosting the futures next year (3/27 - 3/29), Andy secured ice at Warwick and Boss. TBD the extent of volunteers that will be needed.
 - b) Greg secured ice for development camp tryouts on 11/2 & 11/9, 4-8 @ West Warwick. [Register here](#)

New Business:

- 1) 1 open BOD position currently

Executive session adjourned at 7:54 pm.

General Session

Call to Order: The meeting began at 7:55 pm and was presided over by Andrew Giuliano with Nicole FitzGerald taking meeting minutes.

General Session Attendees (in addition to Executive Session Attendees noted above): Mike Smith (SRI), Chris Gerstmyer (Boss), Kari Marino (Valkerie), Mike Meech (GPYHA), Tai Bacani (WJHA), Mark Palmer (BJHL), Julie Marcaccio (NRI), Vicky Movsessian (Sting), Frank Varracchione (Future Stars/North Stars)

- 1) Registrar's update
 - a) Per Kate, currently down 130 players from last year but anticipates this to roughly even out after LTS registrations are complete
- 2) Girl's Section
 - a) No update
- 3) Player Safety
 - a) Concerns raised about dipping edges and boards at West Warwick and it was confirmed an outside company is coming to assess.
- 4) Coaching Section
 - a) Clinics are full go, the new portal was launched and coaches should be able to see their background check, safe sport, level, etc. all in one place.
 - b) Coaches can take clinics hosted by any district that work with their schedule, and must be completed by 12/31/25. .
 - c) [Link for Continuing Education provided by Sebastian](#)
- 5) Referee's report
 - a) NO UPDATE
- 6) Social Media/Grow the Game
 - a) See update from executive session
- 7) Player Development
 - a) See update from executive session
- 8) Tournaments
 - a) 14U Tier 2 girls National bound tournament 11/6 - 11/9 @ West Warwick

- i) Working to secure 1-2 tablets for check in, etc. Sting might be able to loan tablet(s). Volunteers are needed.
 - ii) Brackets and games will be posted by 11/2, with a potential for changes to ensure competitive matches
 - b) RI will host 12U Tier 2 youth/co-ed (non-national bound) 3/13 - 3/15
- 9) Hall of Fame
- a) No update

New Business:

- 1) Chris Gerstmyer (Boss Rink Manager) proposed creating a girls' hockey program @ Boss U14 - U19 to provide more opportunities for college recruitment, focusing on skill development and exposure to college coaches and pursue a USAH from RI Hockey. He discussed plans to work with existing youth organizations and hold tryouts in March/April for the 2026-27 season. The program would involve participation in the NGHL, which would cost approximately \$1,250 per player for three tournaments (initial ballpark was much higher). Concerns were raised about the cost and potential impact on existing high school programs. Chris agreed to meet with Vicki and Sarah from the Sting to discuss further and align goals with existing girls' hockey initiatives in Rhode Island and report back.

2025 Future Meetings Schedule (7:00 pm Executive Session, 7:30 General Session):

- 11/17 Crowne Plaza
- 12/15 Virtual