

Minnesota River Bulldog Hockey Association
November 8, 2023 at 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Leslie H, Brielle S, Joe K, Greg W. Lindsay W, Andy B, Jill S, Mary T, Kari B., Laura H.

Non- Board Members Present: Crystal F, Kari F, Sarah C, Robin H. Steve D. Jill S. Emily O.

Call to Order and Roll Call- Brielle

- Approval of Agenda/Minutes- Greg made motion and Joe second.

Committees Reports

- Association Team Coordinator- see recap below. Sarah is working on the team picture dates.
- Registrar- see recap below. 214 players have registered.
- Fundraising- no new update.
- Volunteer- see recap below. Leslie and Joe will help contact people who have not turned in
- Marketing- see recap below. Have approval for dasher boards. Association will get 70% and community center will get 30% that will go back to rink improvements.
- Concessions- see recap below. Steve requesting Ipad for concession stand for ordering. Lindsay made motion Mary second. Introduced Amanda as the new concessions manager. The Lucky Lure has offered to have their food truck here for our Hockey Day.
- Referee Coordinator- see recap below- looking for motion highlighted in yellow. **Motion made by Joe and second by John.**
- Ice Scheduler- see recap below. Concerns about ice time this season with extra teams. Greg made motion to take \$10,000 from gambling to add ice time at other locations to all teams equally. Mary second motion. Motion approved.
- District Rep- no new update. Squirt and U10 scheduling meeting will be Monday November 13th.
- Tournament Committee Chair- Andy gave update.
- Equipment- see recap below. Looking at a date for “bring a friend for hockey”.
- Clothing- Brielle gave update. Last order closed. Brielle picking up last of the jerseys this week.
- Website- Emily gave update.

Old Business-

New Business-

- Gambling- Kari made motion made to to have tax agency complete special audit for regulatory compliance at a cost of \$6500. Will come out of gambling account. Joe second motion. Motion approved. Kari made motion to approve October 2023 expenses and to approve the tax return for October Forms G-1, Schedule B-2, CE&F. Greg second motion. Motion approved.
- Volunteer and Fundraising Deposits- see volunteer above.

- Proposed dasher boards/advertising contract with the city- see Marketing above.

Officers

- President-
- Treasurer- Brielle made motion made to purchase Microsoft office for treasurer computer. Lindsay second.
- Gambling-
- Hockey Operations Committee – No new update

Open Forum - Laura organizing first aid info for coaches and Brielle and Leslie will look at first aid kit.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment- December 13, 2023. Brielle made motion to adjourn – Leslie second.

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Name: Equipment
For Month End: October

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

(ie. Every volunteer showed up for their shift, All equipment was returned, etc..)

Rented equipment has been sanitized. Equipment has been checked out. Check out numbers are down this year.

What can be improved for next month

(ie. Sending reminder emails earlier, Creating a posting plan, Being more timely with submissions, etc..)

N/A

What is your focus for next month

(ie. An event, A website launch, Picture day is happening, etc..)

Picking a date/time for Bring a Friend to Hockey day and notifying families.

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

Expenses:\$15 for equipment sanitation

revenue:\$50 for equipment sanitation

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Date/Time approval for bring a Friend to hockey.

A family is possibility questioning their equipment returned items?

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: steve doyen

For Month End: oct 2023

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

(ie. Every volunteer showed up for their shift, All equipment was returned, etc..)

We have 3 of the same openers/closers as last year. We will need to bring on 1 more. So if we could post something so I can work with them. We still need the position posted. Sales have been off to a good start and we have had volunteers for each open spot so far.

What can be improved for next month

(ie. Sending reminder emails earlier, Creating a posting plan, Being more timely with submissions, etc..)

What is your focus for next month

(ie. An event, A website launch, Picture day is happening, etc..)

Continue to stay stocked with items and start training our new session manager for next year. Her name is Amanda LaDuke.

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

**if applicable*

Our sales through the first couple days are

Sales - \$1467.50

Cash - \$940.50

CC - \$520.50

Cash app - \$6.50

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Nothing new. Everything is fine.

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: Registrar

For Month End: November

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

(ie. Every volunteer showed up for their shift, All equipment was returned, etc..)

Weekly registration reports.

Coaches Reports

evaluation jerseys – washing and putting away

Evaluations

Responding to parent questions on registration.

Rostering coaches/volunteers/teams

Daily check in with USA hockey if can roster additional coaches when requirements available

Game stickers/ roster sheets & roster link to coordinators
Creating teams in USA Hockey
Out of state tournaments submitted to District 9

What can be improved for next month

(ie. Sending reminder emails earlier, Creating a posting plan, Being more timely with submissions, etc..)

What is your focus for next month

(ie. An event, A website launch, Picture day is happening, etc..)

Waivers – collect current ones needed and submit to USA Hockey
Coaches reports to Taylor
Add coaches to teams when requirements are available
Volunteer reports
Roster mites to USA Hockey & submit
Making additional game stickers at request of coordinators

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

**if applicable*

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Locker Room Volunteers: Many say they have completed everything, however, the background screens have not come in yet. Who should I be reporting to, to let them know the current status.

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: Marketing

For Month End: October

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

Volunteers for the Hockey Day Bulldog thing

- Ashley Genelin
- Sara Ernst
- Abigail Lewis
- Brian Svedson
- Belle Plaine person

- Banner for Bingo – Check
- Dasherboards are “approved” to sell. How do we open it up to sell the boards?
- Signed up for Wild Program sales – they are filled, we are on the waitlist
- Checked in with Brianna Decker Grant – we did not win.

Opportunities:

- Sponsorship opportunities in the rink
 - Allison/City mtg.

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: Scheduling Committee

For Month End: October

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

All home game slots got scheduled for all 12 teams. We had enough weekend ice to fit all 147 home games that we needed to schedule, with some extra room to make changes and shifts, when necessary. Home games started in October and so far, we've had all refs showing up as scheduled and there haven't been any discrepancies between the schedule and home and away teams arriving to play.

What can be improved for next month

(ie. Sending reminder emails earlier, Creating a posting plan, Being more timely with submissions, etc..)

The biggest challenge right now is the lack of ice time for practices. We have 12 teams this year instead of the normal 9 or 10 so practice time is going to be reduced. We've had a more changes to the schedule than in previous years which has created more work for people, but I haven't determined exactly what the problem was/has been. Seems like things are back on track now though.

What is your focus for next month

(ie. An event, A website launch, Picture day is happening, etc..)

No specific focus other than continue to schedule practices and games and continue coordination with Stacy and both rinks. The Squirts and 10's scheduling meeting is next Monday so getting all of their games finalized will be a focus.

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

**if applicable*

N/A

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Some additional ice time would be helpful. Brett at GAC said he might have some mid-week ice available in Jan and Feb but he won't know for sure until mid Nov. I'll reach out to him down the road.

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: Association Coordinator

For Month End: October

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

- We are up and running

What can be improved for October 2024

- Next year I need to have team rosters at least 2 days before they are announced, preferably 3 days or more. I spent a total of 40 hours from Wednesday evening through Sunday on association needs – fighting fires, helping coaches, answering questions, setting up email distro lists, loading rosters into GameSheet, finding coordinators, getting out communication etc. The only reason I am able to pull this off is the flexibility of my job and it is not realistic for most people who would come into this position in the future.

- Most associations around us announce teams a week or more before we do. I think we should also consider having tryouts earlier. The fact that games start for the upper levels two days after teams are announced adds to the urgency of what needs to be done right after teams are announced.
- This year we had a hotel cancel a block for two teams because they forgot to extend the block 2 days as our teams would not be announced before the block traditionally expires (which is 30 days prior to check-in). There should be a minimum of 40 days between team announcements and a team's first tournament.
- The majority of people do not want to attend hockey tournaments over holidays (NYE and Thanksgiving have been a recurring theme). This is a problem especially if we have small teams and puts pressure on families to choose between prior holiday obligations and their hockey team. Every year that we have a tournament over a holiday I get negative feedback from coordinators and families.
- Things I would ideally have accomplished before teams are announced:
 - Team Rosters with full parent contact info – SE does not output a report like this. I have to manually go through the master roster list to cut and paste each player out of that file into a single team roster file that I can submit to team coordinators and coaches so that they have parent contact information.
 - Gmail Distro Lists – I create a Gmail label for each team so that I can send messages out directly to those teams. This is critical to find team coordinators, pass along time sensitive information about games and tournaments that are coming up within the next couple of days, and send out communication from coaches until a coordinator is in place. This is also a very manual time consuming process.
 - Create Gmail Contacts – I create gmail contacts for all of the new families in 10U/Squirts. The contact creation is important so that as they move through our association it is easier for me to create the gmail label for email distribution.
 - Load rosters into GameSheet – I need to load the rosters into GameSheet. This becomes urgent when we have teams starting games in two days after announcements. To do this, I need all of the teams USA Hockey roster numbers. I get this from the registrar. I know this is also a time consuming process for her, and we have to take into consideration time for USA Hockey to receive and approve the roster. An issue we have run into the past two years is that coaches have not completed their requirements to be rostered and every year we have a team that does not have a coach eligible for rostering. This causes delays in getting a team roster number to load into GameSheet which is not convenient when we are already rushing and short on time. I will buy you a beer at our EOY meeting if you read all of this and you say code word starfish to me at the meeting this week.

What is your focus for next month

- Girls Varsity Game Event
- Women's National Team Event
- Team Pictures

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

**if applicable*

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Date for team pictures this year? Do we want to do Monday? Do we want to look at other ways to have them on the ice without disrupting practices?

MONTHLY RECAP

Committee Activities

Committee Name: Officials' Scheduling

For Month End: October

The biggest 'win' for your committee last month

(ie. Every volunteer showed up for their shift, All equipment was returned, etc..)

More games scheduled in October this year than in the last 4 years. Several brand new officials this year who have never registered before.

What can be improved for next month

(ie. Sending reminder emails earlier, Creating a posting plan, Being more timely with submissions, etc..)

Continued close work with the ice scheduler

What is your focus for next month

(ie. An event, A website launch, Picture day is happening, etc..)

Continue loading games into Arbiter, start to get ahead of scheduling (I like to schedule officials 4 weeks out)

What are the revenue & expenses for last month

**if applicable*

October officials' fees have been sent to the treasurer.

Do you have any requests for your committee, or items that need approval?

Other associations offer some monetary compensation to a select group of veteran officials to act as "mentors" to new officials. These mentors could be on the ice with them for their first game giving them tips and tricks and suggestions. I have not contacted these officials to see if they are interested, but based on experience, here are the ones I'd consider: Brad O'Keefe, Brayden Weyenberg, Connor Bjorling, Ethan Hathaway, Mark Zallek, Dylan Schutz, Sam Preston. The compensation question is more challenging, as we need to make it worth their time to be there. I think I'd say \$30 for squirts, \$40 for PW, and \$50 for Bantam. **If the board would approve \$300 for this, it would allow me to get a mentor for the first game scheduled for all of our (9?) brand new officials at the squirt level. Again, this is only possible if I happen to have extra officials available when these officials are scheduled for their first games.**