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#MASSPROUD

MASS HOCKEY 2025 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 3, 2025 – SeaCrest Beach Hotel at Falmouth

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, at the SeaCrest Hotel in Falmouth.

Meeting called to order by Stephen Palmacci at 1:20 pm.

1. Roll Call

There are 30 voting board members present. 2/3 majority is 20.

2. Board Minutes

A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2025, seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Awards Recognition

The Dr. Alan Ashare Safety Award was awarded to Steve Rizzio.

The Ron & Jo DiFilippio Registrar Award was awarded to Paul Crowley.

The Milton Kauffman Officials Award was awarded John Collins.

The Richard “Duke” Kumpel Special Achievement Award was awarded to Jeremiah Tabor.

The Stephen & Terry Palmacci President’s Award was awarded Bob Joyce.

4. President’s Report

Stephen Palmacci provided his President's Report at the opening of the morning session.

5. Executive Director’s Report

Kevin Kavanagh provided his Executive Director's report. Thank you to Stephen Palmacci for all his support. Our mission is to continue with growth both in members and with player development. We are working on ways to better communicate with our families. Partnerships have been strong with nearly \$100,000 in revenue. Our events like tournaments, camps, and meetings have been a success this year.

6. Committee Reports

Committee reports were posted online prior to the meeting.

[2025 Annual Meeting Reports](#)

DEI, Christopher Gong:

2 Grants issued this year from the committee. Holyoke has reported they added 22 players as a result.



Discipline, Christopher Gong:

There were 70 Match penalties this season. 35 of them at 15U and older level. Thank you to John Murray for running 18 hearings. Thanks to Tim McMahon for supporting the appeals. There were over 500 game misconducts this season up from 400 last season.

Risk Management Steve Gear report (Not Present):

No changes. Having continued success with folks submitting complete requests in a timely manner. Which allows for a quick turnaround of certificates.

7. Treasurer's Report

Chris Holden reviewed the 2024-2025 finance report and the 2025-2026 budget during the board meeting. Thanked the Finance Committee for their work. The Audit is clean and will be issued on May 15th. We expect USA Hockey to audit finances next year.

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Budget, seconded, and unanimously approved.

8. Proposals

A summary of the votes on the many legislative proposals are described below:

Rule Proposal #1 – Abuse of Official discipline applicable to Mass players out of state and all games within Mass: Approved unanimously.

Rule Proposal #2 – Fighting Discipline to include leagues comprised of 50% or more Mass teams: Approved unanimously.

Rule Proposal #3 – Mass Registered Leagues shall file league affiliate agreement and adds registration for leagues with less than 50% of teams from Mass. Motion to postpone to October Board Meeting, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Policy Proposal #1 – Mass Hockey Roster publication. Amendment to add specific language for what details will be listed. Approved unanimously.

Bylaw Proposal #1 – Chair of Rules Committee shall provide summary of approval and disapproval meaning: Approved unanimously.

Bylaw Proposal #2 – Removes recommendation of Chair of Rules Committee. Amendment to remove providing a summary yes and no vote meaning. Not approved by majority vote.

Bylaw Proposal #3 – Restructures Mass Board from 10 Districts to 8 Districts in 2026-2027 Season and allows for 2 year staggered Director election. Amendment to add alternate directors to all board of director correspondents. Approved unanimously.

See table below for details of rules and bylaw proposals.



9. Elections

Tim McMahon conducted the election of officers.

The following were elected unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions:

President Jeremiah Tabor (2-year term)
3rd VP Steve Rizzo (2-year term)
5th VP Christopher Gong (2-year term)
Treasurer Chris Holden (2-year term)
Director at Large Frank Hart (2nd 1-year term)
Director at Large Kristin Balboni (1-year term)
USAH Director 2028 Bob Joyce (3-year term)
USAH Girls/Women's Section Representative Mark Lissner (3-year term)
USAH Disabled Section Representative Ray Leblanc (3-year term)

Election for USAH High School Section Representative (3-year term). Candidates:

- Mike Bonish 48%
- John Murray 52%. Elected.

10. Announcements

Jeremiah Tabor shared his priorities for the coming year: 1) player safety, 2) hockey for everyone (growing the game), and 3) transparency. We need to look at innovative ways to communicate and use technology.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

Unanimous approval of Referee Rates for 2025-2026 Season.

The first Board Meeting for 2025-2026 Season is September 8th, 2025.

The referee portal for registration is open. The clinics will take place in the fall.

13. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.



#	Proposal Title	Annual Guide	Description	Status	Submitted By
1	Rule Proposal #1	Officiating Abuse Sanctions	This proposal strengthens consequences for abuse of officials. In addition to the standard game misconduct suspension, Massachusetts Hockey, since 2021, adds one extra game for the first offense and two additional games for a second offense under USA Hockey Rule 601. It also clarifies how suspensions apply to out-of-state teams playing in Massachusetts and gives limited exceptions for national tournament-bound players. The goal is to deter abuse of officials and enforce accountability across all levels. This proposal clarifies how suspension apply to out-of-state players playing in Massachusetts tournaments, showcases, games and leagues where more than 50% of the teams are from Massachusetts. There is a limited exception appeal process for National Bound Tournament Players whose Abuse Suspension would carry over into the National Bound State Qualifying Tournament.	Approved	Christopher Gong
2	Rule Proposal #2	Local Rulings	This rule seeks to clarify the already existing Massachusetts Hockey Suspension Enhancement for fighting (2 games for 14U and younger and 3 games for 15U and older) applies to out-of-state players playing in Massachusetts tournaments, showcases, games and leagues where more than 50% of the teams are from Massachusetts.	Approved	Christopher Gong
3	Policy Proposal #1	Rosters	A new policy will require Massachusetts Hockey to publish a listing of all approved team rosters monthly from August through February. This measure promotes transparency and ensures that all programs and stakeholders have access to current, accurate roster information throughout the season.	Approved	Christopher Gong
4	Bylaw Proposal #1	Executive Board Duties	This change requires the Chair of the Rules Committee to provide the Board of Directors with a clear explanation of what a “yes” or “no” vote on a proposal means. It ensures all voting members fully understand the implications of their decisions.	Approved	Rules Committee



5	Bylaw Proposal #2	Executive Board Duties	Similar to the proposal above, this version adds the same voting clarification responsibility but uses slightly different wording. This version was not recommended for approval by the Rules Committee due to redundancy and unclear language.	Not Approved	Dan Esdale
6	Bylaw Proposal #3	District Directors	This major bylaw update supports the planned redistricting from 10 hometown districts to 8. It adjusts election timelines, voting processes, and term lengths to accommodate the transition. It also outlines how displaced directors will be handled during the transition year and adds clarity on director slot assignments and staggered terms.	Approved	Rules Committee
8	Rules Proposal #3	Leagues	This proposal updates the criteria for Massachusetts-based and multi-affiliate leagues to be registered and sanctioned by Massachusetts Hockey. It adds more defined procedures, especially for leagues with 50% or more Massachusetts teams, and sets clearer expectations for rule enforcement and compliance with Mass Hockey policies. The Rules Committee recommended tabling this proposal to consult with leagues over the summer.	Postponed	Rules & Discipline Committee