

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2026 6:30pm
Sanford Conference Room – SCHEELS IcePlex

President Chun Chan called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Elliot Hitt (Treasurer), John McCollister (Secretary), Adam Gorra (Director of Tournaments), Derek Berg (City League Director), and Leah May (Travel League Director). Quorum was present. Lindsay Fenton, Jerry Fromm, Dan Houck (Director of Hockey), and Cherry Hunter (Director of Operations) were also in attendance. Jenn Warren (Vice-President), Sam Everson (Past President), and Spencer Wrightsman (Development Director) were absent.

Open Forum

- Lindsay Fenton – Lindsay Fenton requested an End of Season Survey. Suggestions included
 - Did the player have fun
 - Did the player improve
 - Is the player planning to return next season
 - Comment section
 - Survey applicant can identify general league level, what team player participated with,
 - Evaluation of coaching staff
 - Survey Monkey
 - Issue survey prior to state tournament
 - Anonymous survey
 - Surveys – optics shows the board cares
 - Lindsay will submit suggested questions to Cherry

Noted

- Surveys can provide feedback. Complaints may be items that cannot be fixed & a downward spin is created for boards
- Suggested feedback be submitted during the season (may create concern with addressing issues on the fly)
- Need pointed questions – Season fun? Player increase skill set? Coaching staff?
- Maybe an article on “What the Board does?”

Lindsay asked when the women’s banners would be updated. Response: updates have been ordered.

Secretary’s Report – John McCollister made a motion to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Elliot Hitt noted income and expenses are status quo.

Director of Hockey – Dan Houck

- Evaluated and placed supplemental high school age boy player the last week of December
- Met w/ Andy Gillham about planning upcoming/continuing coaching development sessions. Additional dates are being scheduled when I meet Andy again on 1/14
- Continued to find subs for teams missing players for Squirt 4v4 and supplemental goalies to fill in for absent players
- Helped on ice at Atom Tier 3 practices as they are short coaches after talking w/ Bob Schmid as a few non-parent helpers have had conflicts/injury

- Worked w/ Cherry to find additional parent coaches for Atom Short Session
- Recruited a few high school players to help w/ Atom Short Session
- Attended East/West Home Boys Varsity and JV Game
- Continued to work w/ Nate Hadrick on getting referees for 4v4 coverage-those kids have been doing great
- Due to the smaller number of goalies attending goalie clinic (by plan) on Wednesday this season I started utilizing the other half of the ice for additional practice for teams that are rotating through specifically getting Squirt travel Orange and White teams another ice touch due to their rotating weekly schedule.
- Still waiting on a few mid-season evals from travel coaches. There are three teams I have not gotten feedback from coach yet on.
- Continued to run skills for Squirts and PW alternating weeks, filling in for Bantam practices occasionally to lead some of those
- Squirt 4v4 League has been going well-games have been really competitive and parents have been awesome
- Worked w/ ICL Lead and ICL League Manager on finding goalies for City League Games where there were absences as ICL only has four total goalies
- Handled coaching issue w/ Nate Hadrick at ACL level
- Helped PW Blue 2 Head Coach get friendlies for games outside of SDAHA schedule
- **Action Items**
 - There needs to be a hard look/discussion into player attendance and the travel attendance policy. This is a reoccurring theme
 - Ice needs for practice for 2026/27
 - At home stickhandling/shooting kit for younger SFYHA players

Admin Update – Cherry Hunter

- Tournament Fee collections completed with the exception of two Lady Flyers
- Working on final preparation and communication to Varsity & JV West regarding Hockey Day SD this coming Saturday at the MIDCO Arena
- Lots of Discipline & Game Misconduct Reports
- Fundraiser Fee invoices mailed with due date of January 29
- Will prepare 1099's and W2's for SFYHA by deadline
- SafeSport Report – Worked with SDAHA SafeSport Coordinator on report. No violations
- Working with Varsity Tournament Committee to prepare for the Big Show
- Doing High School attendance verifications for players – due Jan 25
- Alumni Funds – Approximately \$700 available

Director Reports

Director of Tournaments – Adam Gorra: Adam noted SFYHA cannot plan on ice activities during the SDAHA Varsity Tournament. Bantam Tournament included several Game Misconducts including fighting. One player participated in a game when he was suspended for the game. PeeWee Tournament is coming up and working on final details. Mite Falls Freeze includes six A teams and ten B teams for a smaller event than prior seasons. Invites were sent to all locals within a 2 hour driving distance. Adam noted the need for training for tournaments and potential options to elevate the skill of our scorekeepers and scoreboard operators for our tournaments.

Director of Travel League – Leah May: Been a busy season keeping all leagues running smoothly. She is seeking possible candidates for the Travel League Manager board position. Suggested a separate leader for the Squirt 4 V 4 League. The tasks for Squirt League Manager in addition to Squirt 4 V 4 is too much for one person. We are currently utilizing half ice during Goalie Sessions for additional team ice slots – esp at the Squirt level.

Culture & Communication Committee – John McCollister reported the desire to do more with social media. Videographer was suggested through Southeast, USF, or Augie.

Agenda Items:

Flyers Expansion Project – Derek Berg reported the project has \$230K to fundraise. Jerry Fromm and Derek are attending construction meetings and provided updates for the board. Goal is completion end of February.

Pull Tab Project - Derek Berg reported SFYHA will profit \$150 per box of pull tabs sold with 4000 pull tabs in a box. Giving Hope does the set up for the project. Establishment hosting the pull tab machines receive no funding and cannot assist with the function. Paper pull tabs would require SFYHA to man the sales. Big Sioux Burger is set up for sales. Hoping to connect with Gibbs and Gateway to place pull tabs. Kravn and Barrell House already have pull tabs for other groups.

Mite Falls Freeze – Adam requested separate leadership/chair for the Mite Falls Freeze. Board members approved hosting Mite Falls Freeze Director as a Support Personnel position.

Names on Jerseys - Board members discussed names on the back of game jerseys for JV/Varsity. Cherry will research cost to place names on jerseys at the high school level.

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Mission:

To Motivate, Inspire and Encourage Athletic Participation and Good Health through Ice Sports

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY – February 11, 2026 6:30 pm

Sanford Conference Room at the IcePlex

Respectfully submitted,
Cherry Hunter
SFYHA Director of Operations

Adopted February 11, 2026 (Date) by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence (Circle one)