



Menomonie Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023 6:00 pm at Stout Craft Co.

Call to order: 6:03 pm Meeting Adjourned:

MYHA Mission, Vision, and Ground Rules

Mission: To provide youth in the greater Menomonie area with the opportunity to learn, play and compete in the game of hockey with an emphasis on growth in the areas of skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Vision: Pursuit of the model USA hockey organization following the American development model.

Ground Rules: Mutual respect, be timely – start on time and end no later than 9:30 p.m. Come prepared. Allow enough time to make decisions and stand by your decisions. Communicate, conduct yourself and make decisions based on what's best for the entire association versus just your child.

Roll Call/Quorum:

- Mike Jax, President- Present
- Stacy Hintzman, Past President - Absent
- Gary Messerschmidt, Treasurer (non-voting) - Absent
- Zack Raff, Treasurer in learning (non-voting)- Present
- Jake Farrah Tournaments & Scheduling Director - Present
- Heidi Neverdahl, Concessions Director - Present
- Matt Czechowicz, Equipment Director - Present
- Stephanie Thortsen, Fundraising Director - Present (zoom)
- Tucker Giertz, General Operations - Present
- Brian Gowling, Hockey Operations - Present
- Kate Kramschuster, Growth and Development - Present
- Jennie Cimino, Secretary (non-voting) - Absent

Guests - Chad Bahr. Heidi Dowd, Sarah Schwedler

Member Comments:

The first part of each board meeting is reserved for member comments and questions. The board welcomes feedback and participation from all of our members!

- Chad Bahr - Concern shared that Squirts have only 5 hours and 50 minutes of practice time this month. Mike shared that he is working with the Ice Board (meeting Wednesday) so we can free up and better utilize more ice time. Squirts and Peewees will also hopefully have some morning slots coming up. We target 2-3 hours for Squirts. 3-4 for Pewee, 4-5 for Bantams of ice time per week. Also looking at afternoon opportunities before HS/Stout games and mornings. Mike has asked Kristi to be more diligent in alerting us to open ice hours. Future discussions will need to be had with Stout, and need to have them practice between 8am-3pm and after 10:30pm, and may need to look at a longer term option for Stout. They currently pay between \$25-30K. That is similar to what the High School pays.

- Heidi Dowd - General lack of communication in the organization is frustrating. Getting information 48 hours or less before things are happening, the pre-season and tryout information was late due to last-minute board resignation. Not clear who the Peewee A head coach is. Stout coaches not aware of when practices are. Disappointed with goalie training - not what was promised. Discussion of what needs to change - hockey operations currently has no focus with development and it needs to happen. Discussion of how to incentivize goalies since it is more expensive and concerns with how goalies are coached. Need to look into goalie equipment. Matt noted that if parents are a veteran, there are programs that can get them outfitted with gear. Brian discussed opportunities to improve the future Stout training programs and is open to feedback and new opportunities. Idea to have a goalie station at all the Mite practices - need to promote it more at the Mite level, perhaps have Mites have a set goalie position.
- Jake Cimino - Comments regarding tryouts. Would like to openly contest the results of this year's tryouts and does not believe the tryout team correctly assessed his skater's abilities. Staying as a B skater is not going to help him grow. Shared stats from last year. Asking if he can be re-evaluated and if not, how can this be prevented next time. Suggestions: full-ice game play should be an emphasis, longer tryout and evaluation process (3-4 nights instead of 1-2). Maybe not the first week of practice, skaters need to have the ability to be re-evaluated since rosters aren't set until December 31st. Brian responded that he will follow up with the hockey ops.
- Sara Schwedler - Positive coaching alliance liaison. She is here to help with things we can do to make a more positive culture in the organization.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of [October Meeting Minutes](#): Motion to approve, passed.

Meeting Agenda:

President's Agenda:

- Goalie Training - covered above. More discussion will be had in hockey ops.
- Ice times - Right now Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and Friday afternoons are currently open. Brian will schedule
- Neckguard- statement made by USA Hockey and WAHA that neck guards are recommended but not mandated. We will follow the WAHA policy- which is to highly recommend but not mandated. Brian said even a cloth turtleneck would help prevent injuries in much the same way a neck guard would.
- Mike will look into possible State tournament openings and sign us up.
- Coaching modules - coaches are currently working through the modules.
- Volunteer hours for home games - Will tell team managers to set an assigned number of shifts per family to ensure they are evenly divided up.
- Gamesheet - Matt will buy a new ipad and use the concession one as a backup. WAHA will reimburse 75% of the cost of this, so we will move forward with it. Motion to approve, passed

Treasurer update -

- P&L looks good. Need to submit receipts for our credit cards.
- Looks like we will make \$15-20K with wreath sales. We are in a current era of low supply with Christmas trees and wreaths, so costs are up.
- Received a \$3,000 check from Cubby's for Mike Fischer Memorial

- Pedal Pull - they rent out the arena. Money from this is concessions.

Fundraising:

1. 2nd Fundraiser - Kwik Trip car wash cards to start after Thanksgiving. Each skater (max 2 per family) would need to sell 10 at \$36, and we would get \$18.00 back. Possible to make at least \$18,000 for the committee. Motion to approve, passed.
2. Approval for one committee member and approval for her to have 20 Dib hours - Allison Nowaski has volunteered to help on the fundraising committee with the Kwik Trip cards, fundraising baskets. Does not include concessions. Motion to approve, passed.
3. Can we buy some skating trainers? If so then the money should come from open skate.

Hockey Ops

1. Start of the Season update (Coaches/Managers approved, goalie camps set, coaches training update, open actions)
2. Member Feedback/Criticism (tryouts, goalies, etc.)
3. Challenge of Tryout Result (Jake Cimino)
4. Practice time discussion (early afternoon & mornings)
5. EOY Member & Coach Awards - proposal to change for '23-'24 - could this be more tied to how members are contributing to the org instead of voting. Should coaches vote for the best coach instead of membership? Will add this to our annual meeting.
Possibility of making it mandatory for our players to wear a neck collar or shirt for their safety

Annual Meeting Agenda topics (January?):

1. Board roles & responsibilities
2. # of Board positions (On-ice vs. off-ice)

Updates:

Kate - Try hockey free brought in 9-10 new skaters. Will do another Try Hockey Free in February, and a new LTS session in January

Heidi - Kwik Trip Pizza option. Looking into cost. Looking into game plates (like tournament plates).

Matt - looking into goalie gear. John K is coordinating the sharpener. Med bags are distributed and Med box is stocked. Will look into practice jerseys (using old MYHA jerseys, looking for a sponsor for new ones).

Request to have Peewee A skaters go up to Bantam B. There are current illnesses and injuries where their numbers are low. The board agreed the skaters move up to play when there is a need.

Update document with our roles and timelines

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HVwOkyjuNiYaUwC6gBSLJGjQSPagVcUK/edit#slide=id.p1>

[October Task List](#)

[November Task List](#)

Next Meeting

Monday, December 4th 6:30pm