

# Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association Board Meeting

Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
7:00pm VIA Mezzanine



Board members in attendance: Jason Mattila, Justin Temple, Lauren Koehler, Erin Ludmer, Mike Bakalars, Danielle Pellitteri, Kyle Dziubla, Earl Tollefson, Karin Shippar, Angela Hunt, Joe Beyler, Mark Markham, Lelsey Steffin, Brian Lindow, Kristen Manning, Kaiti Bohacek, Mike O'Brien, Adam Sodersten

1. **Call to order** – Jason Mattila called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.
2. **Approve Minutes from the December 2023 Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes by Lesley, second by Erin. Motion passed.
3. **Ice Inc. Report** (Mike O'Brien) – Cleared 100% on Tuesday, still need to work on selling the pucks for the bar. Still working on getting additional donations but focusing on other priorities first. Discussing what we are going to do with the upstairs area of Rink 2, there are lots of different ideas. If you have any input, reach out to Mike.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Erin Ludmer) – Last installment due in December, so we collected a large amount of money. Director of the Mite tournament requested an additional \$500, Justin makes a motion to approve the additional \$500, second by Earl. Motion passed.
5. **President's Report/Region 4** (Jason Mattila) – Meeting on December 20, main discussion was around how we were doing seedings for Playdowns. The decision was to use MyHockey rankings. Other discussion item was having a tourniquet kit, should have at least 1 in each rink by the AED machines and probably 1 in each penalty box. We should just buy 4 of them and would also need to provide training, can likely ask the Verona fire department to do the training. Kyle will work on purchasing them through Verona safety and can send the invoice to Erin. The A teams will be seeded at State, but just not sure what method they are using. Other levels will not be seeded.
6. **Committee Reports and Updates**
  - a. **Fundraising** (Mindy O'Brien) – Culver's went very well for us, we made \$746.91. All skaters had fun and did an amazing job. We are signed up already for another one Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All prizes from hockey cards have been handed out. Headphones were pretty cool. The next big event is Seven Acre Dairy in Paoli, Thursday Feb 22nd 5:30-9pm. PNO is in the works, we are looking at The 5th Quarter. They have a new space opening very soon. Should plan on having it Saturday, March 16. Jason will follow-up with Hop Haus to make sure they would be OK with us going in a different direction this year.
  - b. **Equipment** (Adam Sodersten) – Purchased larger goalie gear for PeeWee, looking to see if we can get more sticks.
  - c. **Coaches Committee** (Joe Beyler) – Talked to Mike about the off-ice area and also looking to buy a new tarp in the shooting area of Rink #1.
  - d. **Ice Scheduler** (Earl Tollefson) – Coaches should verify week 1 of February, there have been some changes. Getting referees for these last few weeks in January will be tough, Earl will keep an eye on it.

- e. **Website Update** (Karin Shippar) –
- No registrations for Mavericks tournament. What can we do? PJ said it's not listed on WAHA. Early bird deadline was January 15th and the registration deadline is January 31st. Should those dates get pushed back? Yes, push early registration to January 31, normal registration to mid-February.
  - Registration is still open for Jr. Lynx. Should we close that down? Yes, we can close it.
  - Is there a final copy of the Player and Parent Code of Conduct for the website? Jason will reach out to Brian to get that updated.
  - Everything else should be up to date.
- f. **Jersey Coordinator** (Karin Shippar) – No updates.
- g. **Concessions** (Brian Lindow/Lesley Steffin) – Grossing \$5,000 more than where we were at last year. Big thanks to Mike for helping to move equipment back and forth between concession stands, but will need to have both concession stands open as soon as playdown weekend in 2 weeks per WAHA. It would also be possible to rent the equipment. Brian will make up a list of the equipment needs. Might be worth checking to see if we can borrow any of the Little League equipment, Kyle reached out. Justin makes a motion to create a subcommittee of himself, Mike, Brian, and Erin to have \$5,000 to purchase additional equipment. Second by Karin. Motion passed.
- h. **DIBS** (Desiree Bates) – No report.
- i. **Registrar's Report** (Mike Bakalars) – Submitted links to the rosters for WAHA this week, working on the rosters for U8 and U6 for number purposes. Mike to follow-up with Amanda and Danielle for any U6 and U8 coaches that have outstanding training.
- j. **Legal Counsel** (Brian Severson) – No report.
- k. **Recruitment** (Angela Hunt) – No report.
- l. **Girl's Hockey Committee** (Angela Hunt) – U8 jamboree is tomorrow night! There have been a few Jr. Lynx practices and a lot of fun events. Currently have had 6 ice times in the books but need to get to 10 and prefer Friday nights.
- m. **Communications** (Kristen Manning) – No report.
- n. **Apparel** (Kaiti Bohacek) – Working on the end-of year gifts with Signs by Caitlin. They will be able to set-up a store that coaches and team managers would be able do their own orders.
- o. **Photography Coordinator** (Jill Scheibel) – Working on the poster! Thanks to the ALDs for proofing them.
- p. **Tournament Directors** (Kristen Manning) – There are 6 coordinators between all the different tournaments. Kristen to follow-up with Mike about whether the bar will be open. Coordinate any cash proceeds with Erin. Not interested in using Venmo but could look at using Square. There are plenty of folding tables to be used between both rinks. Should create a Sign-up Genius to coordinate refs. Goal should be ~\$6,000 of revenue per tournament.
- q. **Culture Liaison/CATS Subcommittee** (Eric Helsher) –
- CATS awards proceeding as planned. New awards going out every sometimes. Have 5 or so in the queue.
  - Still need Mavs nominations. One mom nominated the entire A team. Need to get a bit more specific...
  - Helmet stickers are a hit on some teams, unused on others. I ordered more because my ask for spare sheets went unanswered.
  - Working with Joel to get a monitor in the rink 2 lobby that will scroll through award winners. Mini-computer will come out of the CATS budget, which is still largely untouched beyond the hats.
  - Joel is also going to get more sign holders for the bathrooms for CATS behavior signage. We got a suggestion to add one that says, "Applications to referee are available at the concession stand."

**r. Update from ALD's**

- LTP (Danielle Pellitteri) – No updates.
- U6 (Wayne Pfahler) – Things are great at the U6 level. I'm working on my replacement for next year so I can move onto something else. Getting Aubrey Freeman a bit more involved.
- RWB (Amanda Ferwerda) – League play has been going well, our teams are all competing at a high level. Our inaugural season of Goalie Dojo lite/shooter practice has been a massive success. Each Tuesday we have all 6 goalies for the week and 2 full teams practice shooting drills exclusively. We give specialized goalie instruction on almost a 1 on 1 basis to those that come. We give specialized shooter instruction to the players as well. From this, we have heard from at least 2 parents that their player plans on being a full time goalie moving forward, and an additional 3 families said they are strongly considering it! Looking forward to the Mite tournament, we have just under 300 skaters attending. We have a number of vendor and fundraising activities this year and expect to raise more funds this year than prior years. We are hosting our U8 jamboree this Friday night, and have expanded it out to 8 teams this year (as opposed to the usual 6). If you are interested in helping with it, please let Angela know, we need a few more volunteers.
- Squirt (Kyle Dzuibla) – Everything is great.
- Peewee (Todd Carlson) – No updates.
- Bantam (Bill Snow) – No updates.
- Mavericks (PJ Gregoire) – The A & B teams are quickly approaching the end of the NIHL regular season, the beginning of February. Both teams are still in the running to make the playoffs and we are hoping for a strong push from each to secure spots. Myself and team managers are pushing out information for the spring tournament on various social media sites. The tournament still isn't showing on the WAHA invitational list, can Mike look into it? Earl suggested hitting the Chicago and Minneapolis markets, there are a few girl-specific websites. All teams could use extra helmet stickers as the season goes on, if Eric can help with that it would be much appreciated.
- Midget (Janis Strutt) – No updates.

**7. Old Business**

- a) No old business.

**8. New Business**

- a) No new business.

**9. Motion to Adjourn** – Motion to readjourn by Erin, seconded by Mike, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.