



Menomonie Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 8th, 2024 4:00 pm at Stout Craft Co.

Call to order: 4:12 pm Meeting Adjourned: 8:27pm

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

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!

Consent Agenda:

1. [December Meeting Minutes](#)
2. Locker Room Policy- Approved through email

Meeting Agenda:

President

- Competitive Concerns at Lower Levels-Squirts/Mites
 - Many of the players on the Squirt C team are mites.
 - Keeping the kids at their correct level creates excitement.
 - What are the fundamental problems that are happening that are causing this issue?
 - Possible reasons would include: limited icetime, coaching techniques, limited off season practice, kids understanding of the game, skater numbers are down, training and guidance for coaches, some years there are more talented skaters than other years.

- Between now and next year we need to work on strategies so we can compete with our peer group next year.
 - The Board made a decision a few years ago not to have a Hockey Development Board Position. The position was changed to a Hockey Opps. The current position oversees 44 coaches and 140+ skaters. Two years ago this was brought up that we need a position on the board that focuses on hockey development. The hockey development committee has dissolved. We need to focus on player development, goalie development, off ice training, and off season training. We are now outsourcing all of these positions. One board position to cover all Hockey Opps is too much responsibility for one person.
 - Possible solutions
 - The Board could add another position that is focused on Hockey Development. Or the board could restructure the positions and add a new position so the board stays at 7 positions.
 - Structures need to be in place for roles/positions under the Board positions. Reinstate the Hockey Opps.
 - Bring back the in-house training instead of outsourcing.
 - Provide developmental training feedback to skaters at the end of the season.
 - Create a hockey development plan.
- The purpose of the Board is to operate a 501(3)(c) organization. Therefore, we need positions to ensure the business side of the organization runs correctly.
- Returning/Board Terms
 - Heidi- spring of 2024
 - Tucker- spring of 2025 (will be resigning spring 2024)
 - Matt- spring of 2025
 - Jake- spring of 2026
 - Steph- spring of 2026
 - Kate- spring of 2026
 - Brian- spring of 2026
 - Mike- President
- Future structure of the Board
 - President
 - Past President
 - General Opps
 - Hockey Opps
 - Scheduling/Tournaments/Awards
 - Fundraising
 - Concessions
 - Equipment
 - Growth and Development and Girl's Program (Member is also on the Co-Op board)
- President Vote
 - Discussion on nominating a president elect.
 - We will need a president elect to take Mike's place if/when he does step down.
- The Ice Board is a committee that falls under the MYHA board.
- State Grant- The Ice Board is working on writing a grant from the state to partially fund an outdoor sheet of ice. This rink would be covered and coils would be put in place so ice can be created in the fall. The grant writing process is intensive and is not guaranteed.

General Opps

- General Scholarship discussion. Does this need to be renamed?
 - This is a general fund reserved for families who need assistance to play hockey.

- This year our fund has been depleted.
- **Motion to change the word scholarship to assistance. - Passed**
- **Motion to move a family donation of \$5,000 to the Assistance Fund- Passed**
- **Motion to go into a closed session.- Passed 6:53**
- **Motion to move to regular session- Passed 6:55**
- Timing of registration. We need to open registration earlier next season. The goal is to open in July or August.

Fundraising

- Car wash card sales
 - Stephanie shared the list of members who have not sold cards.
 - Cards will be sold at a table at play downs, State, and the Mite/LTS Jamboree.
 - Hours for DIBs will be given to work the table.
 - Cards will be sold at the concession stand. Members who are working the concession stand will need to know that the card money goes into a separate place.
 - There will be a clean-up crew to help take down tables.
- Hats and stocking caps could be sold at the concession stand. Matt will look into ordering hats.

Hockey Ops

Strategy:

- MYHA Board Structure - Why do we have the positions/responsibilities divided the way we have today?
 - Discussion was had to either combine the positions to keep the board at 7 positions or add a position to create 8 voting spots.
 - Voting for positions at the annual meeting is not authentic as many people do not know who is running.. To help with this we could have the people who are running give a short speech introducing themselves.
 - Brian will create an organization structure that will include all of the hockey opps and hockey development. He will create a job description for each of the roles.
 - **Motion- To add another board position to be voted on at the annual meeting and for Brian to move forward to organize the hockey organizational structure. - Passed**
 - A policy will be created to ensure the hockey development committee is always in place and their decisions will be honored at the board meeting.
 - A discussion was conducted on empowering the board committees to make decisions and then bring the decisions to the board as information.
- Discussion on positions and the needs of hockey development: Permanent Hockey Development/Operations positions - Association Head Coach (add), Player Development Coordinator (add), Association Goalie Coach (add), Mite Coordinator (existing), Competitive Level Coordinator (new), Girls Hockey Rep (new).
- Tryout Procedure - This will be addressed in the offseason
- Goalie Development - Concern over MYHA goalie assignments and development.

Current Season:

- Ice Time - Approved at the last board meeting to look into ice time at Altoona.
 - No ice slots available until 9:30pm
 - Add ice time on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.
- Coaches - 2 (of 45) coaches were not able to complete CEP training.
 - The coaches can not be on the bench for paydowns and State. Mike will look into the rules to see if they can be on the bench during the regular season and if they are able to come to practice.
- The Bantam B team is short 3 skaters because of injuries.
 - We have one PeeWee A player that is rostered for the team.
 - There have been many games that have gotten rough and kids are getting hurt.
 - There were rumors that a PeeWee A skater would be moved to the Bantam A team. This was not the case.
 - The Bantam B team is struggling with motivation because they are losing by a lot.
 - The high school team is asking players to move up and this creates a problem for the Bantam team.

- A suggestion would be for the A and B teams to practice together and not split into ½ ice.
- Kids are getting hurt at the Bantam level because of checking. The skaters need to learn how to check when they are younger so they are not scared and understand how to give and take a check.

Growth and Retention

- Upcoming Jamborees/Mite Activities:
 - Mystery Menomonie at the Outdoor Rink - Brian will work with Jake to plan this event
 - Girls Grow the Game - Mike is starting a schedule for the event. Pizza will be provided for the girls and an activity. Kate is reaching out to others to help out with the activity. We do not have a lot of parents on the girl's team. We will need people to work the booth.
 - Mite Home Jamboree- The Mite Jamboree Coordinator will receive 20 hours. We have a Home Jamboree Playbook that can be shared with the coordinator. Baskets will be taken care of by Stephaine.
- [Co-op Agreement](#)
 - Menomonie, Chippewa, Altoona, Eau Claire
 - Percent of play is based on the number of girls on each team.
 - Stacey and Mark Chambers are on the committee.
 - Mom from Altoona asked if her daughter could skate with our girls. Yes- as long as she has USA hockey.
- MYHA will send flowers to a family who lost a son. **Motion to forgive the family's volunteer hours- Passed.**
- Co-Op Meeting Notes
 - Committee elections
 - Barry Bohman, Chair
 - Pat Durch, Treasurer
 - Jennifer Lindstrom, Secretary
 - Kate Kramschuster will begin drafting a year-end survey to assess member satisfaction with the girls program this year and seek recommendations for next year
 - Carly Anderson, Eau Claire, is the lead practice scheduler which appears to be working better each month
 - Jennifer will remind members that practice locations are scheduled based on % of players from each home association. Within 5% of goal so far.
 - Additional jerseys are on their way
 - The apparel store will open again soon
 - Stacy Hintzman should continue to be copied on co-op communication for awareness
 - Projection of 2024-2025 co-op players is in progress

Treasurer

- We started the year with roughly \$44,000 in our account.
- The goal was to have the same amount in the account at the end of the year.
- The fundraising margin is down from last year.
 - Tri-Mart does not have all of the items at all times and the price has gone up.
 - Stout has had less games and that affects our profit.
 - The projection is to earn \$24,000 from the KwikTrip cards.
 - We should hit our goal with the Kwik Trip cards, playdowns, state, and the jamboree.
 - We usually earn around \$10,000 for the State tournament.
 - We will sell Beer during the Jamboree. Heidi will put in a request for the beer. We can not sell it during State Tournament
- Skate Sharpener- Has this been beneficial for the organization? We have to purchase the supplies for it. If we are coming in at a loss is this something that we still want to offer?
- Our profit margin selling KwikTrip cards is more than the wreaths. Zach is suggesting that we swap the requirement from wreaths to the cards.
 - We would still sell the wreaths. It is projected that people would still sell above what they are required. The extra money could be used in other ways such as lowering the cost of participation.
 - Brian mentioned that it is a value to purchase a card.
 - This will be a decision that will be made in May.

Equipment

- Matt will look into how many times members are using the skate sharpener.
- The game sheet on the iPad will be ready soon. The goal to have it ready is playdowns. Each team manager has to have an invitation code.
- The storage area for equipment could be remodeled. Matt will look for a volunteer and the materials will be covered.
- There is a donor to purchase practice jerseys. The skaters will not own the jerseys and will turn them back in at the end of the year.
- We have a grant for mini-nets.
- Jake is purchasing the shooter tutor for the association.

Concessions

- Do DIBs hours fall under concessions or General Opps?
 - We will have one person who will take the role of DIBS.
 - This role falls under General Opps.
- We earn 100% profit from the drinks that we sell. We also earn \$1.00 for every case that it is ordered.
- Matt and Heidi will come up with a plan for skate sharpening next year.
- Open Skate- The rental skates are in very rough shape. We have limited skates to use, especially for adult sizes. At the end of the year the skates will be organized and if possible used skates will be purchased.
- Discussion about receiving the schedule earlier than one week before the month. It is suggested that the schedule be shared at least two weeks before the month.

Next Meeting

January 29th at 5:30- at the rink