

**Oahe Hockey Association**  
**MONTH Board Meeting Minutes**  
**EXPO Center – Fort Pierre, SD**  
**Monday, September 16, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Board meeting called to order for the month of September at 6:354 pm (CST) by Board President, Rick Miller.**

**Board Members Present:**

Rick Miller – Board President

~~Nathan Sanderson – Board Past President~~

~~Doug Abraham – Board Vice President~~

Kellie Beck – Board Treasurer

Tawnya Pfeifer – Board Secretary

~~Tom Kirschenmann – Registrar~~

Gerad Johnson – Board Facilities Manage

~~Christi Hand – Director of Players~~

Larissa Freeman – Director of Marketing

Becky Kitts – Director of Communications

John Ullmann – Director of League Play

~~Jon Kotilnek – Director of Coaching~~

~~Rachel Graves – Director of Fundraising~~

~~Landon Badger – Director of Hockey~~

~~Kaishia Anderson – Concessions Manager~~

Nick Marso – Capitalize on the Future

Lindsey Evans - Merchandise

**Additional Guests:**

Leah Ries, Bret Afdahl, Clint Freeman, Justine Frederick, Alison Booth

- II. John Ullmann made a Motion to approve the August Board Meeting minutes.  
Second by Kellie Beck. Motion passed unanimously.**

**III. TREASURER’S REPORT**

**John Ullmann made a Motion to approve the August Treasurer’s Report.  
Second by Becky Kitts. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. DIRECTOR AND OFFICER REPORTS**

**Rick Miller – Board President**

Rick signed the annual renewal with the Figure Skaters. There were no changes.

**Doug Abraham - Board Vice President – not present emailed-**

The only thing that I have is I’d like to request an increase in the tournament amount allotted to squirts and potentially other levels. I don’t think this needs to be acted on tonight but would like the board to put some thought into what we currently have allocated. For squirts, I am not aware of a single tournament that is within our budget. I believe \$650 is the current budgeted amount. Squirts have registered for one tournament this year that Rushmore is hosting that is 850 a team. To avoid coming back on a per case basis, I think a reasonable allocation is \$1000.

Tournament budget was discussed. It is not in the budget to change this year but will look at it for next year. What was suggested for this year is things that have been done in the past which is finding a sponsor to cover the additional tournament costs or have the additional cost split amongst the team.

**Tawnya Pfeifer – Board Secretary**

Nothing on for Secretary.

Will be inputting families and skater into DIBS soon; I was waiting on registrations to come in.

**Tom Kirschenmann – Registrar/Equipment Manager – not present emailed-**

161 currently registered for hockey (a breakdown was sent). It would be good to send out another splash reminding those to register if they have not yet done so. The other question related to this is whether there are any play-up requests. I have heard that Griffin Freeman will be requesting from PW to Bantam, but are there others? If there are, I will need to know them so I can adjust, once approved, within the registration and provide registration fee adjustments to the families.

**Christi Hand – Director of Players – not present emailed –**

We are registered for “Try Hockey for Free” on November 2 from 9:00-10:00 am. Jon, if you could line up some coaches and players to help again this year that would be great!

Coordinators are as follows:

Mini's: Liz Marso, lizmariemarso@gmail.com

Mites: Aimee Van Houten, vogel.aimee@gmail.com

Squirts: Felesha Hoffman, fmhoffman@outlook.com

Peewees: Cassidy Kulesa, cassidy.kulesa@yahoo.com

Bantam: Christi Hand, chand.hockey@yahoo.com

JV/Varsity: Lisa Lee, bumble.lee78@gmail.com

All Girls levels: Leah Ries, phrenophreak@gmail.com

Rick attended our coordinator meeting so if anyone has questions about that feel free to email me or ask him at the meeting.

**Larissa Freeman – Director of Marketing**

The sponsor signs have been rearranged and updated. PWC banner is at All Around getting updated. No word from Highway Safety. Have reached out to Oahe Federal Credit Union for 3yrs \$7K. A&G is a possible on ice sponsor. Have been reaching out for other dasher sponsors. Will be contacting sponsors to get payments in working with Kellie Beck on the list. Also trying to get an Avera contact.

**Becky Kitts – Director of Communications**

Nothing to report.

**John Ullmann – Director of League Play/Scheduling**

Preseason and regular season practices are all in place so far, no issues. Block dates requested by our coaches have been submitted to SDAHA. Our rink is blocked off Dec. 6-8 for Figure Skaters and Jan 17-19 for Tyler Wilcox Tournament. Put in the request for our Pink the Rink event to be held on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. This is only a request not confirmed. State Tournament dates and places: OHA has a bye year!

Boys Varsity – Watertown March 13-15 – No awards banquet

Girls Varsity – Sioux falls March 6-8 – No awards banquet

Boys JV – Rushmore – March 7-9

Bantam A – Aberdeen – Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> - Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bantam B – Brookings – Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Girls 14U – Sioux Center – Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>

PeeWee A – Huron – Feb. 21-23

PeeWee B – Yankton – Feb. 21-23

PeeWee C – Mithcell – Feb. 21-23

Figure Skaters camp may not have enough interest. If they do not have their camp, we will not have the poser skating clinic. If we do have the opportunity the plan is still to create the Sign Up and pay when you show up.

Looking into a Buffalo Hunt for the second half of February.

**Jon Kotilnek – Director of Coaching**

Nothing to report.

**Rachel Graves – Director of Fundraising – not present emailed**

The Richie Z fundraiser will be October 20. More details to come soon.

4H Rodeo Fundraiser event had a net profit of \$9,543.01

**V. DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY REPORT – Landon Badger**

Not present and no email update

**VI. ICE RINK UPDATES - Gerad Johnson – Board Facilities Manager  
ICE BARN & EXPO**

Bidding on some new hockey nets. Zamboni has some issues that they will get fixed. Sept. 23 is the plan to start rink setup with boards out. 20-day plan. Will send to Tawnya to get DIBS out for volunteers.

**VII. CAPITALIZE ON THE FUTURE – Nick Marso**

The feasibility study results are in. They have readjusted the cost of items, reevaluated the estimated proposal and have lessened the cost needed to raise. A couple of things in consideration are bathrooms smaller and possibly cut the training area. They have confidence they can help us get there. They will be stepping in for the marketing of this phase and we are more of the silent partner. Reminder there is a meeting Thursday with them all are welcome to join.

DQ Fundraiser is done. They raised \$7,312.66 for the Capitalize on the Future fundraising campaign. A photo with the boys' JV/V was done and posted to Facebook. Thank you to DQ for helping us.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**WFW** – the documents have been signed. An updated will be provided when there is one.

**LOGO COLOR** – All around had changed the green to a Kelly green. We voted on a gold. All Around will update the logo, all the color codes, and everything else that goes along with that for \$130. We will use the new colored logo as we go forward; we are not replacing any of the old logo things such as banners, etc.

**Kellie Beck made a motion to have All Around do the logo color change and update everything for the \$130. Second by John Ullmann. Motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**Play up Request:** Millie Neddo is requesting to play up from Mites to Squirt. All the appropriate people have signed off on it.

**Larissa Freeman made a motion to allow Millie to play up. Second by Becky Kitts. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Board of Directors for SD Hockey** met, Nathan Sanderson emailed a summary of the meeting:

Team Assessments: The estimated number of teams in the SD Hockey league for this season includes an assessment for Squirts (across all Associations; they have not been included in the past), so the estimated assessment will be reduced to \$283 per team.

Rosters: Registrars have been informed, but SD Hockey needs final rosters by November 15; we should encourage families to register with OHA (and USA Hockey) soon.

Officials: All officials seminars are available on Zoom and would-be officials can take them from any available online presenter. Officials need to register by October 31. Anyone interested in officiating should contact Jared Ahlberg or visit the SD Hockey website under the officials tab. Level 1 officiating seminar hosted by South Dakota is coming up September 24 & 25 and November 12 & 13 - great opportunity to get new officials. All youth officials also need to wear "neck laceration protectors."

Officials Gear Reimbursement: SD Hockey is making up to \$500 available to each Association on a reimbursement basis to buy gear for officials. To receive funds, Associations should buy what officials gear we need (helmets, visors, sweaters, pants, whistles, etc.) and submit the receipts to Jenni Wirkus (via email) by January 1, 2025. No need to buy neck guards, as those will be provided.

SafeSport: USA Hockey plans to begin auditing SafeSport compliance by local Associations. We should review our local processes (locker room monitoring, SafeSport competition by volunteers, etc.) and ensure we're following this closely. And obviously, any mandatory reporting requirements.

Gamesheets: Trainings will begin October 1 for local Gamesheets coordinator, with follow-ups other times in the fall. Local coordinator should work with local scorekeepers on training prior to the season. The transition should not be too difficult. Jenni will also provide training for finding information to pay officials (Kellie).

**Play Up/Down Request: The petition of Oahe's PeeWee team was accepted and Oahe will play in the PeeWee B level (not PeeWee A) AND be eligible for the PeeWee B state tournament.**

Varsity State Tournament: Likely elimination of the awards banquet and hold the All-State awards, scholarships, and other recognition in conjunction with the Hall of Fame banquet on April 11.

SD Hockey Secretary Jon Kotilnek has been elected Secretary of SD Hockey.

## **X. ADJOURN**

**Tawnya Pfeifer made a Motion to Adjourn the September Board meeting  
Second by John Ullmann. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The September Monthly Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:30.**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR October 21, 2024, AT 6:30 pm CST.**

**Submitted,**

**Tawnya – OHA Board Secretary**

**After the September Board Meeting. A few things were circulated via email.**

**1) Griffin Freeman is requesting to play up to bantam (currently a 2nd year peewee).**

He has been playing for 9 years. His birthday is in January, so he misses the cut off by a month. Griffin is a 7th grader. Most bantams are in 7th & 8th grade. His current coach (Bret Afdahl) and the bantam coach (Talon Griesse) have signed off on the request. Jon Kotilnek and John Ullman approved of this request.

**This passed by a majority vote.**

**2) Practice Jerseys for JV/V and Bantams**

Discussion was had to purchase practice jerseys in various colors and sizes for these two levels. Landon Badger will put in an order and coordinate with Kellie Beck for payment.

**This passed by a majority vote.**