



**ARKANSAS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 4, 2025**

Call to Order at 6:32 PM

Board Members Present: Barker, David, Fennel, Henderson, Nelsen, Saum, Sheridan, Windley

Board Members Absent: Fleeman, Hence, Keating, Webb, Wibblesman

Non-Voting Members Present- Millner, Murray

Skatium Representative: James Belamy

1) Approval of January 2025 minutes: Sheridan made motion to accept minutes, Windley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

2) Rink Business - James Belamy

a) Nothing to present

b) Millner said tournament was a success. Rink owner reduced price for ice.

c) Fennel asked Belamy to check on invoices to get December and January paid. Belamy said she is on vacation for last week, will be back tomorrow, and he will talk to her.

3) Association business

a) Travel Budget conflict (Wibblesman)

i) Have 13 players on travel team that have to share ice with house. Budget was approved originally that if 14U+ house practiced with travel, then 14U travel would get \$150 credit back each. Also need to be sure that 14U is not charged for Saturdays they gave up. Would like for those credits to be applied to tournament or any other outstanding fees.

ii) Fennel has credit Excel spreadsheet that does not include the Tuesday practice credits. Credits include any practices, etc. that are cancelled. Will send to Windley.

iii) Windley said he will review and get back with Wibblesman to discuss totals.

b) Little Stars (Fleeman – report via email)

i) Several parents have reached out to me over the past year asking if/when we were going to have another Dallas Stars Learn to Play. Dallas contact recently reached out asking if we want to schedule one. Recommend we get something down since the funds allocated for DSLTP renew in the middle of July. If we wait too long to secure dates, we may have to wait until August to even schedule them.

ii) Millner said they are discussing doing it mid-July.

iii) Wibblesman asked how old does a kid have to be to help? Murray said they have to be registered with USA Hockey and audit a level 1 coaching clinic. He thinks 14+ are okay to help.

(1) May only work with players at least one full playing age level below the STUDENT COACH (e.g., a Bantam age player may act as a STUDENT COACH at the Pee Wee, Squirt or Mite level).

(2) The organization that is using the STUDENT COACH must provide a form indicating on the team on which he/she is participating as a STUDENT COACH, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player. A model form is available on the usahockey.com website.

(3) Upon reaching the age of 18, the STUDENT COACH must comply with the USA Hockey Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.

c) Jersey finalization (Henderson)

i) Would like to request that we keep the dark jersey and only replace the light grey with a lighter color to save money.



ii) Millner suggested swapping light grey for white and giving family options to order one or both.

iii) Fennel said he has a sample white, and it looks great. Asked if we still want to go to a nicer practice jersey for house. Miller said we have agreed to a cheaper house jersey. Fennel will get more details from vendor.

d) Feasibility study conclusion (Millner)

i) Got email from Neil about establishing a foundation. Neil Deininger feels it is acceptable under current bylaws to do this.

e) Bylaws (David)

i) Committee was David, Fennel, Saum, and Windley

ii) Last time bylaws were updated was 2005, and many things are very out of date.

Adult league is also no longer part of AHA so we are removing those sections and adjusting to accommodate changes based on adult league being removed.

iii) Reviewed all changes. Provided time for board to ask questions or request changes to each revision.

iv) Added USA Hockey section and revised age category names per USA Hockey guidelines.

v) Discussed adult members in 4.1 and what qualifies. Agreed to have this be just noted as adults are 18+.

vi) Murray asked about positions that cover house and travel in general. Are they acting as house director and travel director? David said no, the board selects the travel and house director and does not necessarily have to be those positions.

vii) David said we need to add language to allow for board to reallocate spots that have no applicants to ensure that people who want to participate are able if there is room, but we also need to be sure that we are trying to find people to represent each age group if possible so there is equal rep by age.

viii) Remaining changes are clarifying that board applications are submitted electronically rather than mail, adding that board members should provide 48 hours notice if they are going to miss a meeting except for emergencies, adding that board must approve all contracts and obligations, clarifying that jerseys and ice scheduling should be coordinated with appropriate board member, and removing outdated position responsibilities (such as team managers washing all uniforms, league directors doing background checks, etc).

ix) Murray is going to send language for Registrar and Safe Sport positions. This will be added at another date.

x) Henderson requested that we table changes until he can see the text because he is on his phone. David said we cannot fill seats according to the new proposed structure that reallocates two adult league positions until changes are approved, and application notification must go out by Feb. 15th. Millner said we could send it out and vote next week if needed.

4) Financials (Windley)

a) Windley reviewed new Quickbooks and expense tracking.

b) Created new email address (littlerockaces treasurer@gmail.com) for all information to help with transition between officers.

c) Seeking to eliminate using personal funds whenever possible. Setting up people in the system to process payments for reimbursements.

d) Working to set up vendors in Quickbooks and get invoices paid as quickly as possible.

e) Within Quickbooks, can upload the budget. He is setting up GL codes to allocate all expenses so teams can easily track their budgets.



5) Other Business

a) Millner – 4v4 tournament for scholarship fundraiser was successful. Raised over \$3k for association. Would like to join in with hockey day to have another 4v4 tournament.

Fennel said he thinks it's a great idea. Wibblesman would like to move hockey day to some time other than August because of past issues with the rink not being available due to heat or other issues. Suggested late September/early October.

b) Sheridan

i) His company matched his donation. Sheridan requested to use his company's donation to cover the rest of that a child's cost for this year whose family experienced a life changing event. Remaining balance is \$646.16. Does not require board approval since this is a designated donation.

ii) Offered to submit any grant applications that are out there. Millner said SAHA have grants that aren't applied for, so we should apply for them. Applications usually come out in the spring.

iii) Had questions from 8U families about spring hockey. Are only 8U players rising to 10U eligible? Fennel said if we can get enough players to have a third hour, we can do that, it would just depend on interest and if we can get it from the rink.

c) Wibblesman – Bevan put out list of options to rising 16U. We can do 16U in STL, a JV league in Dallas or Kansas City, or SYTHL. They are doing a survey and will provide results to the board next time. Barker said he got a survey from rising 14U and rising 16U, and asked if everyone should have a say for future years? Wibblesman said she wants to have input from everyone in 14U+. Barker said want to have some consistency if possible between travel teams. Saum said coaches need to discuss plans for team structure and where they are playing.

d) Millner said we have to figure out coaches for next year. Will send out request for coaches.

e) Fennel asked who/when to start working on time and budget for next year? We need to start talking about the budget.

f) Fennel asked if we are good to start fundraising for the feasibility study? Josh said yes we are covered for that.

g) Wibblesman asked when board transitions to new members. Millner said new board is voted in April, takes over May. Wibblesman asked what happens if you don't want to be on the board next year, David said just don't apply. Anyone who wants to be on the board next year, including current board members have to re-apply. David just said that we need to get bylaws reviewed and passed before Feb. 15th to be able to send out applications if we want to fill board seats according to proposed changes.

h) Saum moved to accept the new bylaws. Wibblesman asked about Henderson's request to table. Millner said we have a quorum still and this would require a second and vote.

Windley seconded. Bylaw changes passed unanimously.

6) Upcoming Board Schedule March 4th @6:30 pm via Zoom

7) Adjourned 8:03, moved by Saum and seconded by Fennel.