



**ARKANSAS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
August 5, 2025**

Call to Order at 6:33 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Hence, Trowbridge

Non-Voting Members Present- Millner, Murray

Skatium Representative: James Belamy, not present

1) Minutes: Saum moved, Fennel seconded. June minutes approved unanimously.

2) Rink Business - James Belamy

a) Millner said he is out of town so no update.

3) Association business

i) Sheridan asked Millner to remind everyone that phishing scams happen, and nobody from the board will ask for funds.

ii) Millner – Today is the second time Hence has missed a meeting, and she has failed to submit her USA Hockey number, background check, and SafeSport information. Murray said that he reached out to her multiple times because we could not get access to USA Hockey software until all board members have completed their information, and she had to be removed from the Board roster for SAHA meeting or else we could not roster any teams. David asked if she did it last year? Murray said no she did not do it last year, this created liability for the organization. Murray said USA Hockey is really cracking down on this and will not allow any organization to roster any teams if any Board member has not complied with requirements, and we now must submit a Board roster with all documentation completed. Discussed a proposed timeline for moving the deadline up from August 31st to ensure that we meet the requirements from USA Hockey and SAHA for next year. Board discussed that this is a major concern that Hence has not complied for a second year in a row. David reviewed sections of the bylaws regarding removal of board member. Board agreed to bring this back up at the next meeting if she does not comply with requirements per board agreement by then, since she signed agreement that she would comply by Aug. 31st or be removed from the board.

iii) Hockey Day – Millner

(1) Fennel said all teams have an opponent team coming down except JV (14+).

Nelsen said she would talk to Bevan and get back to board.

(2) Millner said he would like to engage youth in second day for Men's League games. Wants to use men's tournament to help offset registration fees. Wants to have 50/50 raffle.

(3) Fennel reviewed schedule for hockey day.

iv) Learn to Play – Millner: We have 40 in Little Stars LTP, and this is the largest program we've ever had. Millner gave big shout out to Fennel and Fleeman for how well this is going. Will promote hockey day and league registration to these kids. Fennel said we have five of these kids registered. Also have 44 registered for this fall season. Millner also gave shout out to Eschenburg for recruiting for LTP.

v) SAHA Meeting – Eschenburg: Attended Nashville meeting. For 8U getting in touch with Issac to join a jamboree. SAHA discussed rule changes. All goalies will be required to wear neck guards. Reviewed grants available. Nashville Preds will have a learn to save program to recruit goalies. Murray said he has the list of grants we can apply for, due by Oct. 1st



#### 4) Financials (Windley)

a) Reviewed Financial Summary for period ending August 5th. We still need invoices from the rink for spring hockey. Just paid invoice for CCM order. Fennel said he's been also trying to talk to the rink to get spring invoices.

#### 5) Other Business

a) Fennel – first aid kits. We have board approval for ones for the bench, but requested one for the travel team. Asked the status of the one we were supposed to already have.

Millner said Trowbridge was supposed to get it but hasn't yet. Windley moved to add \$500 to the budget to purchase two Stop the Bleed kits. Will review budget if needed to purchase kits for travel teams as well. Fennel seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David confirmed in September 2024 minutes that board already previously approved \$500 for kits, so a total of \$1,000 is available to spend on Stop the Bleed kits.

b) Fennel – asked if we will be enforcing the policy that families can't make payment plans if they failed to comply in past years? Saum said yes, we will be enforcing that. Fennel said we need to notify those people so they know for registration.

c) Fennel – for house games, if a team picks players from another team to play, do they have to be registered for the season? Murray said insurance is void through USA Hockey if someone who isn't registered and rostered with a USA hockey team. Fennel asked about people who are registered with other teams, like NWA? Saum said parents have complained that they're paying to be a part of the Aces and if someone from another team plays and they don't pay the same amount, then that's not fair. This is not about tournaments, this is specific to house games. Nelsen asked if team is playing in a tournament and a player from another team wants to practice with the team in preparation, can we charge a drop in fee? Fennel said it would be an easy thing to invoice. Millner said we just need to have that discussion in advance to set a fee, but fee must be paid before touching ice. Brady reviewed how other fees are charged by the hour, like stick and puck. Discussed having drop in registration in Team Snap, which will collect all needed info. Saum moved to adopt \$15/hour for drop in skaters with described process only an out of market player who is preparing for a tournament with an existing Aces team. Fennel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Murray – we don't have a dispute committee and don't have the needed bylaw clauses to meet USA Hockey requirements under Bylaw 10. This is specifically related to penalties during a game, and these are time sensitive. Need a chair for the committee established. David asked him to send info to be incorporated into the bylaws for next meeting.

e) Eschenburg – at SAHA meeting, was discussed to have a fundraising link to buy Nashville Predators tickets. It's free to us and would be easy to set up. Saum asked to get info to sign up to do this. Millner also reminded about Kroger fundraiser. Eschenburg said she will also check with Blues to see if they do it.

f) Eschenburg – said she was putting up posters at the base and got an email about not doing that. She said she got pricing and needs to know how to handle that. Millner said it has to be approved under the marketing budget. Eschenburg said it would be \$150/quarter for posters and \$150/quarter for table tents. Saum said it might be a good opportunity since people are from all over the country, but not sure how to measure success. David asked how quickly can we get that info out, Eschenburg said she will check. She also said she would like to talk to the Boy Scout district about expanding hockey from just their group, Millner said yes but they may have to pay for it. She didn't think that's a problem.

g) David – recommended Matt Lehner fill the vacancy in 10U slot. He has coached, son plays and will be 10U, daughter may register for 8U this fall, and he plays men's league, so very bought into organization. Millner said he came to him months ago also expressing interest. Millner said Lehner will have to apply and then we can vote on that applicant. No other comments received.



6) Upcoming Board Schedule September 2nd @6:30 pm via Zoom

7) Adjourned 7:51pm, moved by David and seconded by Windley.