



**ARKANSAS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 2, 2025**

Call to Order at 6:33 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Barker, Hence, Trowbridge

Non-Voting Members Present- Millner, Murray

Skatium Representative: James Belamy

Nominated Board Members Present: Matthew Lehner

Parents Present: Susan Toboy, Jeremy Henderson

1) Minutes: Windley moved, Fleeman seconded. August minutes approved unanimously.

2) Rink Business - James Belamy

a) No report, just present to see if anyone needs anything.

b) Millner said men's league tournament is half full for Sunday for hockey day weekend.

c) Windley said we are still waiting on spring hockey invoices.

3) Association business

i) Fennel:

(1) Hockey Day: Planning is good. NW AR sent email questioning splitting costs.

(2) Registration: 75 kids registered so far. Next jersey order is on the 15th

(3) Required equipment on the ice: Asked Murray if there is something in writing stating equipment required. Murray said he will get it in writing, but that if a coach is on the ice without a helmet or players aren't in full equipment, then our insurance is voided. Millner said he spoke to the coach directly about this.

ii) Bylaw changes (David): Reviewed additions and changes to bylaws as requested by Murray to comply with USA Hockey and SAHA bylaws regarding dispute resolution.

Murray Saum moved to accept bylaw changes, Fennel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

iii) Grant document review (Sheridan): Please review google doc and add comments in suggest mode. Applications are due in October, need feedback soon. Fleeman discussed option for partner organization for one of the grants.

4) Financials (Windley)

a) Purchased three first aid kits, tourniquets, and gloves. Spent \$600 on the budget of \$1,000.

b) Reviewed invoices paid and balance in account. Spring hockey invoices have not come out yet. Also have two coach reimbursements to be paid.

5) Other Business

a) Eschenberg: Raised concerns about Hockey Day and who is allowed to play for 14U+. Said she was told her daughter can't play Hockey Day because it's full contact, and that requirement is two years of play time before she can play. Murray said this is not a requirement or policy, but there is a safety risk. Millner read email from Bevan Keating 14U+ house coach. Nelsen said NW AR team coming is AA team, they are concerned about safety because coaches have never met new players and are unsure about skill levels. Millner stated that there are 7 players who are brand new this year in 14U+ house. Nelsen said coaches recommended we either don't allow new players to play or don't invite NW AR to come to ensure player safety. 14U+ has full contact, which is contact with the intention of removing a player from the puck. Eschenberg raised concerns about applying the decision on who can/can't play equitably to everyone.



Question asked if new 14+ players can participate in 10/12U game, decision was no because 14U+ goes up to 17/18, can't have them on the ice with 9-year-olds. Nelson pointed out that Hockey Day is putting kids in a game with no practice before. Millner asked if we could play NW AR for 1st game, then house game for 2nd game for 14U+. Nelsen will talk to NW AR about that. Saum said it's really important for Board to support coaches if they bench a player because they determine there is a safety issue. Susan Toboy, parent of 14U+ player: expressed concerns over cancelling NW AR because most of this season is house games and we need opportunity to play. Jeremy Henderson, parent: NW AR team is going to smash into the boards at full speed and keep going, need to ensure safety. Fennel recommended inviting the new players to come to practice for the next two weeks and coaches can decide if they are ready. Board and present parents agreed this would be good compromise, players must come to both practices to be assessed for safety. Fennel will email all new 14U+ house players.

b) Lehner asked about the bar the rink is installing where the equipment room was and asked where equipment is going. Fennel said equipment will be where shooting cages were, and shooting cages will be relocated.

c) Millner welcomed Lehner as 10U representative. David moved to accept, Windley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

d) Millner brought up Letrice Hence. She did not complete USA Hockey requirements last year and has not complied with requirements again this year. She signed Board agreement that she would comply by August 31st but still has not done registration, SafeSport, or a background check. She received several requests to complete this leading up to the SAHA meeting. This is also the third meeting she has missed. Fennel made motion to remove Hence based on failure to comply with USA Hockey requirements. Eschenberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Millner will email her.

e) Saum also stated that Trowbridge has missed three meetings. Millner will email a warning to him.

6) Upcoming Board Schedule October 7th @6:30 pm via Zoom

7) Adjourned 7:41pm, moved by Fennel and seconded by David.