



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

Call to Order at 6:32 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Trowbridge

Non-Voting Members Present- Millner, Murray

Skatium Representative: James Belamy, not present

1) Minutes: Barker moved, Saum seconded. October minutes approved unanimously.

2) Rink Business - James Belamy

a) Not present

3) Association business

a) Update on 14U Travel Budget (Fennel)

i) Get started next week. Declaration went well, stayed B3 this season.

ii) Coaches are learning from a budget standpoint. Underestimated number of players which impacted cost, plus ref fees were higher, but were able to find some sponsorships to address this. Didn't anticipate difference on home ice cost. They are trying to book ice at rink with lowest cost, some rinks are \$100 more per hour.

b) Discussion of poll on Hockey Day (Millner)

i) Survey shows most people want to move it to October, November, or January. Most respondents want to have a welcome party plus hockey day.

ii) David said she talked with Saum about how travel teams need extra practice, so maybe do games for travel teams then open skate that is more low-key than big party at end of year. Also concerned about safety of putting kids on the ice to play in a game when they've never played before. Millner said we should also do a hockey swap. Millner raised that there's a recruitment benefit to the hockey day event.

iii) Windley said from a coaching perspective, you get kids out there that we've never seen before, also see the value of an early hockey day for recruitment. Also, can have parent meetings at this event.

iv) Murray suggested a combination of stick and puck, hockey swap, and team/parent meetings without games.

v) Will revisit later in the year.

4) Financials (Windley)

a) Reviewed financial report for October 1 through today.

b) Said he was sent a Venmo for payment from Memphis for the association. Payments should not come this way. When someone needs to pay us, let him know so he can send them a payment request from Quickbooks.

c) Discussed challenges with ref payments. Have had changes in refs from schedule, which causes issues with payments. Teams are now required to keep signed score sheets, which have ref listed. Please send them to Windley. He uses that to confirm with Scully, then sends payments on Monday. Millner said he is working on getting donated tablets to possibly handle electronic score sheets at the rink.

5) Other Business

a) Millner called on Nelsen to discuss email about cost for JV/14U+. She passed to Toboy. Toboy said JV/14U+ parents have questioned why so many kids are on the ice for 14U+ compared to JV/14U travel. Parents are concerned they're paying fairly, there are 32 on the ice. Fennel said he tracks this, and this year is the very first year that we've not lost money on these teams. Millner said we are stuck with the hours we have or go to 5am



practices, we can send financials to the team if needed. Eschenberg said same questions coming up about 8/10/12 and 14+, and she said she's been referring to last year's count, 8U was 9 kids and this year is 20. Windley said Wednesday practice is hard because there are so many kids (52 kids) on the ice with wide range of size and skill. Board will continue looking at options for next year and review year-end survey.

b) Murray – raised issue of coaches who are not properly qualified to be on the ice. This is a liability issue. Saum asked for clarification, Murray said it is ALL team events, so even on the bench or any other events. Murray showed list of coaches who are not fully compliant. David moved to not allow any coaching staff to participate going forward until they are cleared by Rick Murray as meeting USA Hockey expectations. Fennel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Millner – Trowbridge has now missed four meetings as of tonight. David reviewed his attendance, missed April, August, September, and November. Motion to remove by Saum for missing four meetings, Lehner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Millner asked board to recommend replacements for 12U reps.

d) Toboy said 14U+ is looking for nets to go on the two goals that are in the parking lot to be able to have 4 nets. Discussion about those two nets ended with them likely not being able to be repaired. Murray said good quality net will be \$20+ each, but replacing full goal would be \$850.

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

7) Adjourned 7:45pm, moved by Fleeman and seconded by Fennel.