



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

Call to Order at 6:34 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Windley

Non-Voting Members Present- Millner, Murray

Skatium Representative: James Belamy, not present

1) Minutes: Barker moved, Fleeman seconded. November minutes approved unanimously.

2) Rink Business - James Belamy

a) Not present

3) Association business

a) Saum

i) End of Year Gifts – discussed doing the same medals as last year. David looked up last year's cost, \$5.50 + tax. Fennel said we have 103 kids. Saum recommended approving \$700 to go ahead and get these moving. Fennel moved, Lehner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ii) Team Photos – Said we have Abbie Henderson do these. Last year families paid her \$20 each for the photos, not sure if this is still a reasonable cost. Millner suggested doing a gear swap on the same day and doing it on Jan. 17-18 to coordinate with the adult tournament on Sunday where we are also doing a gear swap. Nelsen said she will contact Abbie. Barker suggested having a buy/sale/trade private group for hockey equipment.

b) Fleeman – Learn to Play

i) 3 weeks left of LTP. Had 13-16 skaters each week, all progressing and having fun. Will restart in January. Fennel has registration ready for next round and can open when ready.

4) Financials (Windley)

a) Not present

5) Other Business

Brought up concerns related to recent JV games. Millner and Barker received upset emails from parents. Barker said players who are not part of AHA played while AHA kids who are putting in work were excluded. Millner said there was no ice lost from kids who did not play. Barker said yes, but parents do not feel they have been given a fair turn, and explanations don't seem to be accurate. Nelsen said there were three kids who are not part of the association, two were coaches' kids who have moved. She said list was sent out with those who are advanced and beginner and board had previously approved advanced players having opportunities to play skill-level games. Need help identifying beginner-level teams to play. Concerns were raised that games were 14-2 and 13-3 (Aces winning) and that this showed newer kids could have been included. Concern was expressed that this goes back to last year with the travel team/same coaches, out of town kids got a discount on registration and never came to practice but got more play time while local kids were excluded. Barker requested that we implement requirements to attend practice, and that they miss a period if they don't attend practices. Eschenberg said there were two games and questioned why we couldn't swap kids between the two games to allow newer kids a chance to play. Saum said we can't say we don't have room for everyone but then allow non-AHA kids to play, even if they are coaches' kids. Attendance is a safety concern; this addresses it in an equitable way. Nelsen asked



about having friendly games against travel team. Saum said she can talk to Shane. Nelsen said they have talked to other teams, but 14U teams don't want to play against up to 17 years old. Fennel said Dallas league has a lot of teams and may have options to play. For next season, if we group all 14+ kids, then we have enough for house team, JV team, and Varsity team. Shreveport is only playing on Sundays in that league. Will discuss Dallas league more planning for next season.

6) Upcoming Board Schedule January 13th @6:30 pm via Zoom

7) Adjourned 7:25pm, moved by Saum and seconded by David.