

Rushmore Hockey Association General Membership Meeting

Date: 9/9/24

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Thunderdome

Motion	First:	Second:	Time:
Call General Meeting to Order:	Dan Laughlin		6:04
Previous Meeting Minutes Approval:	Cody Minnerath	Domnick Janitell	
Meeting Agenda Minutes Approval:	Domnick Janitell	Ronda Simmons	
Meeting Adjourned:	Loren Jensen	Rachelle Williams	7:59

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Brad Eggers			X
Dan Krohn			X
Brad Lee			X
Cody Minnerath	X		
Corey Norris	X		
Dan Laughlin	X		
David Bender			X
Domnick Janitell			
Joelle Neutzling			X
Loren Jensen	X		
Megan Archer	X		
Rachelle Williams	X		
Rebecca Mann		X	
Ronda Simmons	X		
Sandra Weaver			X
Shannon Wirth	X		

Important Upcoming Event:	Date:
October Board Meeting	10/14/24

Report	Discussion	Follow Up
Vice - Presidents Report: Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently two hundred skaters registered for the 2024/2025 season. SDAHA has assigned RHA Peewees to an A team and a C team. Brad Eggers has submitted a request to have an A and B team. The ice is almost ready. When the ice is ready any skater must be registered with RHA to be eligible to use the ice. Coaches will need to be present and make sure skaters are registered. Next weekend is the state meeting. There are no proposals on the agenda currently. 	
Goalie Training and Ice Request – Dick Novack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dick Novack comes to tonight’s meeting to seek board approval to start a goalie training program. He will be putting this together in coordination with Danny Battochio. Dick’s son is also interested in helping. Dick proposes an hour of lessons with squirts and peewee. And an hour with Bantam and JV/Varsity. Ideally, he would have 2 hours of ice a week. He is open to suggestions from schedulers for days/times. He suggests using Mondays when Varsity does not use their ice time after travel weekends. Dick’s goal would be to start his training in mid-October. Last year Danny Battochio offered lessons on Wednesday nights alternating weeks between age groups. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board has no opposition to Dick’s requests. Dan Laughlin will work with Danny Battochio and Konrad Reeder to find ice time for this training. • Dick also requests to rent the ice for the men’s senior league (50 and over), The Hooligans. In previous years The Hooligans played at Roosevelt, however they are being asked to join the A league. The Hooligans would prefer to remain in the senior league. The Hooligans are looking to rent ice from RHA. They are not opposed to early mornings or daytime ice. • The Hooligans will need to sign an insurance waiver to use the ice. • The board approves ice use with no opposition. They will work with scheduling to set ice times. 	
Insurance Policy: Domnick Janitell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domnick Janitell has been working with Sue Sharp to find alternate options for insurance when the policy comes due in May of 2025. • In January/February the policies will be reviewed/compared. • Sue will run RHA’s losses as she did not have this when presenting the initial quote. RHA has not had an insurance claim for a few years now. 	
Varsity Drug Testing and Substance Abuse Policy: Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys Varsity coach Konrad Reeder has requested board approval to start drug testing all JV and Varsity boy skaters. • Brad Eggers, Dan Laughlin, Brad Lee and Konrad Reeder have had lengthy discussions around this topic recently. Post 22 has a similar policy and has been successfully drug testing for several years. This group has found a physician willing to oversee the testing. They have found basic tests for about \$4.00 per test. • In collaboration with Brad Lee this group has put together a policy, policy was sent out to all board members prior to tonight’s meeting. Policy was also reviewed during the meeting. • Concern brought forward, regarding the different punishments for tabaco and alcohol vs drugs. All substances are illegal for minors under 21. • Questions were raised regarding if a player does not consent to testing. Per the policy this would equal a positive test. • Question from the board – do we have the right to test. Per Brad Lee (not present) we have the right to test as stated in the policy. • Discussion from the board – Board feels the girls should be treated the same as the boys, they too should be held to the same standards. Per Dan Laughlin girls’ coaches did not feel there was a need to test the girls, there have not been any concerns. The board discusses that there are now 2 new girls’ coaches with not as much history with the girls. The board recommends testing both boys and girls JV and Varsity. • Konrad would like the testing to be done prior to the season starting. He will be having a team meeting this week and would like to start letting the parents and skaters know to expect drug testing in the upcoming weeks. He will give a few weeks notice prior to any testing. • Question from the board, will drug testing include enhancement drugs. Per policy drug test will not include testing for enhancement drugs such as steroids. • Corey Norris brings up conversation regarding setting standards regarding how alcohol and tabaco use is reported and investigated. This should be defined in the policy. 	Meeting for Policy Review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cody Minnerath question if this policy should be rolled out to Bantam age skaters as well? The board elects to start policy with JV and Varsity level, consider testing younger skaters as policy evolves. • Dan Laughlin suggests 2 separate votes. The first vote from the board is a YES or No to testing. There will be a separate vote to adopt the new policy at a subsequent meeting. • Once the policy is rewritten the board will take time to discuss changes. • Dan Laughlin asks board members if there is anyone interested in working with the team to create the new policy, Corey Norris volunteers to help with this. • The board would like a clause added to the policy that if a skater tests positive parents would have the option to retest with a more quantified test at their location of choice. This would be at the parents' discretion and cost. • Corey Norris brings a motion to vote regarding drug testing. Loren Jensen seconds the motion. Board approves testing with 1 no vote. • The individual who voted no states that the parents have the control over their children and should be aware if their child is using drugs. 	
<p>The Future of the Pro Shop: Dan Laughlin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Laughlin and the executive board brings the discussion to the board about possibly closing the pro shop and going to entirely online sales only. • Ronda Simmons has run the pro shop for the last few years. Ronda states that the pro shop is designed to promote spirit and pride not to make money for RHA. Unfortunately, the budget for the pro shop has remained the same for about 8 years. Over the last few years, it has been harder to stock due to the rising cost of goods. Ronda reports that there have been numerous complaints about products from the online shop. Unfortunately, Ronda is not able to help if there are any issues with these products. Last year an online pro shop was used for Cancer Night shirts. There were a lot of issues with these shirts, and they had to be sent back 2 times for the company to get them corrected. We have a lot of grandparents and local families that like to support RHA but will not order shirts online, they like to buy a shirt when they are at the game. • In the last few years, the pro shop has not been staffed, coordinators were to oversee opening the shop if someone had an interest in buying something. A few years back a previous president did not want the pro shop to be listed on dibs because there were issues staffing more critical areas such as concessions. • Last season there were issues getting the products at the beginning of the season. This made it hard to have the shop open with very low inventory. • Ronda has already moved the laces, wax etc. to concessions. This has helped boost sales on these items. • Another concern with the online pro shop is if shirts are shipped to RHA. This creates a lot of work for coordinators. Also, a lot of the online pro shops are only open for a few weeks at a time. • Dan Laughlin brings up concerns regarding excess inventory at the end of the season, the pro shop is never open, so it is not accessible. • There was an idea to move the pro shop to side office within concessions however this would leave inventory smelling of food and could results in a lot of stolen gear. • The board would like to see all the old inventory be sold at very discounted prices at the start of this season. 	<p>Add dib spots</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we staff pro shop? Board discusses options for keeping the Pro shop open and accessible during peak times at the dome. The board agrees to have pro shop staffed on Saturdays and one night a week. If concessions have a lack of workers, pro shop worker would be moved to concessions. Pro shop will be a dibs item again. Board agrees to give the pro shop one more year. 	
House Report: Jason French	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently 31 registered house skaters. 	
Tournaments: Corey Norris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corey Norris reports that he is still struggling to get teams to commit to the squirt and peewee tournaments. Currently there is only one squirt A team registered. There are 2 peewee B teams registered. House has not put a team together but still plans to. One barrier is that we are asking teams to come here to play but we are not going to their tournaments. There is a team coming from Fort Collins and one from Williston. Corey would like to pass the squirt tournament work onto someone else next year. Please contact him if you are interested. Shannon Wirth reported that last year there was some negative feedback at the end of the tournaments because of the lack of good competition. Shannon reports that team coordinators have sent out invites to any known contacts. Dan Laughlin suggests setting a date such as November 1st as the cutoff date to register. If not enough teams sign up, the tournament will have to be cancelled. Unfortunately, if a team does not host a tournament, they do not get funding for an out-of-town tournament. Shannon Wirth also reports the squirt A team will not going to Fargo this season for Squirt International, Fargo stated they are looking to get different teams in that division. Squirt B team has been accepted into the C bracket. 	Need Volunteers to take over Squirt Tournament
Financial Report: Sandra Weaver read by Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See report This year's registration income is up 23.4% over last year. For skater numbers we are behind by 2 for travel teams when compared to previous year and up 7 skaters on house/mites' registrations as of 8/31. Therefore, the increase is more due to the application of RaiseRight and more paid-in-full registrations than last year vs. the increase in numbers. Building costs include \$16,320 for the roof repair, \$11,000 to Athletica for the second payment on the new Zam doors, and ice preparation costs. The first CD interest revenue payment came in at \$1,675, which is great compared to what we were getting in the past. Our unrestricted cash in the bank covers 16.5 months of expenses based on a rolling 3-year average of \$23,564 per month. This means currently, without any additional revenue coming in, we can support almost 1.5 years of operating expenses. This is a healthy position to be in. With the below resolutions, our cash balances would be at \$341,907, which is still 14 months of operating expenses without additional revenue. Sanda Weaver proposes we move all but \$2,500 from the CTA checking account (approx. \$11,500) and apply it to our building mortgage principal. Sandra proposes we make two additional payments (\$14,792 x 2 = \$29,584) in the fall before our loan payments start on 12/7/2024 to continue reducing the balance of the mortgage. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cody Minnerath makes a motion to make 2 additional loan payments, motion is seconded by Ronda Simmons. The board votes unanimously to pass the motion. • Domnick Janitel makes a motion to pay down the building mortgage principal with profits from Chase the Ace. Ronda Simmons seconds motion. Board votes to unanimously pass motion. 	
Facilities Report: Cody Minnerath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice is getting installed. Ice is about ½ way completed. The goal is to have ice done by September 20th. The ice must be ready by September 23rd. • The zam road has been packed and asphalt will be laid in the next few days. • The state banners have been updated and rehung. • Cody is interested in having a rink clean up party. He will get this organized and set a date. 	
Recruitment: Rachelle Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronda Simmons presented an idea to the recruitment team to host a fall carnival at RHA. The festival will include a carnival with games. Rachelle Williams will be organizing this event with the help of her recruitment team. She will have information on Try Hockey for Free, mites/house program as well as hand out new to hockey brochure. • Rachelle has a flyer that she will hand out at the Downtown Fall Festival. She hopes that this will turn out to be an annual event. Rachele will use the funds from the yearly operations budget, she will not need any additional money. • Ronda Simmons will reached out to both boys and girls JV and Varsity teams to ask if they will help man booths for the kids. These hours can count toward required volunteer time. She will be asking for some parental help as well. • Date has been set for Saturday, October 26th (jersey handout will be moved to Sunday October 27th (Trish is available). 	
Fundraising Report: Jason Orban on behalf of Alissa Orban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alissa Orban is unable to attend tonight’s meeting, Jason Orban reports on her behalf. • Ronda Simmons reports, this round of Chase the Ace has ended. Brad Eggers would like to start again at the beginning of November. The plan will be to continue at Wings and Rings every Tuesday night. Ronda Simmons will remain in charge of this. • Alissa would like to do a Skate A Thon on October 19th from 11-3. Participants will ask for pledges (similar to Jump Rope for Heart). Skater would receive 80% of the pledge, RHA would get 20%. There is a website called Rally Up she will use for this event; each skater will have their own link to send out to friends and family. • Alissa proposes a possible gun raffle to offset registration fees and replace wreath sales. RHA would need to submit a letter to Rapid City’s Attorney’s office stating the intent and when the drawing will be held. RHA would purchase the guns; gun stays at the store until the drawing. The winner then goes to the store to pick up the gun. The store is responsible for doing the background check and transfer of sale. The board is excited about this idea; Dan Laughlin reports lacrosse makes \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year on this alone. The board recommends selling tickets for at least \$20 per ticket. Runnings has been great to work with in the past. There is a cash value if the winner opts to not receive the winning gun. • Unfortunately, RHA had to cancel the last Heart Ranch fundraising night due to lack of volunteers. Heart Ranch would like to use RHA volunteers again next year. • There is an opportunity for RHA to volunteer at The Monument doing concessions. Volunteers need to be 12 or older. RHA will receive 15% of the sales after tax. If 	

	<p>teams are interested in doing this event, please reach out to Alissa so she can secure dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rush have given RHA 2 Chuck a puck dates, November 27th and March 13th. They have also offered for RHA to sell Chuck a pucks on October 12th during their inter squad scrimmage, RHA would receive 100% of the profit at this event. Teams in need of fundraising may take these dates. RHA will get to run a 30 second video on the score board during each of these events. RHA can also do an interview to promote what we are putting funds towards. • Chris Deitrich will be talking with The Rush about sponsoring mite jerseys again this year. • If teams want to raise more money for tournaments there are opportunities for fundraising. Please reach out to Alissa Orban. 	
Sabres' Hockey – Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sabres have offered to let the Mites skate out between periods at their games. They will also be advertising Try Hockey for Free and the Fall Festival at their games. 	
Play Ups – Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coaches have met and discussed the requested play ups. Dan is looking for the board's approval on these play ups. • Cody Minnerath motions to approve the coaches' recommendations. Dominic Janitel seconds motion. Board votes to approve recommendations. 	
RHA and Spearfish Chinook Boundary lines: Dan Laughlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 2 families that previously registered to play for RHA that are moving to the Spearfish Chinook. Brad Eggers and Dan Laughlin have been working with Spearfish to draw boundary lines. Spearfish would like to have Sturgis within their boundaries. If families would like to remain in RHA they would have to petition to Spearfish to stay in RHA (this only applies to mites and squirts at this time). • Coaches are working with Spearfish to offer friendly games on Saturdays for mites. 	
JV Coaching Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board member brings forward concerns regarding the status of the JV coaching position. Board member has concerns over rumors of a young coach. Dan Laughlin states that Konrad had lined up Blake DeVrise to coach JV however he has declined the offer. At this time there is not a coach lined up. Ideally there would not be a parent coach, Konrad has reached out to several Rush players but unfortunately schedules are not lining up. There are not a lot of candidates currently, but Konrad is working hard to find the right fit for this position. Until the right coach is found Konrad will be coaching both JV and Varsity with the help of Mike Ritter who has helped in the past. 	
Additional Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mite's coordinator asks the board to use the raised Little Cesar money to pay for another tournament. The board has no objections, that is what the money raised is for. 	