



Minutes From
August 10th, 2024

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
7 th -10 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	Charlotte, NC	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – August 10th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on August 10th, 2024 beginning at 1:30PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Dresek	(AL) 1 st VP	No
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes		(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	No	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Will attend an affiliate meeting on October 25th. Had Winter meeting in Nashville. Participated in Tier I Committee. Discussed expanding rosters at U18 to 22. Not at younger age. Discussed vertical integration at U16 to U18 level. All is being discussed but not in place.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Don presented the final numbers from fiscal year 2023-24. For the 2024-25 budget Don made a motion for us to discussed ideas on how to restructure some of the categories and allocate money to those areas. Paul 2nd the motion. Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2nd the motion. It was approved.

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) As soon as the meeting was called to order, as secretary, I seated the new board members which were Jack Flynn, Kevin Cook and Ryan McCormack. After board members were seated, officers were nominated for the 2024-25 season. Don made a motion to made to keep Jack as President, Kevin 2nd it and it was approved. Jack made a motion to appoint Paul Dixon as the 1st VP, Don 2nd it and it was approved. Paul made a motion to appoint Rob Link as the 2nd VP, Jack 2nd it and it was approved. Paul made a motion to keep Don as Treasurer, Jack 2nd it and it was approved. Don made a motion to keep Ward as Secretary, Paul 2nd it and it was approved. Ward made motion to approve June/July minutes, Kevin 2nd it and they were approved.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) N/A

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Chris turned this over to give an update on website. SportsEngine was bought by NBC. They are now charging for their services. Kevin is setting up meeting with League Apps and SportsEngine to talk about moving forward

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant and will get an update from Russ at our September meeting.
3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13			A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.
7/13			Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at

creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.

8/10

Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules

3/14 Association Approval, Branding Language Jack Flynn

I would like to add language to the association approval that includes approval of the team name/brand. This is being done to address the current environment where teams are using another association's USA Hockey ID to exist in an affiliate without the understanding anything about this new entity.

4/11

To discuss at a later time

6/13

Must declare who they are, must know primary ice facility and team name. Question was raised-do we do a 2 yr probation period with new teams. Working on putting language together to vote on next month.

7/11

Again, concern is how an association is going to play/act in SAHA. Need to have a process in place to monitor/control this. Will discuss more and put up for vote at annual meeting.

8/10

Jack made a motion that for approval new associations also have to provide 1). Branding Language, 2). Home Rink, 3). Act appropriately 4). On a 2-year probationary period. Don 2nd the motion and it was approved by the board.

6/13 New Association Paul Dixon

It is called ATL50, and is a 50 & over adult league. It is currently a 4 team league playing every Wednesday at Center Ice.

6/13

Since this is more of a league than an association Paul is going to get a hold of Stephane at Center Ice and see why he will register them with USA Hockey.

7/11

Paul still working to discuss with Stephane.

8/10

ATL50 has submitted all their paperwork to SAHA. The GA Directors support them becoming an association. Paul made a motion to approve them as an association, Don 2nd the motion and the board approved it.

NEW BUSINESS

8/10	Committee Chairs	Jack Flynn	With the start of the 2024-25 season, we need to assign people to each committee. As decided upon at the June Board meeting, the Goaltending, Coaching, DDR and College Committees will provide reports on a monthly bases while all other committees will provide reports quarterly unless an update is needed before that.
8/10			Committee chairpersons all remained the same except that Paul Dixon was asked to head the SafeSport Committee and he agreed to do that.
8/10	2024-25 SAHA Calendar	Ward Hillegas	Need to update the SAHA Calendar to reflect the correct dates, locations, etc. for the upcoming season. I believe the people involved in this process include Jack, Kevin, Chris, Don and Ward. This needs to be complete prior to our September board meeting.
8/10			Ward will make his changes to the calendar that he is responsible for and then send it out to the others responsible so they can make their updates. The plan is to have this completed by the September board meeting.



Minutes From
September 12th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

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12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
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30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting Youth Tier I Applications due	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
16 th -19th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	

February 2025			
15th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2025			
1 st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots for SE District Director distributed for election		
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2025 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
	2024-2025 Player Development Camp		Jack Flynn
	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled		
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's		
	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's		

May 2025			
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
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Southern Amateur Hockey Association

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Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
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Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Presidents Committee to recommend a team must have played 18 games and a player must participate in 14 games to qualify for Nationals. This also applies to women’s teams. Also looking at a cap for the maximum # of games a team can play.					
The GA Directors visited with two candidates for the vacant GA Directors position that since Yan stepped down. They chose on of these candidates and Paul made a motion to approve this individual. Don 2 nd the motion. The board voted and approved Samantha Menton as the new GA Director.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) GA is having issues with House League numbers. Next month Don will be requesting to use funds to sponsor a SAHA jamboree to generate more interest. Also, SAHA 3-year audit is coming up in mid-November.					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the August minutes, Rob 2 nd the motion, there was no discussion so minutes were approved. The following association members were in attendance: Tony Guzzo-Huntsville, Beth Ann Wagner-Wolverines, Bryan Hince-Pro Vision, Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Summer Walls-NWAHA, Jennifer Boniecki-Jr. Preds and Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) 168 Teams rostered so far, 5-Tier I and 22-Tier II. Worked with National Bound Team Managers on how their books should be organized. 123 coaches need to renew their CEP this season.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

Old Business

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7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/12			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
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Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules

9/12

Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October

8/10

2024-25
SAHA
Calendar

Ward Hillegas

Need to update the SAHA Calendar to reflect the correct dates, locations, etc. for the upcoming season. I believe the people involved in this process include Jack, Kevin, Chris, Don and Ward. This needs to be complete prior to our September board meeting.

8/10

Ward will make his changes to the calendar that he is responsible for and then send it out to the others responsible so they can make their updates. The plan is to have this completed by the September board meeting.

9/12

Hope to have the calendar completed by October's meeting.

8/10

2025 SAHA
Annual
Meeting

Isaac Lee

Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.

9/12

Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee

NEW BUSINESS

9/12	Ladd Foundation	Jack Flynn	The Ladd Foundation contacted Jack to discuss next steps for a partnership with SAHA. Would like to discuss with SAHA Board what these next steps would be.
9/12			This was presented at the Annual Meeting. This could be a helpful tool to support mental health to our players. Jack, Paul and Rob will be setting up a call with the Ladd Foundation to talk about how both groups can work together to provide opportunities to our affiliates.
9/12	GA Directorship	Chris Powers	There is a possible candidate (maybe more) for the vacant GA Directorship. Would like to discuss with the board who this (these) candidates are. Chris will discuss the approval process.
9/12			Earlier in our meeting Samantha Menton was voted in as the new GA Director to fill the vacancy of Yan Kaminsky after he stepped down.



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1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – October 10th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on October 10th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 2 nd VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 1 st VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	No	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	No

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) N/A

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve September’s minutes. Rob 2nd the motion. There was no discussion so minutes were approved. Association representation was as follows. Brad Schell-IceForum, Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates, Brain Lester-Gulf Coast, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr. Preds & Roney McAtee-Nashville Warriors. Ward also reviewed the calendar for October and November to highlight things that are coming up so folks would be aware.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Need House rosters by 10/31. No flex rosters so no more than 20 players on a roster. There have been a lot of play up requests already. Debbie will give a more detailed report in November.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/10			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11		Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13		A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.
7/13		Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.
8/10		Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules
9/12		Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October
10/10		The committee has John Cox to get involved based on his background with the SAHA By-laws. There is a USA Hockey audit coming up and they may ask for some changes so nothing will be sent out to review until December.
8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting	Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
9/12		Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.
10/10		Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.

9/12 Ladd Foundation Jack Flynn The Ladd Foundation contacted Jack to discuss next steps for a partnership with SAHA. Would like to discuss with SAHA Board what these next steps would be.

9/12 This was presented at the Annual Meeting. This could be a helpful tool to support mental health to our players. Jack, Paul and Rob will be setting up a call with the Ladd Foundation to talk about how both groups can work together to provide opportunities to our affiliates.

10/10 Kevin Cook Jack, Kevin and Rob were on a call with them. This program is video based and supports players, coaches and parents. Right now is focuses on the 11-14 year old group. October 13th is the deadline to register your team for free. It costs roughly \$2,500 per team to provide support for the season through the video program. They are asking SAHA if we would be willing to help support them moving forward. We are looking into this and will discuss it as a board next month.

New Business

No new business



Minutes From
November 14th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting Youth Tier I Applications due	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
16 th -19th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	

February 2025			
15th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th -10/2	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
March 2025			
1 st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
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2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
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10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
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27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
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9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
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June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
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July 2025			
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Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – November 14th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on November 14th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 2 nd VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	No
Paul Dixon	(GA) 1 st VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Affiliate Meeting in MN was well attended. 28 USA Hockey Sr. Management attended. Topics discussed were Affiliate release of Tier II players-just formal discussions, better communication and locker room monitors-must list gender. USA Hockey Winter Meeting is in Nashville-January 16th-19th.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the October minutes, Paul 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and minutes were approved. Associations with representatives attending the November meeting were Beth Ann Wagner-TN Wolverines, Jennifer Boniecki-Nashville Jr. Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Nashville Jr Preds Elite and Bryan Hince-Pro Vision.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) House rosters are all in. Reminder that no changes to National bound rosters after 12/31. We had players with “play up” requests. Lots of rosters with only one coach on the roster.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/10			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.
11/14			Still waiting on IRS response to audit

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13			A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.
7/13			Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.
8/10			Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules
9/12			Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October
10/10			The committee has John Cox to get involved based on his background with the SAHA By-laws. There is a USA Hockey audit coming up and they may ask for some changes so nothing will be sent out to review until December.
11/14			No real change. Pushing committee meeting back after USA Hockey Audit in December. Hope to have something by Winter Meeting.
8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting		Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
9/12			Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.

10/10

Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.

11/14

Committee has been formed with Jennifer Boniecki, Paul Dixon and Beth Ann Wagner. Working on getting a survey out to all of the associations by mid November.

9/12

Ladd
Foundation

Jack Flynn

The Ladd Foundation contacted Jack to discuss next steps for a partnership with SAHA. Would like to discuss with SAHA Board what these next steps would be.

9/12

This was presented at the Annual Meeting. This could be a helpful tool to support mental health to our players. Jack, Paul and Rob will be setting up a call with the Ladd Foundation to talk about how both groups can work together to provide opportunities to our affiliates.

10/10

Kevin Cook

Jack, Kevin and Rob were on a call with them. This program is video based and supports players, coaches and parents. Right now is focuses on the 11-14 year old group. October 13th is the deadline to register your team for free. It costs roughly \$2,500 per team to provide support for the season through the video program. They are asking SAHA if we would be willing to help support them moving forward. We are looking into this and will discuss it as a board next month.

11/14

SAHA approved a grant for \$5000 towards the cost of the 1616 Foundations program for the associations in SAHA

New
Business

No new business



Minutes From
December 12th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
16 th -19th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	

February 2025			
15th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
March 2025			
1 st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
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2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
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27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – December 12th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on December 12th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 2 nd VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 1 st VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	No	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) USA Hockey Winter Meeting in Nashville, Jan. 16 th -19 th . Notified of proposed rule changes impacting Tier I, including moratorium, expanding rosters, vertical roster integration and 13U National Championship.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) SAHA had an audit today by USA Hockey. It covered the financials, conflict of interest report, etc. Everything went well.					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Paul 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Association representatives that attended tonight’s meeting were Paul Esdale-Ghost Pirates and Bryan Hince-ProVision					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) N/A					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/10			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.
11/14			Still waiting on IRS response to audit
12/12			Neither Chris nor Russ were present for board meeting so update on hold until next month

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13			A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.
7/13			Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.
8/10			Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules
9/12			Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October
10/10			The committee has John Cox to get involved based on his background with the SAHA By-laws. There is a USA Hockey audit coming up and they may ask for some changes so nothing will be sent out to review until December.
11/14			No real change. Pushing committee meeting back after USA Hockey Audit in December. Hope to have something by Winter Meeting.
12/12			Now that audit is complete the committee can continue working on this project. Hope to have changes sent out in January to board members for review and comments with final discussions and vote in February at the Winter Board meeting.

8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting	Isaac Lee	Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
9/12			Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.
10/10			Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.
11/14			Committee has been formed with Jennifer Boniecki, Paul Dixon and Beth Ann Wagner. Working on getting a survey out to all of the associations by mid-November.
12/12			Isaac and committee compiling the results from the survey. Will send out a summary to the board a long with proposed agenda, speakers, cost, etc. before January board meeting so board can review where things stand at this time.
9/12	Ladd Foundation	Kevin Cook	The Ladd Foundation contacted Jack to discuss next steps for a partnership with SAHA. Would like to discuss with SAHA Board what these next steps would be.
9/12			This was presented at the Annual Meeting. This could be a helpful tool to support mental health to our players. Jack, Paul and Rob will be setting up a call with the Ladd Foundation to talk about how both groups can work together to provide opportunities to our affiliates.
10/10			Jack, Kevin and Rob were on a call with them. This program is video based and supports players, coaches and parents. Right now is focuses on the 11-14 year old group. October 13 th is the deadline to register your team for free. It costs roughly \$2,500 per team to provide support for the season through the video program. They are asking SAHA if we would be willing to help support them moving forward. We are looking into this and will discuss it as a board next month.
11/14			SAHA approved a grant for \$5000 towards the cost of the 1616 Foundations program for the associations in SAHA
12/12			Can be removed from "Old" Business

New
Business

12/12

Jack Flynn

Start planning for Winter Meeting in February

Winter meeting will be virtual meeting again this year. It will be held on Saturday, February 15th, 2025. It will start at 8:30am (CST). Based on previous meetings, we should be done by noon. All Committee Chairpersons will be giving their committee reports at this meeting. Unless something changes, the same report can be used that will be submitted for the USA Hockey Winter meeting. Plan to provide agenda topics at our January Board Meeting.

12/12

Andy Franklin

Discuss approval of new adult association in TN.

Andy introduced an Adult Team out of TN that call themselves the ARROW Association (Association of Rink Rants and Outreach Warriors). Typically, applications for new associations are due by 12/1 for approval for the following year. This is for "Full" associations with teams in each age group. This may not make sense with Adult Leagues and we have made exceptions in the past to approve these "Adult Teams" as an association immediately (GA) if they have fulfilled all of the necessary paperwork, are in good standing and have the recommendation to do so by the SAHA State Directors.

With all this in mind, and with the TN State Directors recommendation a motion by Andy with a 2nd from Ralph was made to approve ARROW as a new association. After discussion, the motion was approved.



Minutes From
January 9th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
16 th -19th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	

February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
March 2025			
1 st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – January 9th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) will be held on January 9th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	No
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Reminder USA Hockey Winter Meeting Jan 16 th -19 th . Six SAHA Directors will be attending. SE District Meeting is this weekend (1/11-12)					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Successful Audit. Grant checks were processed today (1/9). They will be going out 1/10 or 1/13.					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) I made a motion to approve the December minutes. Rob 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion so the minutes were approved. We review calendar events for the rest of January and upcoming events in February. We reminded everyone again the Winter Board Meeting was moved from 2/15 to 2/22. Representatives from affiliates attending the meeting were: Amanda Lupo-Jr. Preds, Jennifer Boniecki-Nashville Preds, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Zack Jackson, Jr. Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr Preds, Bryan Hince-ProVision, Reney McAtee-Nashville Warriors, Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates, Kevin Muller-Nashville Elite and Mekenzie Steffen-Girls Hockey.					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Getting ready for playdowns. 27 coaches are not current with CEP. Some temporary cards have gone out. Some coaches are not current with SafeSport either. Books are due for Natl. Bound Teams on 2/7. We had 333 teams registered this season.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) SE District Meeting is this weekend (1/11 th & 12 th)					

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
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10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.
11/14			Still waiting on IRS response to audit
12/12			Neither Chris nor Russ were present for board meeting so update on hold until next month
1/9			No real update. SYTHL has made some changes to their Bylaws to assist with 501 (c) status. IRS still has some question. The hope is to have a more complete report at our Winter Meeting.

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
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8/10			Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules
9/12			Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October
10/10			The committee has John Cox to get involved based on his background with the SAHA By-laws. There is a USA Hockey audit coming up and they may ask for some changes so nothing will be sent out to review until December.
11/14			No real change. Pushing committee meeting back after USA Hockey Audit in December. Hope to have something by Winter Meeting.
12/12			Now that audit is complete the committee can continue working on this project. Hope to have changes sent out in January to board members for review and comments with final discussions and vote in February at the Winter Board meeting.
1/9			Kevin sent out an email with two documents the committee has put together for our review prior to our board meeting. The goal is to combine both the updated SAHA Bylaws and Operating Procedures into one easy to use documents that includes a Table of Content (which we currently do not have). A suggested name for this document is The Affiliate Guide. The goal is to have everyone read these documents prior to our Winter Meeting, send

comments/questions/etc. to Kevin so these can be addressed with the intent to finalize and approve this document at our Winter Meeting.

8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting	Isaac Lee	Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
9/12			Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.
10/10			Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.
11/14			Committee has been formed with Jennifer Boniecki, Paul Dixon and Beth Ann Wagner. Working on getting a survey out to all of the associations by mid-November.
12/12			Isaac and committee compiling the results from the survey. Will send out a summary to the board a long with proposed agenda, speakers, cost, etc. before January board meeting so board can review where things stand at this time.
1/9			Isaac gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the results from the survey that went out to all the associations. We got responses back from 11 associations. Isaac and the committee will continue to gather information and provide another update at our Winter Meeting in February.
12/12	Winter Meeting	Jack Flynn	Start planning for Winter Meeting in February
			Winter meeting will be virtual meeting again this year. It will be held on Saturday, February 15 th , 2025. It will start at 8:30am (CST). Based on previous meetings, we should be done by noon. All Committee Chairpersons will be giving their committee reports at this meeting. Unless something changes, the same report can be used that will be submitted for the USA Hockey Winter meeting. Plan to provide agenda topics at our January Board Meeting.
1/9			Agenda items need to be sent in to Jack and Ward by the end of January. Kevin has requested 30 minutes to discuss the updated Bylaws document.

New
Business

1/9	Title Corrections	Kevin Cook	The titles for Rob Link and Paul Dixon need to be corrected. For Rob his first title should be 1st V.P. and his second title DDR Chairperson. For Paul his first title should be 2 nd V.P. and his second Safety Officer. Each is reversed in the Annual Meeting minutes.
1/9			Changes have been made.
1/9	Email Account Cleanup	Kevin Cook	We need to do some email account cleanup and then move the email account to Microsoft 365. There will be a bill for the move to Kevin's company so he needs to disclose it.
1/9			Discussed and agreed to clean up and move.
1/9	Committee Reports	Jack Flynn	Discuss the Committee Reports that have been submitted for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting January 16 th -19 th in Nashville. These reports can also be used for our SAHA Winter Meeting in February. They should be updated for the February meeting if anything changes before then.
1/9			Discussed and completed.



Minutes From
February 22th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Winter Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

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Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
16 th -19th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	

February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
March 2025			
Moved to 5/1	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-30th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1st-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1st-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1st-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2nd-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2nd-6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women’s	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
May 2025			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		

1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – January 9th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) will be held on January 9th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Jack first asked Ward to take rill call. This was done. Jack welcomed all that attended and made the comment that there is a lot on the agenda so we hope to stay on schedule

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) The audit with USA Hockey was finalized and went better than in the past. Two points were emphasized—make sure there is no double dipping of expense payments and fix the link to the 990 form. Regarding grants there was some difficulty in getting these out this year through US mail. Sending out by FedEx now. USA Hockey asked if we wanted to raise our fees to our affiliates for the 2025-26 season since USA Hockey is raising theirs by 12%. SAHA decided we would not.

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the January minutes, Don Stone 2nd that motion. There was no discussion and January minutes were approved. Ward reviewed the SAHA calendar for the rest of February and March. Two points were specifically addressed---the calendar needs to be updated to provide an earliest date for travel team tryouts and since the grants this year got out late the date to report how those grants were used and provided by the affiliates is pushed back to May 1st. A list of all the affiliates that attended the Winter Meeting is listed at the end of this report.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Ranked #1 within all of the regions for all paid players and #2 for total players. We had 341 Youth teams, 5-Adult teams and 4-Disabled Teams. 40 coaches did not get their CEP’s by Dec. 30th. 25 received Temp cards. Next season coaches that have held temp cards for two years have to get their CEP before the season starts. They will not be issued another temp card so they will not be able to coach. For State Playdowns Debbie needs score sheets and they need to be signed by coaches or they will not count. Any team registering as a Tier I must be a National Bound Team.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A

State Director Updates

Georgia Losing the Cooler Ice Rink which has two sheets. The Fire are trying to find ice someplace else. Everything is set for State Tournament.

Alabama House leagues are concluding at the end of March. Travel Teams are also concluding. U14/16/18 documents are all in for Nationals.

Tennessee Knoxville is wrapping up the Winter season and starting registration for the spring/summer programs. Mid-TN are getting ready for the spring/summer programs. HS teams had a good showing this year and there were 180 Middle School players registered this year for hockey.

Mississippi Both Travel and House leagues are wrapping up.

Arkansas Both AHA and NWAHA are wrapping up their Travel and House leagues. NWAHA will not participate in Nationals this year.

Louisiana Lafayette made huge progress in their program this year in both organization and numbers. Both the Tier II & Tier III teams are doing well this season.

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murrary	There were 42 coach's clinics offered this season, four of them in person. Clinics run from Sept-Dec. The Level 5 clinic in August is in Columbus, OH. Level 4/5 grandfather period is coming to an end. Any level 4/5 coach that will be National bound will need additional training. New clinic specifically for U6 & U8 coaches will be offered this year. Certification is for 5 years. A new Learning Management System (LMS) is being implemented.
DDR	Ralph Drensek/ Rob Link	13 Match Penalties are on record for this year.....9 of those were in the last month.
College/Univ	Ralph Drensek	Club teams are in the middle of their playoffs. TN State will have a DI program next year.
Goaltending	Rick Murray	Working on the Membership Grant Program for clinics. 12 Bronze clinic were offered this year. Hosted the Silver Clinic in Washington DC this year. 87 coaches participated. 12 coaches completed their projects this year to obtain their Gold Certification.
Tier I	Kevin Cook	March 1 st is the deadline to review applications and notify on final decision. USA Hockey is still trying to make changes so decisions still need to be made. We have multiple applications in hand. In coming days hope to have a decision. Currently there is a moratorium on submitting Tier I applications. This was sent out in writing by SAHA.
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A—This was SYTHL playoff weekend so Russ was not available
Membership/Grants	Kevin Cook	Moving March 1 st deadline to report how grant money was used is now May 1 st due to issues with getting the grant checks out. USA Hockey focusing on growth opportunities. They have hired Ted Devine to focus on growing membership.
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	There were 4 disabled teams this season, all in TN. 3-Adult teams(2 teams with the Nashville Sled Preds, one in Knoxville) and 1-Youth team with the Nashville

		Sled Preds. Both Nashville Adult teams are going to Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale which will be in May. Nashville feels their success is contributed to the support the National Wheelcat's organization provides them with.
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
ADM	Issac Lee	USA Hockey is redoing the age specific modules moving forward. Those that have already completed the current modules are grandfathered in. 17 teams within the SYTHL participated in the Intermediate net program
Youth	Ryan McCormick	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon	Recently complete evaluations to determine what refs would be working State & District games. There will be no seminars until the rule changes have been completed. Working on recruitment for this coming season. Also implementing the LMS system.
Safe Sport	Paul Dixon	Being new to the position this year it has been an educational process. Sat in by Zoom for the Safe Sport presentation at the USA Hockey Winter Meeting. This was very helpful.
Girls	Kahlie Singletary	Girls Player Development Camp will be in Orlando this year. Registration link is on line. U7-10 #'s have been increasing over the years. U12/13 District Camp participants will be based on coach's nominations. This nomination document can be found on the SE District website.
High School	Andy Franklin	N/A
Juniors	Don Stone	Will be starting a new NA3HL team in Pelham, AL next year. The NA3HL organizations in Monroe, LA will be reactivated next season.
Player Development	Jack Flynn	This year implemented the limited slot model which means each position had a limited number of registration spots available. Most of these filled up within the first 2 days. 40 kids are currently on the waiting list. Cost continue to increase. SAHA's goal is to breakeven. Last year we charged \$125/player however, ice costs have increased, food cost has increased, etc. May have to evaluate fees versus costs after this year.
Audit	Kevin Cook	Covered in the Treasures Report
DEI	Chris Powers	\$6500 in Grants were awarded this season.

USA Hockey Winter Meeting: This was held in Nashville this year. Discussed touch up offsides and icing on PK. It was decided that U15 and above can use touch up offsides and icing the puck on the PK. There are discussions on creating a National Development League. This league would be specifically for Tier I teams at the U15 & U17 levels. 20-40 associations would participate limited to 2 teams per association. This would be a feeder program into the USA Hockey National Development Program. Input to USA Hockey is to be submitted by end of April and a vote will occur at the USA Winter meeting next year.

Intermediate Net Update: Rick was invited to Toronto to participate in a research group study. Swedish Hockey also participated. One of the goals was to create coding that when reviewing video, it would track saves and shooting. Next would like to create coding to help evaluate passing. This group is also looking at hip health regarding goaltenders. Looking at how a U8/10 goalie moves versus goalies at older ages and taking this a step further as to a U10 goalies movements using a smaller net versus a full size net. Rick has also been invited to participate in the next research meeting which will be held in Quebec.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/10			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.
11/14			Still waiting on IRS response to audit
12/12			Neither Chris nor Russ were present for board meeting so update on hold until next month
1/9			No real update. SYTHL has made some changes to their Bylaws to assist with 501 (c) status. IRS still has some question. The hope is to have a more complete report at our Winter Meeting.
2/22			Sandi Chadwick with SYTHL gave an update on this issue. First, there was a flaw in their application submitted to the IRS. A new application was submitted so now waiting on the IRS to respond. Hope to hear by April. SYTHL hired a Foundation group to help with all of this. They

have already made adjustments to their charter and bylaws to comply with the 501(c) requirements. SYTHL is in good standing with the State of TN. Chris will participate in the next call with the Foundation Group and SYTHL so he is fully up to speed with what is happening.

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13			A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.
7/13			Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.
8/10			Kevin shared that this is a difficult process and will take a lot more time to complete. Version I was just completed. Idea is to create one document which include bylaws and operating rules
9/12			Still working on this project. Have made a lot of progress. Another update will come in October
10/10			The committee has John Cox to get involved based on his background with the SAHA By-laws. There is a USA Hockey audit coming up and

11/14			they may ask for some changes so nothing will be sent out to review until December.
12/12			No real change. Pushing committee meeting back after USA Hockey Audit in December. Hope to have something by Winter Meeting. Now that audit is complete the committee can continue working on this project. Hope to have changes sent out in January to board members for review and comments with final discussions and vote in February at the Winter Board meeting.
1/9			Kevin sent out an email with two documents the committee has put together for our review prior to our board meeting. The goal is to combine both the updated SAHA Bylaws and Operating Procedures into one easy to use documents that includes a Table of Content (which we currently do not have). A suggested name for this document is The Affiliate Guide. The goal is to have everyone read these documents prior to our Winter Meeting, send comments/questions/etc. to Kevin so these can be addressed with the intent to finalize and approve this document at our Winter Meeting.
2/22			Kevin discussed how this has been a year-long project with many folks involved. The goal was to eliminate having to do major update/changes to these documents in the future and creating a format that is easier to use for all. We will review these documents each year. These revised documents were sent out to all board members previously to review and make comments on. Kevin discussed the major areas where changes were made. After some discussion Kevin made a motion to approved the updated/revised SAHA Bylaws document. Don Stone 2 nd the motion. The board voted and the motion was approved. Next Kevin made a motion to approved the updated/revised Operating Policies & Procedures document (which will now be Affiliate Guide). Don Stone 2 nd the motion. The board voted on the motion and it was approved.
8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting	Isaac Lee	Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
9/12			Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.
10/10			Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.

- 11/14 Committee has been formed with Jennifer Boniecki, Paul Dixon and Beth Ann Wagner. Working on getting a survey out to all of the associations by mid-November.
- 12/12 Isaac and committee compiling the results from the survey. Will send out a summary to the board a long with proposed agenda, speakers, cost, etc. before January board meeting so board can review where things stand at this time.
- 1/9 Isaac gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the results from the survey that went out to all the associations. We got responses back from 11 associations. Isaac and the committee will continue to gather information and provide another update at our Winter Meeting in February.
- 2/22 Isaac shared a proposed agenda with the group over Zoom. The idea is to hold the SAHA Annual meeting over a 2-day period and offer breakout sessions to our affiliates. Isaac will be emailing this proposed agenda out to the board to look at it further. A number of breakout session were listed on the agenda and additional session were suggested regarding Registrar and Safe Sport presentations. A location for our Annual Meeting still has to be determined. Once this is done it will help to finalize costs in a number of different areas. The other thing that was discussed was making it mandatory for each affiliate to have at least one representative present at the Annual Meeting. This idea will be discussed further. Some additional people were added to the existing committee to continue to work on this project and present again at our next board meeting.

New
Business
2/22

Affiliate Fees 2025-2026 Jack Flynn

USA Hockey is raising their 2025-26 fees by 12%. They wanted to know if SAHA wanted to raise our fees to our affiliates.

This topic was discussed and decided on in the Treasurer's Report.

2/22 SafeSport Monitoring of Affiliates Jack Flynn

USA Hockey wants Affiliates to monitor its Member Programs to ensure that all programs require their personnel who have regular contact with minor athletes have completed the required training and are properly screened that are required by USA Hockey.

2/22 The SAHA Board felt comfortable that by having all of the Member Programs list all of their board members along with their USA Hockey Registration # listed on the SAHA Key Personnel Spreadsheet and that by signing the current "USA Hockey Member Program Agreement To Adapt and Comply with SafeSport Program", we would be in compliance with this request. Ward was to send Jack a copy of our

“Key Personnel Spreadsheet” and the SafeSport document for his review.

Affiliates that
attended
Winter
Meeting

Bryan Hince-Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears, Tim Sinasac-KAHA, Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines, Sandi Chadwick-SYTHL, Paul Esdale-Savannah Ghost Pirates, David Cantrell-Knoxville, Kevin Muller-Nashville Jr. Preds, Jennifer Bonecki-Nashville Jr. Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Nashville Jr. Preds, Issac Thompson-Music City, Amanda Lupo-Nashville Elite Girls, Allie LaCombe-Franklin Vanguard Hockey Assc., Reney McAtee-Nashville Warriors



Minutes From
March 13th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Winter Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b

16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2025			
Moved to 5/1	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – March 13th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on March 13th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Samantha Menton	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	No	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Tier I Districts were in Maryland, U13-18 Division only U15 Jr Preds made it. Tier I Districts next year will be in Nashville. U19 Girls Jr Preds going to Nationals and Tier II Girls 2 going to Nationals.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Made a motion to approve the Winter Meeting minutes from February, Rob 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Reviewed the calendar for remaining March dates and looked ahead to April’s dates. The following associations had representatives present our March meeting. Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Isaac Thompson-Music City, Reney McAtee- Nashville Warriors, Paul Esdale-Ghost Pirates, Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines and Allie LaCrombe-Nashville Warriors.					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) N/A					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia State Playdowns are done. Fire going to Nationals

Alabama 1 new sheet is going in at Huntsville rink

Tennessee Mid-TN has started signup for Spring programs. Will be hosting a free Goaltending Clinic soon. East-TN is starting their spring season. Tryouts will be in April/May

Mississippi Season is done. Just had a Try Goalie for Free Clinic. It was successful.

Arkansas Season is done. U14's won last tournament in the "A" division in St. Louis.

Louisiana N/A

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murraray	N/A
DDR	Ralph Drensek/ Rob Link	Had a few match penalties at the end of season. Most of those have been resolved
College/Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray	N/A
Tier I	Kevin Cook	Moratorium by USA Hockey on all Tier I new programs Nationwide. Exception was for Jr. Preds that had application in for a while.
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	1026 games played in total this season. Working on improving coaching behavior for next year. 9 teams going to Nationals. Still working on getting 501(c) resolved.
Membership/Grants	Kevin Cook	All Grant checks have gone out
Player Development	Jack Flynn	Player Development Camp is April 12 th -13 th at the Ford Ice Center in Nashville. Filled up some age groups in 2 days. All ages groups in 2 weeks were filled.

Old Business

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3/13			Please see comments under "Contingency Plan for SYTHL" under "New Business"
8/10	2025 SAHA Annual Meeting	Isaac Lee	Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2 nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.
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3/13

No update since there is Spring Break going on. The proposed weekend for Annual Meeting is Aug 2nd & 3rd. Isaac will get with Jack later this week to discuss sending out a proposal with location and rough agenda to board to review.

New
Business

3/13

1616
Program

Jack Flynn

Update on the 1616 Program

3/13

SAHA donated \$5000 to the 1616 program this year which deals with mental health. We had 10 teams within the affiliate that participated. Jack will send the list of those teams to Ward and he will send out an email to those associations to get their feedback on the program.

3/13

Contingency
plan for
SYTHL

Chris Powers

Discuss possible contingency plans for the SYTHL League if SYTHL cannot meet their 501(c) requirements.

3/13

Even though Chris was not in attendance for this meeting Jack brought up the topic of having to come up with a "Plan B" for SYTHL next season if the 501 C issue is not resolved. Again, one of the concerns of SAHA is the lack of accessibility Chris has been given regarding conversations with the "Foundation" that is working with SYTHL so we have a better understanding with what is going on. Russ has been made aware of this as well as SAHA working on "Plan B".

The board meeting was not adjourned since Don asked to hold an Executive Meeting to discuss some information regarding this topic that had not been made known to the SAHA Board.



Minutes For
April 10th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b

16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2025			
Moved to 5/1	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – April 10th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on April 10th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
Name	Position	Present	Name	Position	Present
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	No
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes
President’s Report (Jack Flynn)					
Jack is participating in weekly meetings on the NDL for 90 minutes. Discussed upcoming USA Hockey meeting in June.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone)					
USA Hockey audit was clean. No other report.					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas)					
Motion to approve March minutes by Paul, second by Rob. Approved. Associations with a representative attending tonight’s meeting-Reney – Nashville Warriors, David Cole – Nash Jr Preds, Paul Esdale – Savannah Ice Pirates, Brian Lester – MS Gulf Coast, Teddy Rotenberger – Jr Preds Bryan Hince –ProVision					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk)					
Nationals credentialing process went very well. Otherwise enjoying the quiet season.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers)					
Nothing to report					

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
8/10			SYTHL is waiting for accountant to provide financials showing 501c good standing. Waiting on the accountant. Russ will give us an update during our September meeting.
9/10			No updates. Still waiting on government to reinstate SYTHL's 501(c) status
10/10			Government came back and asked SYTHL to make a couple of changes in their request for 501c status. Those changes have been made so now will wait to see what they say.
11/14			Still waiting on IRS response to audit
12/12			Neither Chris nor Russ were present for board meeting so update on hold until next month
1/9			No real update. SYTHL has made some changes to their Bylaws to assist with 501 (c) status. IRS still has some question. The hope is to have a more complete report at our Winter Meeting.

2/22

Sandi Chadwick with SYTHL gave an update on this issue. First, there was a flaw in their application submitted to the IRS. A new application was submitted so now waiting on the IRS to respond. Hope to hear by April. SYTHL hired a Foundation group to help with all of this. They have already made adjustments to their charter and bylaws to comply with the 501(c) requirements. SYTHL is in good standing with the State of TN. Chris will participate in the next call with the Foundation Group and SYTHL so he is fully up to speed with what is happening.

3/13

Please see comments under "Contingency Plan for SYTHL" under "New Business"

This matter is now closed. Back in good standing

8/10

2025 SAHA
Annual
Meeting

Isaac Lee

Isaac brought up ideas on how to make the 2025 Annual Meeting more appealing to attend by our associations, making it more like a conference. Don made a motion that for the September meeting Isaac present ideas on how to do so and what the cost would be. Paul 2nd the motion. It was approved. Isaac will update us at our September meeting.

9/12

Isaac will be putting together a document outlining the proposal. A committee will also be formed to work on this idea. An invitation will also go out to all the associations inviting them to participate on this committee.

10/10

11/14

Isaac was not at the meeting so update next month.

12/12

Committee has been formed with Jennifer Boniecki, Paul Dixon and Beth Ann Wagner. Working on getting a survey out to all of the associations by mid-November.

1/9

Isaac and committee compiling the results from the survey. Will send out a summary to the board a long with proposed agenda, speakers, cost, etc. before January board meeting so board can review where things stand at this time.

Isaac gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the results from the survey that went out to all the associations. We got responses back from 11 associations. Isaac and the committee will continue to gather information and provide another update at our Winter Meeting in February.

2/22

Isaac shared a proposed agenda with the group over Zoom. The idea is to hold the SAHA Annual meeting over a 2-day period and offer breakout sessions to our affiliates. Isaac will be emailing this proposed agenda out to the board to look at it further. A number of breakout

session were listed on the agenda and additional session were suggested regarding Registrar and Safe Sport presentations. A location for our Annual Meeting still has to be determined. Once this is done it will help to finalize costs in a number of different areas. The other thing that was discussed was making it mandatory for each affiliate to have at least one representative present at the Annual Meeting. This idea will be discussed further. Some additional people were added to the existing committee to continue to work on this project and present again at our next board meeting.

3/13

No update since there is Spring Break going on. The proposed weekend for Annual Meeting is Aug 2nd & 3rd. Isaac will get with Jack later this week to discuss sending out a proposal with location and rough agenda to board to review.

4/10

SAHA Summer meeting to be in Nashville. Posted to website

3/13

1616
Program

Jack Flynn

Update on the 1616 Program

3/13

SAHA donated \$5000 to the 1616 program this year which deals with mental health. We had 10 teams within the affiliate that participated. Jack will send the list of those teams to Ward and he will send out an email to those associations to get their feedback on the program.

4/10

1616 can be closed out. We are working to share data with them.

3/13

Contingency
plan for
SYTHL

Chris Powers

Discuss possible contingency plans for the SYTHL League if SYTHL cannot meet their 501(c) requirements.

3/13

Even though Chris was not in attendance for this meeting Jack brought up the topic of having to come up with a "Plan B" for SYTHL next season if the 501 C issue is not resolved. Again, one of the concerns of SAHA is the lack of accessibility Chris has been given regarding conversations with the "Foundation" that is working with SYTHL so we have a better understanding with what is going on. Russ has been made aware of this as well as SAHA working on "Plan B".

The board meeting was not adjourned since Don asked to hold an Executive Meeting to discuss some information regarding this topic that had not been made known to the SAHA Board.

This topic is now closed since SYTHL is now in good standing.

4/10

New
Business

4/10	SAHA Director Nominations	Jack Flynn	Nominations for state directors closes May 1
4/10	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	SYTHL reported no negativity about intermediate nets.
4/10	Goalie Study	Rick Murray	Rick Murray has received two grants with universities in Toronto to study goalie movements and biometric analysis

Motion to
adjourn Rob,
second Paul.



Minutes From

May 8th, 2025

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

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2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
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12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
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12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – May 8th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on May 8th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	No
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Just wrapped up a NDL Committee meeting. Talked about adding Tier I and Prep thus creating 3-Divisions - NTL, Tier I & Prep. More discussions to follow. Summer meeting is coming up June 4 th -7 th in Denver, CO.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Did not have a quorum so could not approve the April minutes. Reviewed the calendar to see what will be happening in the months of the summer prior to our Annual Board Meeting. The following representatives from associations attended the meeting: Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines, Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Caleb Toone-Jr. Preds and Roney McAtee-Nashville Warriors.					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Player variances should be sent through DDR not to Debbie. Debbie does not approve or govern variances. That is the job of the SAHA Board.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) There will be a district call to go over things prior to the Annual Meeting.					

State Director Updates

Georgia N/A

Alabama N/A

Tennessee KAHA and ProVision have gone into partnership. Working on development. Both still have teams but this partnership was created because one organization didn't have enough players but had a coach while the other organization had players but not a coach.

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Little Rock Aces are holding organized youth games on Monday night within the organization

Louisiana N/A

Committee Chair Reports

Committee	Chair	Notes
Coaching	Rick Murray	Getting ready for summer training of instructors for goalie training
DDR	Ralph Drensek/ Rob Link	Working on cleaning up and proper handling of waivers and variances on players
College/Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray	District Camp this week and Goalie Development Coordinators meeting next week
Tier I	Kevin Cook	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Planning the 2025-26 season. Tryouts have started
Membership/Grants	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Development	Jack Flynn	District Camp is this weekend. Good # of SAHA players attending
Girls	Kahlie Singletary	N/A
Annual Meeting Update	Isaac Lee	N/A

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
4/10	SAHA Director Nominations	Jack Flynn	Nominations for state directors closes May 1
5/8			No new nominations were received for the Arkansas, Tennessee and Georgia Directors positions. We did receive a nomination for Alabama since Ralph Drensek will be stepping down. The candidates name is Tory Tollefson. His information has been sent out to the board for their review. Nominations are now closed. The deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors is June 1 st with the deadline for completion of election is June 30 th .

New Business

5/8	1616-2025 and Beyond	Jack Flynn	SAHA would like to continue to work with 1616 in the future. We need to assign a "point person" to be our direct contact with 1616 moving forward.
5/8			SAHA will continue to work with 1616 in during the 2025-26 season. Kevin Cook has identified a non-SAHA Board Member to be the point person with 1616 moving forward.
5/8	Annual Meeting	Ward Hillegas	In June we will begin working on the PP Presentation for the SAHA Annual Meeting. We need to discuss possible topics that should be addressed. Also, an email will go out to all associations asking for their suggestions on topic. I will need all presentations from those presenting by the end of June so we can review everything at our July meeting.
5/8			Ward will be sending out an email to all the associations with a RSVP link for the Annual Meeting. It is IMPORTANT that every associations has a representative at the Annual Meeting. In this email we will also

be asking the associations to provide us with ideas of Topics they would like to see discussed during our board meeting or during the breakout sessions. Board members will be copied on this email so they can follow up with associations that do not respond.

3 0		
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
June 12th, 2025

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

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SAHA Board Secretary

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2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – June 12th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on June 12th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Attended the USA Hockey Annual Meeting with Rob, Isaac, Chris P and Rick M. A lot of discussion on 601 (c)1-abuse of officials. Talk about nationalizing the response to that major penalty. Also talked about a Tier II amendment that would nationalize residency requirements. There was also discussion on the Development League. David Polk received the Presidential Award for his work with USA Hockey. Rick Murray is currently in Bangkok, Thailand teaching a CEP course at the request of USA Hockey.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Working on Grant applications for the 2025-26 season.

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Since we did not have a quorum in May, Ward made a motion to approve the April minutes. Paul 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Ward then made a motion to approve the May minutes. Don 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Associations/Representatives that also attended our June meeting were: Allie LaCombe-Warriors, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Dominick Cuce-Jr. Preds, Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Paul Esdale-Jr Ghost Pirates, Jennifer Boniecki-Jr Preds and Todd Bisson-Nashville Youth Hockey.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) July 7th is the date the portal will be open. No roster will be approved without full board roster provided. Ward commented that a lot of associations turned in their Key Personal sheets but none of them provided all the information that is required to gain access to the portal. Ward will go out to all the associations again reminding them on how the form needs to be completed. Repeat offenders on not getting their CEP before the season starts will now be redlined.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) USA Hockey will be voting on legislation requiring a medical staff at USA Hockey Tournaments.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
4/10	SAHA Director Nominations	Jack Flynn	Nominations for state directors closes May 1
5/8			No new nominations were received for the Arkansas, Tennessee and Georgia Directors positions. We did receive a nomination for Alabama since Ralph Drensek will be stepping down. The candidates name is Tory Tollefson. His information has been sent out to the board for their review. Nominations are now closed. The deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors is June 1 st with the deadline for completion of election is June 30 th .
6/12			Since there were no challengers to any of the open directorship positions, no ballots had to be distributed to the associations for voting. At the Annual Meeting the 3 current directors that ran again will be reinstated and the individual (Tory Tollefson) who ran for the open position in Alabama uncontested will be voted in by the SAHA Board.
5/8	Annual Meeting	Ward Hillegas	In June we will begin working on the PP Presentation for the SAHA Annual Meeting. We need to discuss possible topics that should be addressed. Also, an email will go out to all associations asking for their suggestions on topic. I will need all presentations from those presenting by the end of June so we can review everything at our July meeting.
5/8			Ward will be sending out an email to all the associations with a RSVP link for the Annual Meeting. It is IMPORTANT that every associations has a representative at the Annual Meeting. In this email we will also be asking the associations to provide us with ideas of Topics they would like to see discussed during our board meeting or during the breakout sessions. Board members will be copied on this email so they can follow up with associations that do not respond.

6/12

I have not heard from any associations after the email went out regarding topics they would like to see discussed at the Annual Board meeting. Ward requested that all individuals that will be presenting at the Annual Meeting send their presentations to Ward before the July board meeting so we can review the PP presentation. Ward will also be sending out an email to all the board members pointing out who is responsible for what topic, who will be presenting and who will just have their topic included in the presentation.

New
Business

No New Business

Paul made a motion to adjourn and Kevin 2nd the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

3 0		
1 0 : 0 0	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 :	LUNCH	

3 0		
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From

July 10th, 2025

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b

16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2025			
Moved to 5/1	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
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27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
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8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
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16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
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July 2025			
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31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – July 10th, 2025

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Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
Name	Position	Present	Name	Position	Present
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Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) We just completed our 1 st arbitration. It was based on an organization challenging SAHA’s decision to decline request to become an association. SAHA was successful in winning the arbitration.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Plan to send out preliminary budget to get input from everyone before the annual meeting.					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the June minutes. Paul 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Associations that had representatives attend the July meeting: Allie LaCombe-Nashville Warriors, Amanda Rupo-Nashville Elite, Summer Walls-NWAHA, April Beshires-GNASH, Kevin Muller-Nashville Elite, Teddy Rotenberger-Nashville Elite, Beth Anne Wagner-TN. Wolverines, Dominick Cuce-Nashville Preds Amateur and Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates.					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Just a reminder, the Key Personal Spreadsheet has to include all board member information required if the association is a non-profit. Portal is not open yet. Cannot be a Tier II team unless you are Nationally bound. Tier I as well. If you are not National bound then you are considered a “Travel” team					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Will have report next month					

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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New
Business

7/10	Hoby Baker	Jack Flynn	The Hobby Baker Award is currently given to DI Hockey Players. Starting next year HS players will be nominated to receive the Hobby Baker Award for the top HS Hockey Player.
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7/10	Mite Hockey Jamboree	Isaac Lee	Isaac was wondering if SAHA would provide a grant to fund a Mite Hockey Jamboree. It was suggested that Isaac write up a proposal for that type of grant and submit it to Don for review.
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Ralph made a motion to adjourn, Jack 2nd it. Meeting was adjourn.

9 : 1 5	Coaching/CEP Update	Rick Murray
9 : 3 0	Intermediate Net Presentation	Rick Murray
1 0 : 0 0	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2	Adjourn for Association	

: 1 5		
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	