



SAHOF Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday June 28, 2025

Meeting Time: 8:30am to 12:00pm

Present – Stephen Lynch, Jeff Wood, Carlos Frietas, Debbie Frietas, Mimi Sellian, Matt Janusz, Cindy Friedman, Marc Friedman, Joe Casacci, Pete Worrell, Tony Lessel, Jeff Ning, Andy Fischer, Fred Eaton, John Drysdale, Paul Esdale, Jim Haverstrom, Shirin Rustomji, Lori Demeyer, Jane Solverson, Ray Burtoff, Sean Corbin, Charlie O’Connor

Meeting Called to Order – Stephen Lynch at 9:00 a.m.

1) Introductions – of the Board and those in attendance

2) Executive Director’s Report – Stephen Lynch

a) Rule Changes – discussed by Stephen

i) Icing – 14U and up will be able to ice the puck on a penalty kill

b) Neck Laceration Protection – new

c) Registrar – previously there were two different qualification rules for boys and girls – they are now going to make the qualifications the same

d) Tier I – reducing numbers from 15% to 7%

3) Treasurer Report – Marc Friedman

a) We are in the Black –

b) We have made two investments –

i) One with US Hockey – no fees – and the accounts are doing well

ii) Financials are complete through May 31,

iii) August is the fiscal year end

iv) We received the USA Hockey Grant - \$3/paid player

v) We were audited this year – and received a clean bill of health

4) Registrar Report – Cindy Friedman

a) We are the number 1 in our division – over the past 15 years – we have grown steadily to take the top spot in numbers

i) 50% of our numbers are adults

ii) Testament to our facilities that have allowed for this growth

b) Please claim your players

5) Player Development Report Boys

a) Camp – April 2025 – at Hertz Areana

i) Process Overview – the top 40 from Sunday get an invite and there is a special invited to the Hockey Directors for them to identify top two to invite

- ii) There is a significant effort to maintain transparency and our evaluations align with the independent evaluators
- 6) District Player Development – Joe Casacci**
- a) Two Camps – South District
 - i) Try-out Camp – all 4 affiliates attend
 - ii) District Camp
 - iii) This past year 19 of the 40 players were from SAHOF that were selected to go the National Camp
 - (1) There was discussion regarding the makeup of the kids attending the camps and making it through to National Camp
- 7) SFHL/State Tournament – Jeff Ning**
- a) 226 teams registered
 - b) Placement Event – went well this year – there were adjustments made
 - c) There were some rule changes
 - i) Post game conduct –
 - ii) Serving of suspensions – SFHL suspension – must be served in SFHL games (will carry over into states)
 - d) State Championships - 2026
 - i) HS – Feb 20-22
 - ii) 10Us & 12Us – Feb 27-Mar 1
 - iii) 14Us & 16Us – March 6-8
- 8) SFGHL/Girls Tier II Committee – John Drysdale**
- a) This will be the inaugural season
 - i) First season will be a 10 game season – the committee is working on the schedule
 - ii) Goal is to develop Girls Hockey at the community level
- 9) High School Hockey – Josh Dreith reported by Matt**
- a) 783 players in the Lightning HS League
 - b) 318 players in the Panthers HS League
- 10) Florida Alliance/Tier I Boys and Girls – Stephen Lynch and Tony Lessel**
- a) In the process of divesting Tier I hockey from SAHOF
 - b) We had a very competitive season last year
 - c) The goal remains to keep players in-state
- 11) Girls/Women’s Hockey and Girls Player Development – Jane Solverson and Lori Demeyer**
- a) The process for the girls differs from the boys – as a result of numbers
 - b) This year the camp was in Orlando
 - c) This was the first year that SAHOF sent more players than PVAHA
 - d) We sent 9 players
 - e) The numbers for girls hockey has grown exponentially in the last 25 years – from 50 girl players to over 1100 girl players
 - f) Activities in the State
 - i) Panthers are teaming with Lucky Pucks
 - ii) Lightning are adding a Tier II level to their programs
- 12) Director of Officials – Sean Corbin**
- a) Training – need to create more opportunities for training and game opportunities for the Referees
 - b) Continued need for score keepers
 - c) Adults – there has been an uptick in the violations in the adult leagues
 - d) Discussion on from the floor regarding some officiating issues

13) SafeSport – Jim Haverstrom and Shirin Rustomji

- a) This year we are implementing an educational piece at the start of the year for Coaches, Managers and Directors. Hope is to expand the educational piece to educate our members on what constitutes SafeSport and how to gain access to SafeSport.

14) Coach in Chief/Safety – Jim Haverstrom

- a) First year that the CEUs are coming due according to the new rules
 - i) There are free courses
 - ii) Looking to do a live course – August 14-17
 - iii) New Portal – helps to allow coaches to view their status and be able to ensure compliance
- b) Safety –
 - i) Neck guards – needs to be worn all the time and Heck Certification will be in place next year
 - ii) Concussion Protocol NEEDS to be followed – this is a SafeSport Violation

15) Discipline Committee – Ray Burtoff

- a) Process – committee formed a few years ago to standardize the process
 - i) Hearings are not an opportunity to re-officiate the game
 - ii) All communications to Discipline Coordinator must come through the Hockey Directors
 - iii) Hearings are held over ZOOM
 - iv) Video Reviews – Need submissions to come with a detailed explanation on what the requestor is asking to be reviewed
 - v) This year our numbers are up

16) Items from the Floor

- a) Non-Sanctioned Tournaments
 - i) The tournament should have their own insurance coverage – and the officials should get confirmation that they are covered.

17) Break – 11:07 a.m.

18) Election –

- a) 5 Seats open
- b) Quorum Established
- c) Nominees had an opportunity to Speak
- d) Seats won per Election
 - i) Karen Ota-O’Brien
 - ii) Jimmy Betts
 - iii) Billy Gubelman
 - iv) Lori Demeyer

19) Nomination

- a) President – Nomination Tony – Second by Ray
 - i) For Jeff Wood
- b) Vice –
 - i) Tony Lessel - Fred and second by Chalie
 - ii) Pete Worrell –
- c) Secretary – Nominate – Pete and second
 - i) Shirin Rustomji
- d) Treasurer – motion and second
 - i) Marc Friedman -

20) Meeting Adjourned – By Motion 11:46 a.m.