

FLAGSTAFF YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

FYHA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Mar 18, 2026 6:00 PM Location: 214 E. Birch Ave

Teams Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FYHA-BOD-Meeting>



ROLL CALL

Board Members in attendance:

- Travis Joralmon, President
- Chris Whitney, Vice President & Coaching Coordinator
- Gina Nabours, Treasurer
- Tiffany Abbott, Secretary & Webmaster
- Brad Mihalik, Ice Scheduler
- Mike Darby, Fundraising Coordinator
- Jilleen Alessi, Equipment Manager

Coaches in attendance:

- 6U Club, Ben Davidson
- 8U Club, Dan Carrick
- Stars White - Kevin Callaway
- Stars Navy - Joe Weidinger
- 8U Navy, Kris Walsh
- 10U Navy, Andrew Graham
- 12U Navy, Chris Whitney
- 14U Navy, Kris Walsh

Managers in attendance:

- 8U Navy - Jilleen Alessi
- 10U Navy - Maegan Van Wyck
- 12U Navy - Brittany Darby
- 14U Navy - Ashley Householder
- Molly Joralmon, Manager Coordinator

Directors/Coordinators in attendance:

- Leigh Mathias, Club Director
- Mark Del Giorgio, Goalie Coordinator

Other/Members in attendance:

- Charlie Knotts
- Katie Kendall
- Eric Weidinger
- Andrea Griffith
- Corey Sannes
- Drew Evans

CALL TO ORDER + APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM by Travis Joralmon. Motion to approve February meeting minutes by Mike Darby, seconded by Gina Nabours. Motion to approve March agenda as presented by Travis Joralmon, seconded by Gina Nabours.

REPORTS

President's Report (Travis Joralmon)

- Congratulations to all of the teams who competed in the AAHA/AZYHL State Playoffs. We are proud to announce that our 10U Navy Northstars and 14U Navy Northstars are STATE CHAMPIONS. Our 12U Navy team battled hard in the championship game and earned a strong second place finish. Every Flagstaff team went undefeated in pool play—an incredible testament to their effort, discipline, and commitment throughout the season. Thank you for representing Flagstaff with pride. GO NORTHSTARS!
- I look forward to seeing all members of the association at the upcoming President's Banquet on April 2 at the Orpheum Theatre.

Vice President's Report (Chris Whitney)

- No report.

Treasurer's Report (Gina Nabours)

- No report (covered in agenda)
- Sent invoice to OSI - clarify what was charged (look at previous minutes)
- Travis - we got invoice from Shott's Tots so we can pay them for that program and we sent an invoice to them for the ice costs

Secretary's Report (Tiffany Abbott)

- Spring Stick Time will now be split into two age groups to better manage players on the ice. Additionally, we've added a second Stick Time on Sundays to accommodate the separate age groups. This is a new change we are trialing in the spring. If all goes well, we will implement the same schedule for the summer. Coach coverage is needed for both age groups during these sessions. If you are willing to help serve as an ice monitor, [please sign up in DIBS](#). FYHA will pay \$25 per session for the first two coaches who sign up in DIBS. If you plan to attend, but do not wish to be paid, please notify Tiffany at secretary@fyha.org so we do not have to cancel sessions due to a lack of coaches. Thank you for helping support these opportunities for players to get extra ice time this spring!
- Reminder: in order to participate in on-ice activities (Stick Time) with players, you must be an approved volunteer with FYHA, complete your SafeSport and background check, and have a Player/Coach USA Hockey membership. Visit fyha.org/volunteers for a list of requirements.
- Our 2026 Board of Directors Election will take place in April. We have six candidates for four open positions on the board. The candidates are Travis Joralmon, Leigh Mathias, Katie Kendall, Eric Weidinger, Andrea Kurelowech-Griffith, and Mike Darby. Meet the candidates here: fyha.org/bod-candidates. More information about voting will be sent via email.
- Our End of Year Program and Coaching Surveys will be sent via email following the conclusion of the season (Week of 3/16 for travel, 3/30 for club). We want to hear about your experience with FYHA this year so we can continue to improve. The survey is anonymous and will take 5-10 mins to complete.

AAHA Hockey Director's Report (Travis Joralmon)

- The directors had their monthly meeting and recapped the 8U tournament in Flagstaff. Everyone had great things to say and a big shout out to Jilleen Alessi and Tiffany Abbott for making sure everything was on point.
- We also discussed proposed policy changes at the state level. That will be voted on at an upcoming AAHA Board meeting.

- The hockey directors also approved Flagstaff to hold their tryouts prior to the approved date due to the rink closure in May. Travel tryouts for 10-14U Travel will be held at the end of April.

Club Hockey Director's Report (Leigh Mathias)

- Great turnout for Try Hockey for Free Event, 25 new skaters. Currently 6 players have converted to the end of season club slots. Thank you to the many coaches, players, and volunteers that helped make this event successful.
- End of Year Gifts are in.

Coaching Coordinator's Report (Chris Whitney)

- 26/27 Head Coach Application is open: <https://fyha.sportngin.com/register/form/241147280>

Equipment Manager's Report (Jilleen Alessi)

- Team association gifts are here and handed out to all team managers.
- Water bottles have not come in – refund request?
- Bumpers will be done manufacturing by the end of this week and will ship out next week.
- Dan Carrick is now stocking neck guards at the rink for sale. It is not going to be advertised; however, if one is needed, they can be purchased at the rink.

Fundraising's Report (Mike Darby)

- Hats for players that sold 30+ discount cards have been ordered.
- Fry's community rewards account was approved. We will get rewards and a kick back check each quarter when anyone shops under our organization. Mike will send information to Tiffany to communicate.

Ice Scheduler's Report (Brad Mihalik)

- Spring/Summer:
 - Open ice has been forfeited back to the city through April.
 - If you are trying to schedule something, the Master Ice Calendar (Ice Scheduler's Ice Calendar) that team managers have access to is up to date. If you are trying to schedule within the next couple of months, check with me so I can ensure we can re-acquire the ice from the city.
 - Stick Time on Sundays will be split into age appropriate groups beginning this Sunday 3/22 (6,8,10U 9-10am & 12,14,16U 10:15-11:15am) with some exceptions. There are several weeks in late April into May that weekend ice is not available but this Stick Time Schedule will resume on 5/17 through 7/12. There will also be age appropriate Stick Time on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the spring but the schedule is sporadic so check the FYHA calendar!
 - Summer Pond Hockey on Tuesday evenings (6,8,10U) and Thursday evenings (12,14,16U) will begin on 5/19 and run through 7/30. Registration will be open soon.
- Key dates:
 - Week of March 16th - Last travel practices are scheduled
 - March 23rd - Coaches game - 5:30pm
 - March 28th - Last day of Club hockey
 - March 22nd - Age appropriate Stick Time begins Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays (check the calendar because there are some exceptions)
 - April - A new Ice Scheduler 😊
 - April 2nd - FYHA Banquet at the Orpheum

- April 18th & 19th Robby Glantz Power Skating Clinic
- April 21st & 27th 10, 12, 14U Travel Tryouts
- Rink Closure - May 4th - May 15th
- June 15th-19th Rocky Mountain Hockey School
- July 20th-24th Northwestern Hockey Camp
- July 24th-26th Dark Sky 3v3 Tournament
- August - September TBD - Schott's Tots Program
- August 10th - Travel Practice Begins / 8U Travel Tryouts
- August 22nd & 23rd Christian Grunnah (GPS) Skating Clinic
- September 5th-7th Travel Seeding Tournament
- September 14th Club Season Begins

Webmaster's Report (Tiffany Abbott)

- Registration links have been updated for our Spring/Summer Camps & Clinics:
fyha.org/camps-clinics

Registrar's Report (Charlie Knotts)

- No report.

Manager Coordinator's Report (Molly Joralmon)

- I will collect all of the iPads, chargers, projectors, and stands from the managers.

Goalie Coordinator's Report (Mark Del Giorgio)

- No report.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FYHA President's Banquet, Thursday, 4/2
- Robby Glantz Power Skating, 4/18-19 ([Register here](#))
- FYHA Travel Tryouts, 4/21 and 4/27 ([Register here](#))
- Rocky Mountain Hockey School Summer Camp, 6/15-19 ([Register here](#))
- Snowman Goaltending Summer Camp, 7/9-12 ([Register here](#))
- Northwestern Hockey Camp, 7/20-24 ([Register here](#))

OLD BUSINESS

AAHA Grant Update/Disbursement

- Leigh Mathias owes Charlie Knotts receipts for AAHA and will send for reimbursement.

Team Store Options (Flag Ts)

- Tiffany Abbott provided an update that Flag Ts agreed to increase the cost per item \$2-3 to cover the setup fees. The web store is still being set up.

2026-2027 Season Travel Tryouts

- Travis Joralmon reported that we still don't have a timeframe on the rink closure; however they will close beginning the week of May 5. Tryouts have been approved by the state to be held at

the end of April.

- Tryout dates have been set to accommodate Little League baseball players. Tryouts will be held on a Tuesday (4/21) the first week and Monday (4/28) the second week to allow players to attend.
- Tryout registration link is live on the website and has been sent via email to the association.

EOY Gifts/Parties

- Leigh Mathias reported that he is planning end of year parties for Little Dippers and Stars and is confirming ice availability with Brad. Looking to do pizza, salad, and cupcakes. Discussed NiMarcos (Travis has a contact) or Sam's Club (less expensive). Leigh also shared he has ordered trophies and medals for the "champ" games for Club. We were able to reuse trophies from previous years and re-plated them. He ordered medals for the older club kids at \$5/each.

President's Banquet

- Travis Joralmon reported he talked to Oscar from Burrito's Fiesta and Oscar was fine with paying the food balance when we see him at the banquet, not in advance, since we have been working with them for many years. Per Charlie, last year we put down a \$2,500 deposit and paid a \$2,325 balance, plus a \$495 tip. Checks need to be separate for the tip. We anticipate roughly 350 people. Pepsi has donated water and sodas. Travis noted this may be the last year we are able to bring in Pepsi product. There will be a drink menu (\$9) and drink coupons for board members.
- Mike Darby will provide ice and napkins. We will need to order cupcakes (150), plates, forks, containers with lids, and juice boxes.
- Tiffany Abbott is working with the Orpheum on the slideshows and will have slides for the Jay Lively Award recipients and board candidates.
- Chris Whitney reported he has picked up the Jay Lively Awards. Link to pay will be sent to the treasurer.

EOY Program/Coaching Survey

- EOY survey is ready to send out. Tiffany will send to travel families 3/19 with a 4/1 response deadline. Club survey will be distributed 4/1 with a deadline of 4/10.

Club Mini Skills Clinic

- Leigh Mathias reported Kevin Callaway has proposed two (2), 2-hour sessions for a mini skills camp to be spread over a weekend. The question was raised about charging for the camp or offering it for free. Gina mentioned we have spent less than \$1,000 on clinics and we have the funds to purchase ice for it. The recommendation was to offer the camp for free. A question was raised on who would be eligible to participate in the camp. The consensus was that if you are registered as a Stars player in the 2025-2026 season, you are eligible to participate.
- Leigh will follow up with Brad on ice availability and report back.

Program Committee

- No report from the Program Committee.

Dark Sky Committee

- No report from the Dark Sky Committee.

Coaching Selection Committee

- Chris Whitney reported that seven candidates have been identified for the committee and recommended a group size of 5–6 members. He noted that Club representatives should not be included in this initial group, as the focus is on travel teams.
- Chris emphasized that the committee's primary objective is to develop a head coach job description, referencing materials and recommendations shared by Charlie Knotts from other programs.
- Gina suggested that the committee provide a pro/con summary of applicants for board review. The board also discussed elements of the evaluation process, including whether candidates would be asked to submit practice plans and/or participate in interviews. Travis noted that interviews have been conducted in previous years.

NEW BUSINESS

8U and 10U State Debrief

- Jilleen Alessi reported several issues encountered while hosting the 8U Mite State Championship in Flagstaff on 3/7.
 - Clock Stoppage / Injury Incident: An injury (suspected broken leg) occurred with one minute remaining in a game. The whistle was delayed, and play continued briefly on another sheet where a goal was scored. A dispute arose regarding whether the goal occurred before the stoppage. AAHA representatives ruled to add two minutes back to the clock and resume play. It was noted that AAHA rules do not clearly define clock stoppage for injuries. Interim guidance from AAHA: clock will not stop for injuries during round robin, but will stop during semifinals/finals.
- Medical Preparedness:
 - Teams requested ice/medical support at the time of injury. Ice was available informally but not part of standard protocol. Recommendation to stock ice packs in first aid kits for future events.
- AAHA Support / Tournament Operations:
 - Concern raised (Eric Weidinger) about limited on-site support from AAHA and whether additional assistance should be requested from AAHA or participating teams. Clarification provided that: Flagstaff volunteered to host, AAHA manages key logistics including scheduling (Travis), referees, ice, scorekeepers, and awards, AAHA reimburses for the "green room," which is unique to Flagstaff-hosted events.
- Officiating:
 - Travis Joralmon noted a less experienced referee was assigned to the championship game, which may have contributed to the delayed stoppage. Discussion on whether to require more experienced referees or add a paid on-site supervisor, similar to jamboree format.
- Scheduling Constraints:
 - Tournament schedule was overly tight, leading to: delays, no medal ceremonies, reduced warmup times (1 minute vs. 2 minutes per rules), shortened periods (12 vs. 14 minutes). Recommendation to build in a 60-minute buffer to accommodate delays.
- Additional Feedback:
 - Tiffany Abbott reported the 10U Mesquite State Championship ran smoothly and expressed appreciation to Travis for recommending Flagstaff as a host location.

Tryout Concerns

- Tiffany Abbott shared some concerns with how tryouts are run with the board that were brought to her from a parent.
 - Perception that known/returning players received more attention than newer or lesser-known players. Request to use numbered, neutral jerseys (no names or team identifiers) to promote unbiased evaluations.
 - Concern about parent-coaches evaluating players with prior relationships, creating potential bias. Recommendation to use independent evaluators (e.g., NAU players/coaches) unfamiliar with participants.
 - Reports of coach inattention, particularly in later portions of sessions (e.g., backs turned to the ice). Resulted in some players not being properly observed during key evaluation moments.
 - Returning/top players reportedly dominated ice time, especially in final sessions. Newer players had limited opportunities to demonstrate skills. Request for equal ice time for all participants.
 - Concern that some cut players were comparable or stronger than selected players after summer development. Noted issue with dual-rostered players (14U + Avalanche) causing roster shortages during conflicts. Suggestion to select additional players to ensure roster depth and accommodate scheduling conflicts.
- Chris Whitney acknowledged that head coaches are responsible for building a balanced roster (positions, roles, team dynamics). He said he will have a conversation with coaches ahead of tryouts to ensure consistent focus and attention during tryouts. He recognizes that post tryout communication has been limited in the past but is committed to ensuring coaches personally contact players who are not selected to provide constructive feedback on areas for improvement. Players will be encouraged to continue developing through stick time, camps, and summer pond hockey.
- Corey Sannes attends stick time regularly and offered to work on face offs with any players. He played center growing up. The board encourages kids to ask coaches for help at stick time to work on specific skills.

Development Teams

- Tiffany Abbott introduced a discussion regarding a “travel lite” development program aimed at players seeking a higher level of competition who may not yet be ready for full travel teams. There is strong interest in establishing a pathway between club and travel. Concerns were raised that without this option, the long-term viability of travel teams—particularly for the 2027–2028 season—could be impacted due to a weakening player pipeline. Additionally, some families have indicated that players cut from travel teams may not return if skill gaps widen. Ben Davidson noted that offering a secondary pathway could improve both tryout participation and player retention.
- The board referenced the 2023–2024 14U development team model, which reduced cost and time commitment by focusing on league play and scrimmages rather than tournaments. Molly Joralmon highlighted a similar model used by the ADHL Bucks, which participates in league games without tournament travel.
- Additional concepts discussed included: a club/development designation to allow more flexibility in age groups (though not eligible for AZYHL participation) and a potential 3v3-focused development model
- Key concerns include ice availability and scheduling constraints. Gina noted that this topic has been raised multiple times and emphasized the importance of continuing to move toward a solution.

- The Program Committee will develop a formal proposal for board review, including evaluation of program structure, costs, roster requirements, scheduling feasibility, and alignment with long-term player development and team sustainability goals.

Info Night

- Tiffany Abbott reported that she and Leigh have been engaging with Club team families regarding travel hockey opportunities and have followed up with those who previously expressed interest. Flyers have been posted at the rink to increase awareness. Leigh will coordinate an additional informational session at the Club end-of-year parties to connect with parents while attendance is high.

Parent Sponsored Jersey

- Jilleen reported receiving an inquiry regarding sponsorship of an alternative (third) team jersey. The proposed model would allow a sponsor or parent to fund jerseys for a specific team as a donation. The board discussed the importance of maintaining final approval over all jersey designs and usage to ensure alignment with association standards and branding. Any proposed design would be submitted to the board for review and approval prior to production.
- Jerseys would be purchased through the association, with costs billed to the sponsoring parent or party. These would likely serve as tournament or alternate jerseys rather than standard issue.

2026-2027 Budget

- Gina Nabours presented the proposed budget and facilitated discussion on several key items:
 - Equipment (iPads): Two iPads were budgeted for 2025–2026 but not purchased. Travis recently purchased one iPad and Apple Pencil. With three travel teams projected, no increase expected; however, 10U requested an additional iPad for film.
Recommendation: Increase iPad budget to \$600.
- Club Jerseys: Costs increased to \$30/jersey due to added sponsor logo.
- Manager Coordinator Stipend: Proposed reduction from \$750 to \$500. Duties considered more front-loaded and administrative. Board approved change to \$500.
- Club Hockey Structure: Approved restructuring of Club Hockey Director role into three Club Hockey Manager positions:
 - 6U/8U Little Dippers: \$500
 - Stars White: \$250
 - Stars Navy: \$250
 - Remaining funds reallocated to increase club head coach stipends.
 - 6U/8U manager to oversee Shott's Tots and Try Hockey for Free events.
- Coach & Team Manager Stipends
 - Club head coaches proposed increase to \$750 each.
 - 8U manager: proposed increase from \$250 to \$500 if only one team (due to Jamboree and State Tournament responsibilities).
- Event & Ice Budget Adjustments
 - President's Banquet increased to \$10,500.
 - Stick Time ice doubled (second sheet added); cost absorbed by association.
 - 8U Jamboree budget increased from \$500 to \$725.
 - Dark Sky sibling discount removed.
 - Gamesheet cost increased to \$8/game.
- Registration Fees (Proposed)

- Little Dippers: \$350
Stars: \$450
- 8U Navy: \$1,550
- 10U/12U/14U Navy: \$2,250
- Represents a \$50 increase across levels.
- Financial Outlook
 - Projected to spend approximately \$16,500 more than collected.
 - Prior year projected deficit was \$10,000, but current year ended with a surplus due to strong revenue (e.g., Dark Sky, registrations).
 - Gina noted sufficient assets to subsidize costs without concern.
- Discussion on Fees
 - Travis expressed concern about increasing club fees, citing record participation tied to affordability.
 - Gina noted there is one month before final vote to gather additional feedback (Leigh) before finalizing.
- Revenue Opportunities
 - Suggested increasing revenue by charging outside teams more for ice time, scrimmages, and home games.

Member Participation

- Ben Davidson provided an update on the partnership with Swift Hockey, noting that a team order of 25 sticks was completed, resulting in a \$100 per stick bulk discount. In addition, six junior demo sticks were secured for program use at events or as backups during travel.
- Chris Whitney expressed appreciation to Ben for coordinating the partnership, highlighting the value and cost savings for participating families.

Additional Discussion

- Travis Joralmon shared that he and Tiffany met with Abraham Denstaedt, senator from the Associated Students of NAU, regarding a resolution about the completion of the NAU Fieldhouse Multipurpose Facility, AKA the Ice Rink Resolution. This resolution aims to have NAU re-prioritize the completion of the facility and its ice rink to the highest priority in our university's master plan. This resolution, if passed, will see the completion of a second ice rink in Flagstaff, creating the opportunity for in-town tournaments and the potential for the Flagstaff Youth Hockey Organization (FYHA) to host hockey games here in addition to the Jay Lively Center being able to host more events. Travis gave his endorsement and helped connect Abraham to Flagstaff Avalanche (Kyle Palmer) and Flagstaff Figure Skating Club, among other community supporters.
- Travis also shared that Keith Johanson will be recognized by the Flagstaff Foundation Hall of Fame this fall for his significant contributions to the community, including his role in developing youth hockey in northern Arizona and helping rebuild the rink after its collapse. Travis recommended sharing this recognition with FYHA members.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:58 PM by Gina Nabours, seconded by Jilleen Alessi.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2026 @ 6 PM (rescheduled)