



2025 WINTER MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: January 30th, 2025 - 7:00pm

Location: National Conference Center of East Windsor

Meeting Called to order by Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Executive Vice President

Meeting Adjourned (Motion by Jim Britt & Gene Palecco)

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Brian Peca, AAHA Secretary

In Attendance

52 Total Members attended the meeting.

Voting Eligibility

Voting Members – 44

Simple Majority – 23

2/3 Majority – 30

Opening Comments by Maureen Thompson-Siegel

- Moment of Silence was asked from the membership for Johnny & Matthew Gaudreau, BudW Wilkens, and the recent plane crash that tragically took the lives of USFS Figure Skaters and their families.

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the 2024 in person Annual Meeting were presented. They were distributed electronically via email to directors prior to this meeting.
- A motion by Jay Finnigan to approve the minutes was made, with a second by Gene Palecco.
 - **Approval of the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

- The current AAHA Treasure, Jake Geverd, will be retiring from his position effective February 1st. With Jake stepping down, Beth Ritter has been appointed as the new treasurer. Beth will fill the balance of the current term, which is up for re-election in June of 2026.
 - The present board members acknowledged the change without opposition.

- A motion from the floor was made by Jay Finnigan for the AAHA to draft a Resolution, that is executed by the AAHA Secretary, to allow the signature cards at our financial institutions to be updated with Elizabeth D. Ritter and Maureen Thompson-Siegel's signatures. This resolution should be adopted by the board that are currently present.
 - A 2nd motion was made by Gene Palecco.
 - **This motion carried without opposition.**
- The Financial Report was distributed prior to the meeting.
 - Balance sheet was reviewed.
 - PnL documents & Budget was reviewed.
 - Budget is tracking as normal from past seasons.
 - Motion to approve the Treasure's Report by Gene Palecco, 2nd by Jay Finnigan.
 - **All favored the proposal without opposition or abstentions.**
 - If anyone has questions, we asked that they be sent to the Secretary to pass along to the President.

Vice President's and Appointees Reports

- Vice President's Winter Meeting reports and Appointee Reports were distributed electronically via email to the directors prior to the meeting.
- **Registrar, Karen Fund:**
 - Updates from the Board of Directors at the USA Hockey meeting in Nashville.
 - Tier I teams have until October 15th to submit T1 rosters.
 - Vertical Roster integration is now permanent at the Tier I 15U, 16U & 18U Levels, along with the Girls Tier I levels 16U & 19U.
 - 22 player roster limit for Tier I youth is now permanent. The pilot program has been extended at 15U and 16U, as well as Girls 19U.
 - Tier I Youth 13U is now a permanent classification.
 - Page 40 of current AAHA Rules & Regulations, for credentialed teams, the only games that are qualifying games are against Atlantic District USA Hockey rostered teams.
 - This rule needs to be reviewed this June at the Annual meeting. This will not be followed this current season.
- **Coaching, Ryan Carter:**
 - Our district has been struggling with red lined coaches this season in all leagues. Our district offers more CEP clinics for the coaches than are required by USA Hockey. It's important we push our coaches to complete their required CEP courses.
 - The CEP program is going to be changing with the levels. 8U coaches looking to begin their CEP training will start at the 6U/8U level, not Level 1. Level 1 will take place for beginner coaches at 10U or older OR 6U/8U coaches moving up to the next age level.
- **Playing Rules, Jay Finnigan:**
 - Included in the distribution are the updated rule changes for the 2025-2029 seasons.
 - Icing on the Power Play is allowed again at 15U and above
 - Delayed offsides is now allowed again at 15U and above
 - Implementation of the Neck Laceration equipment for the first 2 years of the rule will allow standard neck guards. This is giving Pro Shops time to inventory the newer versions that will eventually be required.

- The Disabled disciplines have now been added to the official rule book for blind hockey, deaf hockey, warrior hockey and sled hockey. Special thanks to Maureen Thompson-Siegel on getting this pushed through.

➤ **SafeSport, Pete Rothman:**

- The Atlantic District is receiving 10-15 potential SafeSport violation reports per week.
 - The AAHA is going to be adjusting the position to be more geared towards education and consulting of cases.
 - The AAHA will be using a private investigator and SafeSport coordinator from Minnesota to handle most SafeSport investigations.
 - On-ice incidents need to adhere to the rules of the game and those procedures. SafeSport does not come into play with most on-ice incidents during games.

➤ **Youth Council, Gene Palecco:**

- Updates on NDJ (National Development League), or AAAA Hockey. This is a proposal being discussed at the USA Hockey. This is in response to the problems occurring with Tier I. A committee would be formed on how this league will be set up and how the clubs will be selected.
- USA Hockey showed statistics that the Atlantic District has the highest percentage of goaltenders in USA Hockey.

➤ **Adult Hockey:**

- Kate Whitman-Annis has been appointed the new VP of Adult Hockey.
- Kate will be hosting an Adult Goalie Clinic at the end of February at the Jersey Shore Arena.

➤ **Officiating, Jim Doyle:**

- The AAHA registered 2,200 officials for the 2024-25 season. The AAHA had 849 Level 1 registrations (40% of the total registered).
- New clinics and upcoming seminars were discussed and more information will be announced soon.

New Business – Legislative Proposals

➤ **Proposals WM2025-01: 16AA Exceptional Status**

- Motion to Table by Bill Fox, 2nd by Dave Jackson
 - After further deliberation, the motion was rescinded
 - Motion to take off the table by John Geverd, 2nd by Jay Finnigan
 - **Motion Carries without opposition.**
- Motion for Discussion by Jody Jaskot, 2nd by Patrick Choules
- After discussion, a Motion to Table was by Dave Jackson, 2nd by Charlie McLaughlin

■ **Motion carries with 2 oppositions**

➤ **Proposals AM2025-02: Advancement with Waiver**

- Motion to Table by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Jim Britt

■ **Motion carries with no opposition**

➤ **Proposal WM2025-03: In Season Recruiting**

- Motion to Table by Bill Fox, 2nd by Mike Lichtenberger

■ **Motion carries with No Opposition**

➤ **Proposals WM2025-04: 16U & 19U Player Restrictions**

- Motion to Adopt by Jay Finnigan, 2nd by Gene Palecco

■ **Proposal is adopted without opposition**

- **Proposals WM2025-05: Dual Rostering**
 - Motion to adopt by Pete Rothman, 2nd by Gene Palecco
 - **Proposal adopted without opposition**
- **Proposals WM2025-06: ADM Rules**
 - Motion to adopt by Mike Lichtenberger, 2nd by Gene Palecco
 - **Proposal adopted without opposition**
- **Proposals WM2025-07:**
 - Motion to discuss by Mike Lichtenberger, 2nd by Callie Smith
 - Motion to table by Bill Fox, 2nd by Ken Anderson
 - **Proposal is Tabled without opposition**

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming AAHA Events for the 2024-25 season, including the Mite 8U Full Ice Event and District Championship weekends, included in the distribution and also displayed on screen.
- The AAHA 2025 Annual Meeting date will take place in the middle of June, with the date and time to be determined.