

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting

August 14, 2024

6:30pm

Sanford Conference Room – SCHEELS IcePlex

President Chun Chan called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Jenn Warren (Vice-President) via Zoom, Sam Everson (Past President), Leah May (Travel League Director), Cody Alderman (Director of City League), and Derek Berg (Development Director). Quorum was not present at the start of the meeting. Dan Houck (Director of Hockey) and Cherry Hunter (Director of Operations) were also in attendance. Elliot Hitt (Treasurer), Adam Gorra (Secretary), and Amanda Smith (Director of Tournaments) were absent.

Open Forum – Attending the Open Forum were Rob Butler, Paul Keizer, and Dan Wegener.

Topic: SDAHA League Play

President Chan reported - The second exemption request was submitted for one Squirt and one PeeWee team to SDAHA for opt out of SDAHA League play. The request was denied. The 24-25 season will proceed as planned in compliance with SDAHA Rules. Goal is to build a better relationship with SDAHA. At least two board members will be attending the Northern Plains District meeting to be hosted in September.

Comments from membership attending and Board responses:

- ❖ Does SDAHA limit out of state play for SFYHA league teams?
 - No – SFYHA is allowed to block three weekends per team prior to release of the SDAHA League schedules. This does not include the end of year SDAHA Tournament. If there are open weekends after release of the SDAHA League schedules, a team may pick up additional tournament play on those weekends.
- ❖ SDAHA Squirt League – in the past there have been three teams that provided competitive games.
 - This season there will be three divisions at the Squirt level. Not every association will host an A team. Each Squirt team will have six SDAHA League game days which we have requested our game days be Saturday/Sunday for 3 weekends of SDAHA Squirt League game play. This will allow SFYHA Squirt teams ample weekends for tournament play – but will need to stay within the SFYHA Game Day limit policy.
- ❖ How do you trust SDAHA?
 - SFYHA focus is the best interest of our players.
- ❖ Looking at USA Hockey Standards, SFYHA has grounds for litigation.
 - Expensive litigation is not being considered. Visual research with concrete facts/evidence and how other associations function could be part of committee task.
- ❖ Research – WHS does not play Volga in sports competitions. RHS does not play Arlington. Need divisions similar to SD Athletics Association. Without a plan in place, there may be fallout from younger families and/or younger siblings affected by options provided to older siblings. What is different from last season? Want to motivate ALL players.
 - SFYHA will continue to focus on all of our registered players, mend relationships, play non-league games/tournaments and enjoy hockey.
 - Noted player who participated with SFYHA through SDAHA PeeWee seasons, then to POWER and now Stampede – all while living in Sioux Falls.

- Every SDAHA game is not a blow out & teams do have competitive games for quality season.
- SFYHA decline in registration will be expressed to SDAHA. SFYHA, as a SDAHA Affiliate program, must follow SDAHA Playing Rules & Administrative Rules.
- ❖ Feel like there is a surge right now and do not want to lose momentum for player development.
 - SFYHA is fortunate to have Coach Houck, practice plans for great practices, have competitive games when we play SF vs SF and close enough to Minnesota to have pick up non-league games.
 - The board does not have all the answers – but knee jerk reactions do more harm than good.

Secretary's Report – Quorum was not present. Board will consider minutes via email votes

Treasurer's Report – Elliot Hitt provided information on banking options for the NW Addition project. A demo will be set up with Elavon regarding the Converge product. Board members will be invited to attend the demo with Elliot and Cherry.

Director of Hockey – Dan Houck

- Currently speaking with two candidates to help assist on the West High School side. Nick Bierschbach will serve as East JV Coach. Bauer Anderson will assist the East teams.
- Working on finding support for coverage for fall DOH, Power Skating Clinics, etc. as given schedule I will need help
- Sanford Performance is waiting on me for a practice schedule so we can schedule times for HS Boys and Girls workout sessions. Hoping to offer two workout sessions per week for JV. Varsity and Lady Flyers
- Attended zoom meeting w/ Jenni, Cherry, Chun, and Leah on team counts and schedule for Squirt and PeeWee travel teams

Admin Update – Cherry Hunter

- **Referees must be registered with USA Hockey by October 31. This is a new deadline.**
- **Clarification – If a player was registered last year with SFYHA at the high school level, the 23-24 address submitted with registration will be utilized for geo split purposes until the player graduates from SFYHA.**
- BINGO NIGHT – Giving Hope will host a BINGO Night for SFYHA on November 15. The proceeds will be credited to the High School bus fund. Need a minimum of 55 participants.
- Met with webmaster regarding website and new DIBS Coordinators.
- Registration updates were provided to board members. Hoping for three divisions at the PeeWee level. If available, the PW Girls 12U would fit PeeWee C developmental level.
- MIRC Endowment in the amount of \$1930 received
- Updating SCHEELS IcePlex Seasonal Ice Rental Agreement to comply with USA Hockey Risk Management standards with Brian Prisbe
- Confirmed no Player Transfers are required for players participating in Carolina Premier League with NP Registrar
- SFYHA will host the SDAHA Girls Varsity Tournament March 6-8. Room block options have been forwarded to local association presidents. Summit League is the same weekend in Sioux Falls.
- Please Note – Fall League Parent meeting is Wednesday, Sept 25 at Hamre Hall in the Augustana Humanities Building – 2120 S Grange. City League meeting is Wednesday, October 23
- Player Transfers – ACL and Girls Varsity requests approved by Brandon. An ICL, ACL and Atom were denied by Brandon. ACL and ICL are resubmitting. Atom is appealing decision to SDAHA.
- Attending Sports Engine webinars regarding updates
- Camp & Clinic registrations are progressing
- Big Soo Books are selling well ahead of last year

- Candy Bars arrive Friday
- Falls Events added to Association Calendar – Board members requested Let's Try Hockey be scheduled earlier next season. One in September and one in early October.

Director of Development – Derek Berg – Les Schwab Tires will serve as Let's Try Hockey sponsor and possibly croxice divider. He needs more raffle ticket prizes. Requests will be included in next eblast. Flag fundraiser: Reps will be at the Fall Kick-Off to explain fundraiser. Volunteer hours will be available for flag delivery.

Travel League Director – Leah May – Work has begun on practice schedules. Plans include to have the girls back to back ice, Squirt 4 V 4 on Tuesday (not Fridays), Skills night on Monday and incorporate some changes at the Mite level. No Girls JV ice will be scheduled with only 3-6 girls who would be JV only.

Presidents Report – Chun Chan

- Continuing dialogue with SDAHA President
- Working with Coach Houck on several projects
- Confirmed SDAHA motion re: JV player geo assignment
- Brandon Ice – waiting for coils

Agenda Items:

IcePlex Expansion Fundraising – Derek Berg reported target date for kick off in early September. Two conference rooms sponsorships are spoken for at this time. Sanford funding is usually a 3 year package. Discussing options for Sanford gym sponsorship, naming rights and workout equipment donations.

Flyers Cheerleaders – Sioux Falls Figure Skating Club would like to provide Flyers cheerleaders for JV/Varsity and Lady Flyers home games. Board members approved the proposal.

- ✓ No cost to SFYHA
- ✓ No ice dance or performances between periods (due to SDAHA Rules /period breaks)
- ✓ Tasteful uniforms
- ✓ Can be on ice for player introductions
- ✓ Cherry will provide cheerleader skirts/uniforms to Riley Block – if they want to utilize

Fall Kick Off Event – Sunday, September 14 from 1-4pm. Need board members in attendance

- Suggested food trucks and invite members to bring bean bags for social gathering
- Flyers Expansion Project promotion
- Fundraiser option information available
- Spiritwear Sale
- Stock jersey check out for tryouts for Squirts, PeeWees, and Bantams.

Between Meetings

Exemption Request to SDAHA – SFYHA submitted second request for SDAHA League play exemption for one Squirt and one PeeWee team. Exemption request denied at July 11, 2024 SDAHA meeting.

*Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Mission:
To Motivate, Inspire and Encourage Athletic Participation and Good Health through Ice Sports*

Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm

NEXT MEETING
September 11, 2024 6:30 pm
Sanford Conference Room at the IcePlex

Respectfully submitted,
Cherry Hunter
SFYHA Director of Operations

Adopted Sept 11, 2024 _____ by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence
(Date) (Circle one)