

Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association

Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2024

6:30pm

Sanford Conference Room – SCHEELS IcePlex

President Sam Everson called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Sam Everson (President), Adam Gorra (Past President), Elliot Hitt (Treasurer), Derek Berg (Development Director), Dave Carlson (Director of City League), Leah May (Travel League Director), and Amanda Smith (Director of Tournaments). Quorum was present. Korey Lindersmith, Cherry Hunter (Director of Operations) and Dan Houck (Director of Hockey) were also in attendance. Corey Rothrock (Vice-President) and Chun Chan (Secretary) were absent.

Open Forum – Kory Lindersmith presented his concerns regarding ACL teams.

- ACL teams are incredibly uneven creating a competitive imbalance.
- ACL Southeast appears to have the most strength.
- Injured, dropped, or graduated players have been replaced with strong players to already strong teams.

Board members noted switching player team assignment may cause more issues. Team assignments for players involves others than the League Supervisor for ACL.

Secretary's Report – Adam Gorra made a motion to approve the December 18, 2023 SFYHA Board of Directors Meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Elliot Hitt reported SFYHA financials are progressing at the same pace as previous seasons. Elliot noted December 2023 ice hour usage was higher than December 2022. Leah May and Cherry are checking invoices for accuracy.

Director of Hockey – Dan Houck

- Ran and planned additional skill session on 1/7 for HS Varsity West
- Attended Bantam home tourney
- Ran combined Mite practice for Tier 3/4 on 1/6
- Handled supplemental ACL discipline for players from games the week of 12/18 from on-ice incident
- Covered opening weekend (1/5 and 1/7) of Atom Short Session with Riley out of town
- Held Atom Short Session Parent Meeting 1/5
- Filled in for missing Mite coaches for Mite City League games on 1/1
- Ran practices for Mite Tier 1 and JV West week of 1/1 for absent coaches
- Sent Mite Travel Rosters to Cherry/League Supervisor the week of 12/25
- Attended Varsity West/East home game
- Attended Coaching Development Session on 1/3 w/ Andy Gillham. Meeting included Bantam and 14U coaches
- Spent a lot of time securing additional coaching for Squirt/PeeWee Wednesday Night Goalie sessions to be able to increase the number of kids to go from 8 goalies to 12
- Filled out sample Mid-Season Evaluation document that was distributed (with detailed directions/ expectations) to coaches the week of Jan 1 for them to have completed and back to me by Jan 14. The expectation is that every player gets a hardcopy of the evaluation and 5-10 minute meeting over zoom or face to face w/ player.
- Conducted supplemental player evaluation for Varsity East player on 12/28

- Handled an away from the rink discipline issue the night of January 5th involving a few Bantam Orange players w/ their coaching staff
- Assisted on bench for PW Blue and Bantam Blue game
- Goalie Sessions – These are “no charge” sessions, but everyone feels entitled to a weekly session for their goalie. Suggestions included assigning goalies, incorporate goalie instruction to all Head Coaches: How to manage all of this?

Admin Update – Cherry Hunter

- Minnesota Hockey Divisions for Invitational Tournament participation – Teams participating in Minnesota Invitational Tournaments will need to be rostered at the same level as the tournament is sanctioned. B teams will play B tournaments, A teams will play A tournaments and C teams will participate in C level tournaments. Teams cannot participate in a level up unless Minnesota Hockey has provided approval. Out of state teams are allowed to play down a level (B can participate in C).
- DIBS – Only 5 DIBS Tasks deleted from September 1 through December 31 for a total of 7.75 hrs. These were Unclaimed DIBS.
- All City League House/Rec rosters submitted and approved
- Finalizing collection of tournament fees & adjusting fees at high school caused by late registration. Working on fundraiser mid-season fees
- 16 Let’s Try Hockey participants registered for the 23-24 season
- Working on end of year ice schedule and plans for Spring 3 V 3 League set to begin March 3

Director of Development – Derek Berg – Derek noted sponsorship funds are about the same as last season. We still need a sponsor for the Mite Falls Freeze. Raffle drawings were completed on January 10. Flyers Golf Tournament will be August 23

Director of Tournaments – Amanda Smith – Mite Falls Freeze will include 20 teams for croxice games. Team count is down a bit. Some associations have less teams – Luverne usually has 2-3 teams and is only hosting 1 Mite team this season. Bantam Tournament went great and tournament coordinators did a wonderful job. Members noted zam needs to take place every two periods for ice conditions. Amanda noted games get behind with zam every two periods and staffing at the IP has to be in place.

Agenda Items:

- IcePlex Expansion Fundraising & Memo of Understanding – Corey Rothrock was not in attendance for the report. Sam noted the need to meet with Joe Zueger.
- Tournament Officiating – Multiple complaints, 62 penalty minutes in one game, non-Sioux Falls games had concerns, player Game Misconduct was incorrect – were discussion points for the Bantam Tournament officiating. Officials need interaction with coaches.
- Lady Flyers request for SFYHA funding for February 9-10 non-league games – Lady Flyers are hosting games at the Denny with Manitoba and Omaha. They requested IcePlex slots be given to Squirts. The estimated ice cost at the Denny is \$2500-3000. Elliot Hitt made a motion to deny the request. Motion seconded and carried. Derek Berg abstained. Lady Flyers will pay for the non-league games – ice cost plus referees. The current tournament & game fees for Lady Flyers 19U is \$68.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm

NEXT MEETING
February 21, 2024 6:30 pm
Sanford Conference Room at the IcePlex

Respectfully submitted,
Cherry Hunter
SFYHA Director of Operations

Adopted February 21, 2024 by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence
(Date) (Circle one)