

Watertown Hockey Association
11/19/2025 – 6 PM
Watertown Municipal Arena- Party Room
Meeting Agenda

Board Of Directors	Executive Committee
Dave Cushman	Ginger Sherrill - <i>President</i>
Jordan Hess	Shane Caswell - <i>Vice President</i>
Jeremy Kreigbaum	Sean Ryan - <i>Treasurer</i>
Shane Caswell	Amanda Caswell- <i>Secretary</i>
Ginger Sherrill	Michelle Rist - <i>Registrar</i>
Michelle Rist	Jon Rose - <i>Ace Coordinator</i>
Ainsley Singer	
John Roberts	
Sean Ryan	

• **Establish Quorum Present- Majority of Directors (4 or more required)**

-John, Shane, Sean, Ginger, Ainsley, Jeremy, Jordan

• **Call Meeting to Order (*Ginger*)**

-6:09pm

• **Approve Consent Agenda** (Reports included), Meeting Minutes from October 15th, 2025, online votes: \$500 approved for tournaments (*Ginger*)

-Minute correction on new board member term: John 2026, Ainsley 2027

-Shane 1st motion to accept minutes

-Jeremy 2nd motion to accept minutes

-Ayes: 7

-Nay: 0

-Abstention: 0

• **Public Comment- 4 minutes maximum per participant (*Amanda*)**

-Rebecca Masek

-A parent raised concern about goalies and fair treatment of 12U goalies. The board discussed concerns about goalie assignments and team evaluations, particularly regarding Chase's participation in tournaments. Concerns were raised about 12U goalies not being able to play in tournaments. Issues were raised about not being able to bond with the team and be a part of the team during. A concern regarding 12U goalie evaluations and team assignments were raised. Frustration with the evaluation process was expressed.

-The board addressed concerns about the evaluation process and division of goalie time at the 12U level. The board conveyed they were attempting to assure the safety/medical needs of participants and provide a positive experience for all kids in the association by splitting goalies time and assignment. Discussion about why decisions were made regarding the 12U goalies ensued.

-It was clarified that goalie assignments were not dictated but communicated through the 12U director Joe Bennett. The board acknowledged communication issues and lack of follow through on the part of the 12U director. Improving advance planning and coordination between team managers was stressed and encouraged, with managers being asked to work together to ensure proper goalie assignments at tournaments, Snow belt and regular season games..

-Parent expressed frustration and informed the board they will not be returning to WHA after this year.

-A plan for advanced goalie assignment has been put in place the following week to assure advanced notice and planning for families, coaches and teams. It was explained that the 12U director would make goalie assignment decisions each Monday by 5pm to assure all teams have a goalie.

- **Executive Committee Reports**

- President (*Ginger*)

- NYSAHA Investigations update (*Ginger*)

- The group discussed sanctions against 5 WHA individuals and the importance of following rules to avoid insurance issues. The Association and board are required to reinforce rules from USA hockey. Decisions were emailed to board members for review before the meeting.

- Ginger motion to attach sanctions to these meeting minutes

- Jeremy 2nd motion to attach sanctions to these meeting minutes

- Ayes: 7

- Nays: 0

- Abstentions: 0

- August 2025 meeting minutes were updated and language change was confirmed.

- August minutes verbiage about Nina Harff comment was presented

- Ginger motion to accept new verbiage August 2025 meeting minutes verbiage change

- Shane 2nd motion to accept new verbiage August 2025 meeting minutes verbiage change

- Ayes: 7

- Nays: 0

- Abstentions: 0

- Volunteer Safe Sport Training, Family or Holiday skate

- The meeting covered several key topics related to hockey operations and administration. Amanda confirmed that JCC players can assist clinics as guest coaches, provided they meet background check and safe sport requirements. The association is also allowed to run family holiday ice sessions, with specific rules for who can participate. Any adult (18 years of age) on the iced must have a background check and complete Safe Sport Training.

- Registrar

- 3 more registrations over last month and a 3rd order for jerseys is coming as per Ginger.

- Secretary

- No Report

- Treasurer (*Sean*)

- Report in consent agenda meeting materials

- **Directors and Coordinator Reports**

- Ace Coordinator

- No report

- Tournament Coordinator

- Tournament updates were provided, with the 10U tournament being full and the 8U tournament having to open registration for additional teams. Both events are USA Hockey sanctioned.

- The group also addressed the need for a tournament director position.

- **Committee Reports**

- Coaching Committee

- Derek Notz is standing as interim 8U director currently

- Ginger motion to accept Derek Notz as the 8U director

- Jordan 2nd motion to accept Derek Notz as the 8U director

- Ayes: 7

- Nays 0
- Abstentions: 0

- **Finance Committee**

- No Report. Acknowledge this is in the bylaws, but the committee does not meet.
- Continued issues with outstanding checks and donations from the last 3 years were discussed, with other hockey associations and organizations being contacted to resolve these issues. The board discussed several financial and administrative matters, including issues with checks from Canadian tournaments and the need to follow up with donors who lacked account numbers. Vicki has a list of the checks that were never cashed. A couple of checks were reissued, but many organizations and individuals have not responded. Elks and Eagles are going to have to vote to reissue their donation checks. Questions about check cashing by Canadian teams were raised; procedure and follow through will be conducted. Betsy is going to reach out to see if we can cash these checks.
- Shane will reach out to Kelly Compo about reissuing the check donation.
- Vicki Phillips will continue to explore checks needing to be reissued and will engage organizations and individuals on behalf of the WHA to try to get checks reissued.

- **Snowbelt Liaison (*Hannah Sherrill*)**

- Preseason is finished. 14U still has to be voted on. Regular season breakdowns of teams were provided including the 14U is in 2nd place in their division.

- **Old Business**

- Vacant Positions (*Ginger*)
 - FaceBook/Media Liaison
 - Tournament Director
 - Need someone to organize and oversee, coordinate...not run
- iPads for 25/26 season
 - 3 iPads set up and running by Jordan Hess. Apple account completed and Ipads set up with parent controls.
- Ice Schedule
 - Finally, they discussed a new ice schedule that will see the 18U and 16U teams return in mid-February, and agreed to limit late-night practices to 9-10 p.m.
- Update on checks
 - Vicki Phillips appointed to assist and reporting. She is a retired CFO volunteering time to assist with check recoup. Vicki is the grandmother of a current 10-year player.
- Bylaws Committee Update
 - See report in Consent Agenda meeting materials
- Affiliate Player and Organization Definition
 - Valkyrie (*Amanda*)
 - The group discussed the Valkyrie program and girls' ice hockey initiatives. The board debated whether to continue the Valkyrie program as a supplemental program, noting challenges with weekend scheduling and low attendance. They discussed the need for a girls' program, with Amanda emphasizing the importance of girls playing girls' ice hockey rather than co-ed. The group also reviewed player numbers across different age groups and considered reaching out to the Lady Islanders for support and collaboration. Discussion about a successful program included the need for a collaborative regional team with Thousand Island Youth Hockey Association. Rather than compete for a small number of girls, it would be beneficial for regional girls to have a collaborative team.

-Ideas to support local girls ice hockey included a girls' ice hockey night for the Lady Islanders. Ainsley is going to check on home dates that would work.

-A discussion about early registration ensued with the central focus on advanced planning and girl commitments being central to the discussion.

- Unity Registration Fee with WHA

-A secondary discussion occurred about Unity not providing a fee to WHA for registration. Ginger will reach out to Mike Ledoux about an agreement and proposal.

-The board also addressed concerns about Unity's participation fees and discussed potential partnerships, though no final decisions were made.

• Snowbelt Fan Actions and Fines, update policy (*Shane*)

-It was investigated and snowbelt does not have a written policy. The Board needs to wait to see what occur from NYSAHA.

• Goalie Training With Cole James (*Jordan*)

-They approved a \$2,000 budget for goalie training sessions throughout the season, with each goalie paying approximately \$111.11.

-See materials in consent agenda in meeting materials

-13 out of 18 goalies engaged in first session

-10 more sessions lined up for a total of \$1,250

-Requestion for \$2k for season equals \$111.11/goalie for season

-We were paying \$105/session for 5 total at PPS

-Discussion about lack of coaching during the regular season.

-Inquiry about getting girls in goal

-discussion about using half sheets of ice for goalies with other skills training for other

-Maybe use for Valkyries events?

-Sean Motion to cap goalie training funding at \$2k

-Jeremy 2nd Motion to cap goalie training funding at \$2k

-Ayes: 7

-Nays: 0

-Abstention: 0

-Goalie bronze course training suggestion

• WHA Credit Check (*Sean*)

-Tabled to next meeting.

• **New Business**

• Code of Conduct Issue (*Ginger*)

-7:43pm entered executive session

-7:53pm exited executive session

• Removal of Coach/Director Policy (*Ginger*)

-Shane is working on a draft policy. We need to keep a record of coaches/managers issues for reflection as individuals submit letters of interest for various organization positions.

- 12U Goalie resolution (*Shane*)

-It was reported that a plan was put in place to schedule by 5pm each Monday to assure players, families, managers and coaches had ample time to plan. This will be re-evaluated on December 1st; if at that time it is not working the board will need to step in and assign goalies to specific teams.

- Helmet Sticker Purchase (*Amanda*)

-A suggestions to purchase helmet stickers for players and coaches was presented to the board. \$200 for 200- 3"x3" was initially priced out for sticker purchase. It was suggested that the president create a note for players and families to include with sticker distribution.

-Ginger motioned to spend \$250 to purchase helmet stickers

-Ainsley 2nd motion to spend \$250 to purchase helmet stickers

-Ayes: 7

-Nays: 0

-Abstention: 0

- Timeline for 2026-27 Registration, Directors, TB teams (*Ginger*)

-The board discussed registration pricing strategy, deciding to offer early spring registration at a discount compared to late summer registration. It was emphasized that registration should open as soon as season closes thru June, and then close for July. Registration would then open in August and increase price

-A discussion ensued about the importance of a January 2026 identification of directors for the 2026-27 season.

-Tournament Bound teams policy and procedures took place.

-16/18U had tryouts in Spring/summer this year. Discussion occurred about holding evaluations in the Spring for these teams. There needs to be a clear plan on how to evaluate individuals that join in fall if we do a spring evaluation

-Discussion about the history of starting as a Snowbelt team and then self-electing to remove if teams were too competitive for the league.

-Questions were raised as to what we are evaluating in the fall. Are we an association to develop players and grow a team or develop a AA team? Discussion about selection versus evaluation ensued. It was recommended we reach out for evaluation models from other associations; Rusty Gallaher and Matt Cullen would be good resources.

- Develop mission statement for organization (*Amanda*)

-A discussion about the value and implementation of a mission statement took place. The value in using this to What do we want to be? Who are we serving, and how do we want to do it? What are we about? We need to create the best hockey players we can with the population we have....and we need a mission that guides all decisions focusing on our values and mission.

- **Other Business:**

-Affiliate status to attend clinics: \$25, USA hockey number

-Ginger motioned to open \$25 affiliate registration for USA hockey registered players to participate in clinics only

-Ainsley 2nd motion to open \$25 affiliate registration for USA hockey registered players to participate in clinics only

-Ayes: 7

-Nays 0

-Abstentions: 0

- **Action Items:**

- Date for girls' practice
- Identify goalie and female coaches for holiday coach
- Ginger will reach out to Unity about WHA registration fee for the 2026 season.
- Shane is working on policy language for policy on removing coach/director
- Ginger will develop a timeline to accept applications for age level coaching directors.
- Amanda will purchase helmet stickers.
- Reach out to Rusty Gallaher and Matt Cullen about evaluation systems from other associations.
- Vicki will continue to work on recouping uncashed checks
- Shane and Jordan will research evaluation processes
- Shane will circulate USA Hockey skill level guidelines by age group to board
- Michelle will set up affiliate roster for clinic participants from other associations

- **Next meeting:** Dec 18th, Thursday

- **Meeting Adjournment:** 8:51pm



Rob Rioux
Central Section Associate President – NYSAHA

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24 October 2025

Hearing Panel Decision
Disciplinary Proceedings Under NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.4(c)
Hearing held on 21 October 2025, at 7:30pm via Video Conference

To: CHRIS NETHERS

From: Hearing Panel: Rob Rioux, Tony Polhamus, Mona Smart,
Hearing Panel Members for Central Section Disciplinary Committee

RE: Proposed suspension/discipline of CHRIS NETHERS

On 21 October 2025 via video conference the above-named Hearing Panel held a hearing to determine whether CHRIS NETHERS should be suspended or otherwise disciplined as a result of alleged violations of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey Rules and Regulations, as it pertains to the use of an ineligible player during the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) Tier III 18U Tournament held in Buffalo, NY in March 2025.

This suspension/discipline was proposed by Central Section of NYSAHA, which was requested to handle the investigation and hearing for the NYSAHA North Section. Notice of the Suspension and Notice of Hearing were provided to CHRIS NETHERS on 07 October 2025 and 13 October 2025 respectively.

This report serves as the written determination and decision of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel confirms that its members are reasonably disinterested and impartial and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

The hearing lasted approximately 28 minutes from 7:30pm ET to 7:58pm ET. Chris Nethers, Assistant Coach in 2024 season and Watertown Youth Hockey President Ginger Sherill joined the hearing. All people present were given the opportunity to present their views and to provide information, ask questions, and submit evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony, information, and exhibits presented at the hearing, the Hearing Panel finds the following facts to be established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. During the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament in March 2025 the team allowed an ineligible (Connor Lamb) to participate in game play in all three (3) games the team participated in that weekend.
2. After receiving official documentation of ineligibility, the Coaching Staff and Team manager, along with Connor Lamb's family, unilaterally decided to ignore the ineligibility notification and allowed Connor



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Lamb to play in each game using the name of a player not in attendance at the tournament (Owen O'Donnell).

3. Prior President shared details of suspension but did not enforce the ineligibility requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel Concludes:

- A. CHRIS NETHERS did knowingly allow an ineligible player to participate in the three (3) games played by the team during the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament.

DECISION

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, determined by the Hearing Panel to be more likely true than not true, and the Conclusion drawn from the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel determines:

1. CHRIS NETHERS be suspended from all participation in USA Hockey for six (6) months from the date of the hearing (21 October 2025) to be suspended from participation in any and all USA Hockey Activities – this includes as an adult player, referee, off-ice official, coach, board member, or team volunteer until 20 April 2026.
2. CHRIS NETHERS may return to participate in USA Hockey activities beginning 21 April 2026.
3. CHRIS NETHERS serves a 1-year probationary period from 21 April 2026 through 20 April 2027.

This Hearing Panel Decision may be appealed by any Party disciplined hereunder to the NYS Hockey Board of Directors pursuant to NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5. To appeal this Decision, you must submit your Statement of Appeal to the Central Section President, Kirk Avery, and to this Hearing Panel, with copies provided as required under Bylaw 8.5, within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this Decision. If the Statement of Appeal is not so delivered within the fourteen (14) day period, this Decision shall be final. Additional information regarding the appeal rights of any disciplined Party, including information that must be included in a Statement of Appeal, may be found in NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5 as set forth in the NYS Hockey Annual Guide.

The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

Note that the Statement of Appeal should include a description of why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the Hearing Panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Statement of Appeal should be a complete and comprehensive document and attach all materials (including any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument) that the Party wishes to be considered by the Appeal Authority; letters and other documents not submitted by the Party as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. Thus, the Statement of Appeal should present the Appeal Authority with all the reasons and supporting information necessary for the Appeal Authority to understand the appeal, and why the decision appealed from should be overturned or





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reversed. Any reply by the Disciplinary Authority should be similarly informative to the Appeal Authority as to why the decision appealed from should be upheld.

This Hearing Panel Decision was issued on 24 October 2025.

Sincerely,
Rob Rioux
NYSAHA Central Section Associate President
Hearing Panel Chair
rob.rioux@nysaha.com
(315) 243-5612
(315) 308-0785

CC:
Central Section Board of Directors
Kirk Avery, Central Section President
Chris Behonick, Central Section Second Vice President
Ginger Sherrill, President Watertown Youth Hockey Association



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24 October 2025

Hearing Panel Decision
Disciplinary Proceedings Under NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.4(c)
Hearing held on 21 October 2025, at 8:00pm via Video Conference

To: VEGA NUTTING

From: Hearing Panel: Rob Rioux, Tony Polhamus, Mona Smart,
Hearing Panel Members for Central Section Disciplinary Committee

RE: Proposed suspension/discipline of VEGA NUTTING

On 21 October 2025 via video conference the above-named Hearing Panel held a hearing to determine whether VEGA NUTTING should be suspended or otherwise disciplined as a result of alleged violations of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey Rules and Regulations, as it pertains to the use of an ineligible player during the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) Tier III 18U Tournament held in Buffalo, NY in March 2025.

This suspension/discipline was proposed by Central Section of NYSAHA, which was requested to handle the investigation and hearing for the NYSAHA North Section. Notice of the Suspension and Notice of Hearing were provided to VEGA NUTTING on 07 October 2025 and 13 October 2025 respectively.

This report serves as the written determination and decision of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel confirms that its members are reasonably disinterested and impartial and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

The hearing lasted approximately 25 minutes from 8:00pm ET to 8:25pm ET. Vega Nutting, Prior President of Watertown Youth Hockey and Current Watertown Youth Hockey President Ginger Sherill joined the hearing. All people present were given the opportunity to present their views and to provide information, ask questions, and submit evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony, information, and exhibits presented at the hearing, the Hearing Panel finds the following facts to be established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. During the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament in March 2025 the team allowed an ineligible (Connor Lamb) to participate in game play in all three (3) games the team participated in that weekend.
2. After receiving official documentation of ineligibility, the Coaching Staff and Team manager, along with Connor Lamb's family, unilaterally decided to ignore the ineligibility notification and allowed Connor



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Lamb to play in each game using the name of a player not in attendance at the tournament (Owen O'Donnell).

3. Prior President shared details of suspension but did not enforce the ineligibility requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel Concludes:

- A. VEGA NUTTING did knowingly allow an ineligible player to participate in the three (3) games played by the team during the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament.

DECISION

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, determined by the Hearing Panel to be more likely true than not true, and the Conclusion drawn from the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel determines:

1. VEGA NUTTING be suspended from all participation in USA Hockey for two (2) years from the date of the hearing (21 October 2025) to be suspended from participation in any and all USA Hockey Activities – this includes as an adult player, referee, off-ice official, coach, board member, or team volunteer until 20 October 2027.
2. VEGA NUTTING may return to participate in USA Hockey activities beginning 21 October 2027.
3. VEGA NUTTING serves a 1-year probationary period from 21 October 2027 through 20 October 2028.

This Hearing Panel Decision may be appealed by any Party disciplined hereunder to the NYS Hockey Board of Directors pursuant to NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5. To appeal this Decision, you must submit your Statement of Appeal to the Central Section President, Kirk Avery, and to this Hearing Panel, with copies provided as required under Bylaw 8.5, within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this Decision. If the Statement of Appeal is not so delivered within the fourteen (14) day period, this Decision shall be final. Additional information regarding the appeal rights of any disciplined Party, including information that must be included in a Statement of Appeal, may be found in NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5 as set forth in the NYS Hockey Annual Guide.

The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

Note that the Statement of Appeal should include a description of why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the Hearing Panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Statement of Appeal should be a complete and comprehensive document and attach all materials (including any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument) that the Party wishes to be considered by the Appeal Authority; letters and other documents not submitted by the Party as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. Thus, the Statement of Appeal should present the Appeal Authority with all the reasons and supporting information necessary for the Appeal Authority to understand the appeal, and why the decision appealed from should be overturned or





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reversed. Any reply by the Disciplinary Authority should be similarly informative to the Appeal Authority as to why the decision appealed from should be upheld.

This Hearing Panel Decision was issued on 24 October 2025.

Sincerely,
Rob Rioux
NYSAHA Central Section Associate President
Hearing Panel Chair
rob.rioux@nysaha.com
(315) 243-5612
(315) 308-0785

CC:
Central Section Board of Directors
Kirk Avery, Central Section President
Chris Behonick, Central Section Second Vice President
Ginger Sherrill, President Watertown Youth Hockey Association



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24 October 2025

Hearing Panel Decision
Disciplinary Proceedings Under NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.4(c)
Hearing held on 21 October 2025, at 7:00pm via Video Conference

To: SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN

From: Hearing Panel: Rob Rioux, Tony Polhamus, Mona Smart,
Hearing Panel Members for Central Section Disciplinary Committee

RE: Proposed suspension/discipline of SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN

On 21 October 2025 via video conference the above-named Hearing Panel held a hearing to determine whether SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN should be suspended or otherwise disciplined as a result of alleged violations of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey Rules and Regulations, as it pertains to the use of an ineligible player during the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) Tier III 18U Tournament held in Buffalo, NY in March 2025.

This suspension/discipline was proposed by Central Section of NYSAHA, which was requested to handle the investigation and hearing for the NYSAHA North Section. Notice of the Suspension and Notice of Hearing were provided to SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN on 07 October 2025 and 13 October 2025 respectively.

This report serves as the written determination and decision of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel confirms that its members are reasonably disinterested and impartial and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

The hearing lasted approximately 25 minutes from 7:00pm ET to 7:25pm ET. Samantha Van Brocklin, Team Manager, Josh Van Brocklin, Head Coach, and Watertown Youth Hockey President Ginger Sherill joined the hearing. All people present were given the opportunity to present their views and to provide information, ask questions, and submit evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony, information, and exhibits presented at the hearing, the Hearing Panel finds the following facts to be established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. During the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament in March 2025 the team allowed an ineligible (Connor Lamb) to participate in game play in all three (3) games the team participated in that weekend.
2. After receiving official documentation of ineligibility, the Coaching Staff and Team manager, along with Connor Lamb's family, unilaterally decided to ignore the ineligibility notification and allowed Connor



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Lamb to play in each game using the name of a player not in attendance at the tournament (Owen O'Donnell).

3. Prior President shared details of suspension but did not enforce the ineligibility requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel Concludes:

- A. SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN did knowingly allow an ineligible player to participate in the three (3) games played by the team during the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament.

DECISION

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, determined by the Hearing Panel to be more likely true than not true, and the Conclusion drawn from the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel determines:

1. SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN be suspended from all participation in USA Hockey for two (2) years from the date of the hearing (21 October 2025) to be suspended from participation in any and all USA Hockey Activities – this includes as an adult player, referee, off-ice official, coach, board member, or team volunteer until 20 October 2027.
2. SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN may return to participate in USA Hockey activities beginning 21 October 2027.
3. SAMANTHA VAN BROCKLIN serves a 1-year probationary period from 21 October 2027 through 20 October 2028.

This Hearing Panel Decision may be appealed by any Party disciplined hereunder to the NYS Hockey Board of Directors pursuant to NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5. To appeal this Decision, you must submit your Statement of Appeal to the Central Section President, Kirk Avery, and to this Hearing Panel, with copies provided as required under Bylaw 8.5, within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this Decision. If the Statement of Appeal is not so delivered within the fourteen (14) day period, this Decision shall be final. Additional information regarding the appeal rights of any disciplined Party, including information that must be included in a Statement of Appeal, may be found in NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5 as set forth in the NYS Hockey Annual Guide.

The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

Note that the Statement of Appeal should include a description of why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the Hearing Panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Statement of Appeal should be a complete and comprehensive document and attach all materials (including any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument) that the Party wishes to be considered by the Appeal Authority; letters and other documents not submitted by the Party as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. Thus, the Statement of





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Appeal should present the Appeal Authority with all the reasons and supporting information necessary for the Appeal Authority to understand the appeal, and why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed. Any reply by the Disciplinary Authority should be similarly informative to the Appeal Authority as to why the decision appealed from should be upheld.

This Hearing Panel Decision was issued on 24 October 2025.

Sincerely,
Rob Rioux
NYSAHA Central Section Associate President
Hearing Panel Chair
rob.rioux@nysaha.com
(315) 243-5612
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CC:
Central Section Board of Directors
Kirk Avery, Central Section President
Chris Behonick, Central Section Second Vice President
Ginger Sherrill, President Watertown Youth Hockey Association



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24 October 2025

Hearing Panel Decision
Disciplinary Proceedings Under NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.4(c)
Hearing held on 21 October 2025, at 6:30pm via Video Conference

To: CONNOR LAMB

From: Hearing Panel: Rob Rioux, Tony Polhamus, Mona Smart,
Hearing Panel Members for Central Section Disciplinary Committee

RE: Proposed suspension/discipline of CONNOR LAMB

On 21 October 2025 via video conference the above-named Hearing Panel held a hearing to determine whether CONNOR LAMB should be suspended or otherwise disciplined as a result of alleged violations of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey Rules and Regulations, as it pertains to the use of an ineligible player during the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) Tier III 18U Tournament held in Buffalo, NY in March 2025.

This suspension/discipline was proposed by Central Section of NYSAHA, which was requested to handle the investigation and hearing for the NYSAHA North Section. Notice of the Suspension and Notice of Hearing were provided to CONNOR LAMB on 07 October 2025 and 13 October 2025 respectively.

This report serves as the written determination and decision of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel confirms that its members are reasonably disinterested and impartial and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

The hearing lasted approximately 12 minutes from 6:30pm ET to 6:42pm ET. CONNOR LAMB was not in attendance. CONNOR LAMB did not communicate with the hearing committee chair any time prior to the hearing date to advise of conflict or inability to join. Watertown Youth Hockey President Ginger Sherill joined the hearing. All people present were given the opportunity to present their views and to provide information, ask questions, and submit evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony, information, and exhibits presented at the hearing, the Hearing Panel finds the following facts to be established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. During the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament in March 2025 the team allowed an ineligible (Connor Lamb) to participate in game play in all three (3) games the team participated in that weekend.
2. After receiving official documentation of ineligibility, the Coaching Staff and Team manager, along with Connor Lamb's family, unilaterally decided to ignore the ineligibility notification and allowed Connor



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Lamb to play in each game using the name of a player not in attendance at the tournament (Owen O'Donnell).

3. Prior President shared details of suspension but did not enforce the ineligibility requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel Concludes:

- A. CONNOR LAMB did knowingly participate in the three (3) games played by the team during the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament as an ineligible player.

DECISION

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, determined by the Hearing Panel to be more likely true than not true, and the Conclusion drawn from the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel determines:

1. CONNOR LAMB be suspended from all participation in USA Hockey for three (3) months from the date of the hearing (21 October 2025) to be suspended from participation in any and all USA Hockey Activities – this includes as an adult player, referee, off-ice official, coach, board member, or team volunteer until 20 January 2026.
2. CONNOR LAMB may return to participate in USA Hockey activities beginning 21 January 2026.
3. CONNOR LAMB serves a 1-year probationary period from 21 January 2026 through 20 January 2027.

This Hearing Panel Decision may be appealed by any Party disciplined hereunder to the NYS Hockey Board of Directors pursuant to NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5. To appeal this Decision, you must submit your Statement of Appeal to the Central Section President, Kirk Avery, and to this Hearing Panel, with copies provided as required under Bylaw 8.5, within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this Decision. If the Statement of Appeal is not so delivered within the fourteen (14) day period, this Decision shall be final. Additional information regarding the appeal rights of any disciplined Party, including information that must be included in a Statement of Appeal, may be found in NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5 as set forth in the NYS Hockey Annual Guide.

The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

Note that the Statement of Appeal should include a description of why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the Hearing Panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Statement of Appeal should be a complete and comprehensive document and attach all materials (including any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument) that the Party wishes to be considered by the Appeal Authority; letters and other documents not submitted by the Party as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. Thus, the Statement of Appeal should present the Appeal Authority with all the reasons and supporting information necessary for the Appeal Authority to understand the appeal, and why the decision appealed from should be overturned or





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reversed. Any reply by the Disciplinary Authority should be similarly informative to the Appeal Authority as to why the decision appealed from should be upheld.

This Hearing Panel Decision was issued on 24 October 2025.

Sincerely,
Rob Rioux
NYSAHA Central Section Associate President
Hearing Panel Chair
rob.rioux@nysaha.com
(315) 243-5612
(315) 308-0785

CC:
Central Section Board of Directors
Kirk Avery, Central Section President
Chris Behonick, Central Section Second Vice President
Ginger Sherrill, President Watertown Youth Hockey Association



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24 October 2025

Hearing Panel Decision
Disciplinary Proceedings Under NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.4(c)
Hearing held on 21 October 2025, at 7:00pm via Video Conference

To: JOSH VAN BROCKLIN

From: Hearing Panel: Rob Rioux, Tony Polhamus, Mona Smart,
Hearing Panel Members for Central Section Disciplinary Committee

RE: Proposed suspension/discipline of JOSH VAN BROCKLIN

On 21 October 2025 via video conference the above-named Hearing Panel held a hearing to determine whether JOSH VAN BROCKLIN should be suspended or otherwise disciplined as a result of alleged violations of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey Rules and Regulations, as it pertains to the use of an ineligible player during the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) Tier III 18U Tournament held in Buffalo, NY in March 2025.

This suspension/discipline was proposed by Central Section of NYSAHA, which was requested to handle the investigation and hearing for the NYSAHA North Section. Notice of the Suspension and Notice of Hearing were provided to JOSH VAN BROCKLIN on 07 October 2025 and 13 October 2025 respectively.

This report serves as the written determination and decision of the Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel confirms that its members are reasonably disinterested and impartial and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing.

The hearing lasted approximately 25 minutes from 7:00pm ET to 7:25pm ET. Josh Van Brocklin, Head Coach, Samantha Van Brocklin, Team Manager, and Watertown Youth Hockey President Ginger Sherill joined the hearing. All people present were given the opportunity to present their views and to provide information, ask questions, and submit evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony, information, and exhibits presented at the hearing, the Hearing Panel finds the following facts to be established by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. During the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament in March 2025 the team allowed an ineligible (Connor Lamb) to participate in game play in all three (3) games the team participated in that weekend.
2. After receiving official documentation of ineligibility, the Coaching Staff and Team manager, along with Connor Lamb's family, unilaterally decided to ignore the ineligibility notification and allowed Connor



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Lamb to play in each game using the name of a player not in attendance at the tournament (Owen O'Donnell).

3. Prior President shared details of suspension but did not enforce the ineligibility requirement.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel Concludes:

- A. JOSH VAN BROCKLIN did knowingly allow an ineligible player to participate in the three (3) games played by the team during the NYSAHA Tier III 18U State Tournament.

DECISION

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, determined by the Hearing Panel to be more likely true than not true, and the Conclusion drawn from the Findings of Fact, the Hearing Panel determines:

1. JOSH VAN BROCKLIN be suspended from all participation in USA Hockey for two (2) years from the date of the hearing (21 October 2025) to be suspended from participation in any and all USA Hockey Activities – this includes as an adult player, referee, off-ice official, coach, board member, or team volunteer until 20 October 2027.
2. JOSH VAN BROCKLIN may return to participate in USA Hockey activities beginning 21 October 2027.
3. JOSH VAN BROCKLIN serves a 1-year probationary period from 21 October 2027 through 20 October 2028.

This Hearing Panel Decision may be appealed by any Party disciplined hereunder to the NYS Hockey Board of Directors pursuant to NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5. To appeal this Decision, you must submit your Statement of Appeal to the Central Section President, Kirk Avery, and to this Hearing Panel, with copies provided as required under Bylaw 8.5, within fourteen (14) days of your receipt of this Decision. If the Statement of Appeal is not so delivered within the fourteen (14) day period, this Decision shall be final. Additional information regarding the appeal rights of any disciplined Party, including information that must be included in a Statement of Appeal, may be found in NYS Hockey Bylaw 8.5 as set forth in the NYS Hockey Annual Guide.

The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

Note that the Statement of Appeal should include a description of why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the Hearing Panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Statement of Appeal should be a complete and comprehensive document and attach all materials (including any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument) that the Party wishes to be considered by the Appeal Authority; letters and other documents not submitted by the Party as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. Thus, the Statement of Appeal should present the Appeal Authority with all the reasons and supporting information necessary for the





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Appeal Authority to understand the appeal, and why the decision appealed from should be overturned or reversed. Any reply by the Disciplinary Authority should be similarly informative to the Appeal Authority as to why the decision appealed from should be upheld.

This Hearing Panel Decision was issued on 24 October 2025.

Sincerely,
Rob Rioux
NYSAHA Central Section Associate President
Hearing Panel Chair
rob.rioux@nysaha.com
(315) 243-5612
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CC:
Central Section Board of Directors
Kirk Avery, Central Section President
Chris Behonick, Central Section Second Vice President
Ginger Sherrill, President Watertown Youth Hockey Association



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