



## Report of Operation of SAHA

5/1/2025

- 922 active participants in 2024-2025 (record numbers)
  - Very engaged Board of Directors... most attended all 12 meetings and all were regular contributors
  - Switched board meetings to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7am... few conflicts, and very focused
  - Featured in MN Hockey's "The Association". 13-minute video showcasing the then and now of one of MN premier hockey associations
  - Up to date on all filings and audits
1. **Charitable Gambling** – early on deep dive to assist in streamlining and margins... donation to Saha up substantially over last year
  2. **Rec Center** – we are the largest customer. Foster a relationship that is in the best interest of both the city (owners) and our members. Used more ice hours than any other season, few unused hours. We are in good standing and the partnership is strong.
  3. **Home Tournaments** – Skate for the Roses is in a league of its own. One of the premier girls' tournaments in MN. Registration filled in hours for all levels... all girls teams volunteer and it's a great supplement for next year's girls teams. Stampede/Roundup – due diligence cast by many board members as well as solicited feedback from participating members... too difficult to plan & organize ahead of time when team placements aren't done until end of Sept. or Oct. Not fair to pay and have to volunteer. Were able to refund the Saha teams entry fee this year with profits from the tournament. These boys' tournaments will be discontinued.

4. **Away Tournaments** – signups happen earlier and earlier each year. We are already registered for some tournaments for next season. \$190k is approximate spend on tournaments for our teams.
5. **Lake Elmo Bank** – helpful to have a local presence to facilitate team checking accounts. Remain concerned having more than the \$250k FDIC limit deposited there. Savings rates are below average. Saha may have outgrown using one bank for all banking needs. Will continue dialogue with new Treasurer on solutions.
6. **Costs** – inflation is everywhere... our biggest expense is ice and that goes up 3-5% annually paid to city. Reignited fundraising ideas... Jersey sponsors were historically just mites, expanding to travelling game, practice and tryout jerseys.
7. **Jerseys** – 2-year system was to “save money”. Growth in our association and different team counts each year has made a multi-year jersey a massive task and not much of a money saver... after year 1 we need to collect, launder and store these jerseys as well as order extras for “just in case” moments. Switching to single season use jerseys.
8. **Hockey:**
  - i. We have an abundance of great coaching... need to figure out how to get alumni to return and learn to coach
  - ii. Half ice vs. full ice practices... how many, how often and at what levels
  - iii. Ice Hockey systems for coaches is great tool ... but may tailor some “SAHA drills” for our coaches to use on Saha website
  - iv. Using year end feedback... continue to focus on development spend vs more ice spend.
  - v. School hours change next season... Looking for weekday night ice at Tartan, Polar, SMP and many other local arena... so far none of the arenas are able to commit to any regular weekday ice we can buy... may also need to look at morning practice
9. **Celebrate our Successes**
  - i. Many tournament champions
  - ii. Many District 2 titles
  - iii. 3 state tournament teams
  - iv. 1 state champion – 19u

I'm grateful for the dedication of our players, families, managers, coaches and volunteers who make Stillwater Hockey a true community. Your efforts are fueling our success. Enthusiasm is common but endurance is rare. Go Ponies!

Matt Tuccitto  
President