

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 24, 2025 – 6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Meeting was in person at Sun Prairie Ice Arena.

Board Members Present:

President – Mark Gernetzke
Incoming President – Ryan Dunt
Past President – Eric Morehouse
Treasurer – Stephen Elmer
Secretary – Sara Pieper
Bantam Rep: Kelly Ruhland
Squirt Rep – Sarah Mahan
Mite Rep – Allison McKee
Mini Mite Rep – Betsy Leonard
Girls' Rep – Megan Davis
Coaches Rep – Larry Clemens

Board Members Absent: PeeWee Rep – Casey Moen

Attendance: Zak Gordon, Megan Jordan, Natasha Jones, Bethany Wagner, Ashley Scott, Tim Clavette, Scott VandeBerg, Karin Staley, Val Blaska, Tracey Miller, Samantha Sotelo, Chad Lillethun, Scott Sorenson

- Public Comments - None
- Affirmation of Email Votes
 - a. Motion to release SPYHA player for the 2025-2026 season
 - *Sara motioned to approve. Eric second, motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Motion to create the SPYHA Sponsorship Committee
 - *Sara motioned to approve. Eric second, motion passed unanimously.*
 - c. Motion to approve the appointment of Val Blaska and Tracey Miller as Co-Leads of the Sponsorship Committee for the 2025–2026 season
 - *Sara motioned to approve. Eric second, motion passed unanimously.*
 - d. Motion to approve 3 players to be accepted into SPYHA for the 2025-2026 season
 - *Sara motioned to approve. Eric second, motion passed unanimously.*
 - e. Motion to approve the appointment of Anastasiia Stanila to serve as the Raffle Coordinator.
 - *Sara motioned to approve. Eric second, motion passed unanimously.*
- Appointments & Membership Changes - None
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Secretary – Sara Pieper
 - July Board Meeting Minutes
 - *Kelly motioned to approve. Sarah second, motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Treasurer – Stephen Elmer
 - Bank account reports were sent prior to the meeting; will send another when registration is closed.
 - The City of Sun Prairie offers a tourism grant. The Sponsorship Committee is assessing and will apply, including three letters of recommendation.
 - c. President Elect – Ryan Dunt
 - None
 - d. Past President – Eric Morehouse
 - Sent tourney registration forms to WAHA.
 - There is a joint SP INCE and SPYHA board meeting on Oct. 1 @ 6 pm.
 - e. President – Mark Gernetzke
 - Try Hockey for Free is listed on the SPYHA site
 - 8U girls meeting: 11 teams within division 4
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Volunteer Committee
 - The Volunteer Committee will begin crediting all hours submitted since April 1
 - b. Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee
 - The Taste of Madison fundraising event is on Sunday. We are still recruiting for a few more shifts.

- The Sponsorship Committee will be organizing a golf outing for the summer of 2026 at The Oaks. Available dates include August 24, September 21, August 27, August 13, August 4, and September 8. Cost will be \$85 per person. This cost includes hosting a website to request sponsorships, build a team, etc.
 - c. Communications Committee
 - eNewsletter and social reports were sent before the meeting.
 - d. Registrar
 - All Board members have completed their background check and SafeSport training.
 - Rep to send an email before Travel registration closes.
 - e. Groundhog Games Tournament Committee
 - Groundhog Games Tournament registration is live and is being promoted across WAHA and out-of-state sites.
 - C2 tournaments are almost fully booked.
 - Exploring a new approach to awards, possibly removing trophies for third place and consolidation brackets. We are considering giving trophies only for first place and switching to banners or hats as alternative recognition.
 - f. Concession Stand Committee
 - During the Summer Scrimmages, 25 to 30 individuals received training. Additional sessions will be scheduled as the season approaches.
 - Pepsi is no longer offering slushies so we will require a new vendor.
 - g. USA Hockey Initiatives
 - None
 - h. ACE Director(s)
 - None
 - i. Equipment Managers
 - The Equipment Committee requires two additional volunteers to support the season.
 - j. Jersey Coordinator
 - Jersey, breezer, and sock try on and ordering will be available at the rink multiple nights.
 - Reversible Groundhog jerseys will be ordered for practice travel teams. We hope to order jerseys for Mites and Mini Mites as well.
 - \$3,500 was raised to help fund the purchase of practice jerseys for travel teams.
 - k. Spirit Wear / Bags
 - Ryan is working with Elite on new designs to be featured in the Groundhog spirit wear shop.
 - l. Region 4 Meeting
 - None
- LEVEL REP REPORTS
 - a. Mini-Mite
 - 22 registered. The registration close date is October 31 for the first session and December 26 for the second session. First session practices begin November 5.
 - Mini Mite Capitals event will take place on Sunday, Nov 9.
 - b. Mite
 - 44 registered.
 - 5 teams signed up for Dubuque.
 - Evals start October 13.
 - c. Squirt
 - 57 registered; may have 5 teams.
 - Tournaments are booked for 4 teams.
 - Several kids have expressed interest in trying goalie. We will look into equipment availability and explore the possibility of securing a shared goalie bag for the Squirt level.
 - d. PeeWee
 - 55 registrants; 4 teams.
 - Tournaments and hotels are booked.
 - Working on Welcome Back to Hockey event
 - e. Bantams
 - 37 registered; two bantam goalies
 - 6 tournaments confirmed and hotels for A & B. Working on booking additional tournaments.
 - f. Coaches' Rep
 - Forty-one coaches have registered. Upcoming coaches meetings will be scheduled, with assignments based on age levels rather than specific teams at this stage.
 - g. Girls Rep
 - Received a \$3,500 Brianna Decker Endowment grant. Plans are underway to determine how best to use the funds. To thank Brianna plan to host a Zoom session with her and girl players at the rink.

- A 3–5 year plan is in development to grow girls' hockey. Megan is reviewing successful recruiting strategies from Janesville to identify best practices that could be adopted.
- OLD Business
 - a. Back to Hockey Events
 - Team reps will communicate with families when details are finalized
 - b. PAC Monday Travel Team Update
 - Team will rotate every week between ice time at the rink and the Prairie Athletic Club for dry land workouts. Goalies may be on ice every Monday.
- NEW Business
 - a. Travel Team Announcement Date
 - Travel teams will be announced on Friday, October 10 @ 3 pm
 - b. Travel Team Evaluators
 - Will approve in the next board meeting or email vote
 - c. Next Board Meeting
 - Sept 14
- Adjourn
 - a. *Sara motioned to adjourn. Kelly second, motion passed unanimously.*
- Closed Session
 - a. Discussed Fundraising and Sponsorship Committees
 - b. Qui Li was nominated to serve on the Equipment Committee
 - c. Discussed 2026 Golf Outing
 - d. Reviewed scholarship submissions
 - e. Approved SP United Booster Club advertising spend