

PUEBLO BULLS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 24, 2026

Time: 4:10 PM

Present:

Brittany Stadterman, Director of Tournaments

Brad Whitten, President

Becky Netherton, Treasurer

Abe Armendariz, Secretary

Francesca Rodriguez, Registrar

Heather Rider, Scheduler

Absent:

Dave Nelson, Vice President

Location: Pueblo Ice Arena / Zoom

Current Registration Numbers (as of meeting):

- 10U: 14 kids signed up including **1 goalie**
- 12U: 8 kids signed up including **1 goalie**
- 14U: 8 kids signed up, **No goalie**

Summer Hockey Program Key Discussion Points:

- Not enough numbers for a full 14U team; playing without a goalie is not feasible under current rules.
- Strong preference to maximize kids playing: Consider tryouts to move eligible 10U kids (especially last-year 10U) up to 12U to create two viable teams (10U + 12U).
- 11 of the 14 ten-year-olds are age-eligible to play up to 12U.
- Goalie situation: 14U does not have a registered goalie.
- Ice time concerns: Two (or three) teams sharing ice time is more efficient than small rosters on full sheets.
- Registration was late (pushed from Jan/Feb to later due to board turnover), which hurt numbers. Many kids already committed to baseball or other spring programs (e.g., Colorado Springs).
- Tournament (June 12–14): Runs on next year's age groups; not guaranteed if not enough teams sign up. It's a "state of play" tournament. Board voted to pay the \$500 buyout the stay to play with reserves.

Decisions / Action Items:

- Extend registration deadline for all age groups to **April 30** (5 more days) to try to fill 14U (need goalie + more skaters) and boost other teams.
- Parents and board members to make calls to potential players (especially 14U and goalies).
- If 14U cannot be filled (no goalie), offer full refunds.
- Discount to players: Offer a **\$75 discount** off next season's (2026–27) fall registration for **all summer hockey participants** (to encourage participation and reward commitment). This was motioned and approved.
- Preference to run 10U tryouts on first practice to facilitate up to three players joining the 12U team.
- Jerseys will be association property and will return to association following the program.
- Use association reserves (~\$130k cash on hand) strategically to subsidize the program as a way to grow hockey in the community and test what works for future years.

Summer Programming 279 Labs Sessions

Details:

- Free 4-week program: Saturdays from **May 30 – June 20** (note: June 13 conflicted with tournament, so one session may need adjustment).
- Split into Beginner/Intermediate and Advanced groups, each ~1 hour 15 minutes.
- Run by 279 labs and Chris Corte to include dedicated goalie time.
- **Eligibility:** Only for players who were registered with the Pueblo association **last season** (not open to outsiders or those who only played elsewhere this year).
- No-show policy: If you sign up and don't show (without noting conflicts in advance), there may be a fee because extra on-ice help may be needed.
- Goal: Test-run a summer development program; gather feedback via survey afterward to improve and potentially make sustainable (not free) next year.
- Board already voted to approve this in a prior meeting.

Action Items:

- Update the signup form to remove or adjust the June 13 session due to tournament conflict.
- Communicate clearly that it's internal-only for last season's Pueblo players.
- Prepare to add extra on-ice support if signup exceeds ~30 per group.

Volunteer Hours Policy for 2026–27 Season

Context:

- Last year's 5-hour requirement didn't spread the load effectively — same small group of parents did most of the work.
- Goal: Reduce burden on the same volunteers and encourage broader participation.

- Registrations open **May 1** for returning players and volunteer hour section must be inserted prior to opening of registration.

Key Discussion Points:

- Difficulty quantifying exact hours (regular season vs. tournaments).
- Tournaments/jamborees often need “all hands on deck” buyout may not be realistic there.
- Regular season: Some support for a buyout option; others felt it sends the wrong message.
- Concern that a low buyout just lets people opt out while burden remains on few.
- Suggestion: Announce a clear volunteer policy **at least 30 days before season start** (instead of locking it in now).
- Ideas included: Orientation/welcome session for new and returning parents to set expectations early; better communication of what counts as volunteer hours.
- Buyout limits (e.g., only a few per team/birth year) were discussed to prevent too many opting out.
- Strong sentiment that volunteering is essential for keeping the organization running.

Current Direction:

- No final numbers or policy locked in during this meeting.
- Plan: Include a statement in registration that a detailed volunteer policy (hours required, what counts, buyout options if any, consequences) will be released ~30 days before the season.
- Emphasis on educating parents early (via orientation) about the volunteer culture needed for the program to succeed.

Adjournment: 5:43pm