

Ogdensburg Minor Hockey
April Annual Meeting
April 22, 2026

Present: Ryan Bouchey, Austie Jerome, Todd Demers, Carrie Sholette, Grace Montana, Allyse Pierce, Erik Whitcombe

Excused: Joel Abar

Guest(s): Dana McLearn, Casey Plumley

Austie made a motion to accept March's meeting minutes.
2nd by Grace Montana ~ ALL in favor

Treasurer's Report:

- February Ice bill has not come out yet
- 14, 575.00 ~ ending balance for this season

****Grace Montana made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. 2nd by Austie Jerome ~ All in favor**

****Bylaws Adoption Motion**

Austie made a motion to formally adopt the revised Ogdensburg Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Bylaws, which were distributed to the membership on April 14, 2026, and made available for review prior to the Annual Meeting.

These revised bylaws shall supersede and replace all prior versions and shall take effect on April 22, 2026, governing the organization for the 2026-2027 season and thereafter.

Seconded by Erik Whitcombe.

Vote/Outcome: All in favor

****Name and Logo Adoption Motion**

Todd Demers made a motion to adopt a new name and official logo for the Ogdensburg Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), based on the results of a membership survey distributed on April 14, 2026.

A total of 29 responses were received. Of those, 26 members (89.7%) voted in favor of changing the current name and logo, while 3 members (10.3%) were not in favor.

Among the logo options presented, 26 members selected **Logo Option #1**, and 3 members selected **Logo Option #2**.

Based on these results, the organization will transition from the "OMHA Leafs" branding to the **Ogdensburg Junior Devils**, and **Logo Option #1 (Devils logo)** is hereby adopted as the official logo of the organization.

This change shall take effect for the 2026-2027 season and thereafter, with implementation details to be managed at the discretion of the Board, including considerations related to cost, uniforms, and materials.

Seconded by Erik Whitcombe.

Vote/Outcome: All in Favor

Old Business

- None

New Business

- NYSAHA North Section Meeting Update

Paul Trimper, Bill Palmer, and Chris Nethers are going to build a year round rink in Alex Bay. They made a proposal to create a Tier I organization called Power Play Sports Association - it was voted down because other area associations are worried that having another association in the area would result in taking more players away from their home associations. Area associations are already having a difficult time fielding teams and felt this would compound this issue,

Player Movement - Ryan brought up player movement and being left with kids at the Non TB level with nowhere to play. Several associations spoke up about having the same issue. The NYSAHA North Sections is going to form a committee to help associations find solutions to this ongoing problem

Jersey Rule - NYSAHA has a new Jersey rule that was adopted and will be in effect starting the 26-27 season. All jerseys have to have their association's name on it.

Tryouts - Massena spoke on how all associations have tryouts at the same time and players don't get a chance to tryout change dates for Tier III

Dave Clarke talked about the NNYSHL - how much it has grown, how teams that are No TB still have playoffs at the end of the season and have competitive teams

Nate Brimmer - will come to our organization and help work with coaches and ADM/ACE

Try Hockey for Free trailer - is in the north section - need to utilize it

Parent Education - Jody Cullen offered to talk to organizations and/or take zoom calls to help organizations with talking to parents

Tyler Seabrook - he is a North Section VP for our eastern area and is out of Plattsburgh. He talked about helping girls teams and giving them more options to play and not have to travel 100 miles to be on a competitive team. He is going to continue working on this for the North Section.

Other:

- OFA Hockey Donation
 - Carrie Sholette raised discussion regarding OMHA's past practice of providing a financial contribution to the OFA Varsity Hockey program when financially feasible. It was noted that this practice was initiated by Paul Wert, recognizing OMHA as a feeder program, with prior contributions generally in the amount of \$1,000. The Board was asked to consider continuation of this practice. No motion was made and no action was taken at this time
- Two Rivers Cup Tournament
 - Discussion was held regarding the establishment of a new OMHA-hosted tournament, officially named the "OMHA Two Rivers Cup." The tournament is scheduled for December 11-13, 2026. It was agreed that the tournament will include Squirt and Peewee divisions. Bantam teams may be accepted if there is sufficient interest, even if OMHA does not field a Bantam team. There was also discussion of potentially including 8U Mite teams, pending available scheduling time.

It was noted that the tournament will require USA Hockey sanctioning and that advertising and outreach efforts should begin as soon as possible to secure team participation.

Additional fundraising components associated with the tournament were discussed, including a "Super Raffle," limited to 300 tickets at \$100 each, with prize payouts of \$10,000 (first prize), \$3,000 (second prize), and \$2,000 (third prize), with remaining proceeds benefiting OMHA. A "Celebrity Bartender Night" was also discussed as a potential event. Planning for these initiatives is ongoing, and further details will be finalized at future meetings.

- Registration for next season
 - Discussion was held regarding team plans for the upcoming season. It was noted that the status of a 14U Bantam team remains uncertain at this time. The association expressed interest in fielding a 16U Midget team. Mike Fennessy indicated his interest in serving as head coach

and shared plans to begin recruiting players and forming the team in late August to early September. The association is supportive of these efforts and remains hopeful to field both 14U and 16U teams for the upcoming season.

It was noted that Mike Mills constructed the gift box for Carrie Sholette, using his own materials and personally covering the cost of the plexiglass.

Ryan Bouchey made a motion to provide Mike Mills with a \$100 reimbursement in recognition of his time, effort, and out-of-pocket expense. The motion was seconded by Grace Montana. All in favor

Season Closure Motion

Austie Jerome made a motion to formally close the Ogdensburg Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) 2025-2026 season.

Upon approval, all business, financials, and activities related to the 2025-2026 season shall be considered concluded, and the organization will transition into the 2026-2027 season. 2nd by Grace Montana ~ All in Favor

Ogdensburg Minor Hockey
April Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026

The 2025-2026 season is now officially closed. We will now proceed with the organizational meeting for the 2026-2027 season.

We will now open the floor for nominations:

President

Erik Whitcombe made a motion to nominate Ryan Bouchee for President.
Seconded by Allyse Pierce. Ryan accepted ~ All in favor

Vice President

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Joel Abar for Vice President.
Seconded by Erik Whitcombe. Ryan Bouchee accepted - proxy for Joel Abar.
~All in favor

Registrar

Austie Jerome made a motion to nominate Allyse Pierce for Registrar.
Seconded by Ryan Bouchee. Allyse accepted. ~All in favor

Treasurer

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Allyse Pierce for Treasurer.
Seconded by Austie Jerome. Allyse accepted. ~ All in favor

Secretary

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Grace Montana for Secretary.
Seconded by Austie Jerome. Grace accepted. ~ All in favor

Coaching Director

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Erik Whitcombe for Coaching Director.
Seconded by Grace Montana. Erik accepted. ~ All in favor

Equipment Manager

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Todd Demers for Equipment Manager.
Seconded by Grace Montana. Todd accepted. ~ All in favor

Fundraising / Sponsorship / Public Relations

Ryan Bouchee made a motion to nominate Austie Jerome for Fundraising/Sponsorship/Public Relations (Social Media). Seconded by Grace Montana. Austie accepted. ~All in favor

ADM / ACE Coordinator

Ryan Bouchey made a motion to nominate Erik Whitcombe for ADM/ACE Coordinator. Seconded by Grace Montana. Erik accepted. ~All in favor

Discipline Committee Chair

Grace Montana made a motion to nominate Ryan Bouchey. Seconded by Austie Jerome. Ryan accepted. ~All in favor

Tournament Director

Ryan Bouchey made a motion to nominate Todd Demers and Joel Abar for Tournament Directors. Seconded by Austie Jerome. Todd accepted and Ryan accepted on Joel's behalf as his proxy. ~All in favor

NNYSHL League Representative

Austie Jerome made a motion to nominate Ryan Bouchey for NNYSHL Representative. Seconded by Grace Montana. Ryan accepted ~ All in favor

Scheduler

Austie Jerome made a motion to nominate Allyse Pierce for Scheduler. Seconded by Todd Demers. Allyse accepted. ~ All in favor

Concession Stand

Ryan made a motion to nominate Joel Abar for acting Concession Stand Representative (with Carrie Sholette running it). Seconded by Todd Demers. Ryan accepted on behalf of Joel as his proxy. ~All in favor

New Business:

- Erik Whitcombe presented a draft Coach's Handbook and a Player Movement Form for board review. Board members were asked to review both documents. Discussion and potential adoption will take place at the next meeting, including any necessary changes, deletions, or additions.
- There will be one additional 12U Tournament Bound tryout. Potential dates in May are currently being considered, pending confirmation with the coach. Once finalized, the tryout will be advertised and registration will be made available on the OMHA Crossbar website. The intent is to select approximately one to three additional players.
- A 12U house team interest skate was held, with two players in attendance. Both players expressed continued interest in participating in hockey. Discussion followed regarding available options for these players.

It was noted that a waiver option is not available, as confirmed by the New York State Registrar. One option discussed was the formation of a "flex team," which would allow players of mixed age levels to participate; however, such teams are limited to intra-organization play and cannot compete against outside associations. Another option considered was forming a 12U house team roster supplemented with 10U players. Concerns were raised regarding challenges experienced with this approach in the past.

At the recent North Section meeting, discussion took place regarding the formation of a committee to address ongoing challenges across associations in fielding house-level teams due to low numbers. The goal of this committee is to develop solutions to ensure playing opportunities for all interested players.

At this time, the Board agreed to wait for further guidance and potential solutions from the North Section committee before taking action.

- A brief discussion was held regarding recent social media postings and an anonymous email concerning the 12U tryout process and the sequencing of forming tournament-bound versus house teams. It was noted that, based on standard practice across associations, tournament-bound teams are typically formed prior to house teams, and that this approach aligns with current trends toward increased competitive play. It was further noted that similar challenges are being experienced by other associations, as discussed at the North Section meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding inaccuracies contained within the social media posts and anonymous communication. It was reported that a brief response was issued; however, the Board reaffirmed its position that it will not engage in ongoing dialogue with anonymous sources, as doing so limits the ability to respond appropriately and verify the origin of the concerns.

Adjournment:

Austie Jerome made the motion to adjourn 2nd by Todd Demers

~All in Favor

Next meeting - May 13th at 6:00 p.m. at Dobisky Center