

September HAYHA Board General Meeting

September 15, 2026, 5:30 pm.

In attendance: Chad Senechal, Scott Fanning, Adam Strainer, Alyssa Kennedy, Cory Whitmore, Brad Bragg, Baylie Blankenship

General Membership: Andrea, Devin

Absent: Andrew Hess

Golden Eagle Construction

Governance

- **August Minutes Approved (02:41)**
 - Approved with five-day review period.
 - Link to rolling minutes to be shared with board.
 - Minutes to be posted on website after review.
- **Secretary Transition Planned (28:07)**
 - Executive session was used to select replacement for Sabrina.
 - Bree Gee appointed secretary through April.
 - Sabrina to transfer projects, processes, and system logins within one week.
- **Meeting Schedule Change Pending (52:36)**
 - Wednesday preferred to include Rachel, who cannot attend Tuesday meetings through May.
 - Chad to verify bylaw requirements.
 - If permitted, October meeting moves to Wednesday.

Capital City Classic

- **Registration Fees Set (08:52)**
 - 6U fee: \$400.
 - 8U fee: \$600.
 - Fees aligned with comparable Montana tournaments rather than using proposed higher pricing.

- **Helena Participation Approved (20:47)**
 - Tournament capped at eight out-of-town teams per division.
 - Three Helena teams per division allowed to participate free.
 - Helena players must be registered with the program and remain on approved rosters.
- **Tournament Listing Ready (23:55)**
 - Dates confirmed for December 4-6.
 - Logo option two selected, with Helena, Montana added.
 - Ashlee to open registration; Cory is continuing outreach to Missoula, Idaho Falls, Salmon, and other associations.

Season Operations

- **Team Declarations Submitted (25:05)**
 - Scott submitted team declarations to MAHA before deadline.
 - Scheduling meetings expected the following week.
 - Division representatives to attend meetings relevant to their divisions.
- **Registrations Continuing (29:25)**
 - Approximately 285 hockey registrations reported.
 - House and 6U registrations continuing to increase.
 - Managers responsible for ensuring volunteers register so compliance can be verified.
- **SafeSport Compliance Increase (30:51)**
 - Most coaches complete; one 10U coach still missing a required module.
 - Several older travel players need SafeSport renewal.
 - Division representatives to distribute updated lists and increase follow-up before practices begin.
- **Treasurer Suspension Notice Planned (34:59)**
 - Rachel remains incomplete on required credentials.

- Executive committee agenda will include potential suspension.
- Required two-thirds vote remains necessary; agenda item can be removed if credentials are completed.

Officials

- **WebRef Access Tightened (36:31)**
 - Brad Bragg expanding use of WebRef scheduling features.
 - Board member and Brad to retain full access.
 - Other users to receive limited roles to protect system control and stored data.
- **Officials Coverage At Risk (36:31)**
 - Drew Monahan expected to miss most or all of season due to shoulder surgery.
 - Higher-level 14U and high school games most affected.
 - Great Falls officials may be needed, but their mileage costs will be monitored.
- **Recruiting Officials Campaign Approved (39:46)**
 - Membership-wide officials recruiting email approved.
 - Brad to send message with qualification requirements and benefits.
 - Additional promotion planned through Bighorns games, social media, and possible jumbotron placement.

Equipment And Facilities

- **Tryout Jersey Inventory Reduced (42:19)**
 - Keep approximately 20 usable older jerseys.
 - Offer newer excess jerseys to House before disposal.
 - Ensure players who did not attend tryouts still receive needed jerseys.
- **Storage Improvements Planned (47:24)**
 - Matted equipment area available for storage and visiting-team seating.

- Baylie to coordinate lumber and layout with Coley.
- Storage must remain easy for coaches to access and support rink cleanup expectations.
- **Keyless Entry Options Under Review (43:35)**
 - Baylie to obtain options and quotes through Applied Lock and Key.
 - Preferred solution includes master access, temporary codes, app-based management, and access visibility.
- **Improved Equipment Room Access Required (48:31)**
 - Fire inspection found equipment blocking access to wood door.
 - Coaches and members to keep area clear.
 - Baylie to post reminder.

Finance And Fundraising

- **Fundraising Collections Improved (56:59)**
 - \$19,000 in sponsorship pledges reported.
 - Approximately \$12,000 collected.
 - Tracking remains inconsistent across checks, Crossbar payments, and donations.
- **Fundraising Tracking To Be Improved (55:46)**
 - Chad to work on clearer reporting before next meeting.
 - Crossbar provides receipts and easier tracking than checks.
 - Reports should distinguish HAYHA funds from other organization funds.
- **Tax Filing Approach Confirmed (02:05:35)**
 - Rudd and Co continuing current tax work despite responsiveness concerns.
 - Current-year taxes to be started with same firm after prior-year filing.
 - Alternative quotes ranged from approximately \$1,300 to \$3,200.
- **Past-Due Accounts Reduced (02:07:05)**

- Outstanding accounts reduced to three players totaling approximately \$1,240.
- Outstanding accounts for two players from prior seasons to be written off.
- One player to receive reminder to pay outstanding balance before girls practices begin.

Division Planning

- **6U And 8U Season Preparation (01:02:49)**
 - Season start set for September 28.
 - Brittany Wild named 8U manager.
 - Stephanie Ricks and Stacy Nerum to co-manage 6U.
- **Travel Rosters Approved (01:08:16)**
 - 10U and 12U rosters submitted and approved.
 - Final three 12U players can be transferred once confirmed.
 - Rosters must be submitted at least 10 days before games.
- **Roster Change Timing Tightened (01:09:25)**
 - Teams encouraged to identify likely cross-roster players early.
 - Target for roster changes: at least 72 hours before games.
 - Changes submitted later may not be guaranteed because registrar and association approvals remain required.
- **High School Staff Approved (01:24:00)**
 - Blake Nichols and Rob Smith approved as assistant coaches, contingent on registration and required credentials.
 - Will Parr, Rob Smith and Will Shropshire to be cross-rostered if scheduling conflicts require coverage.
 - Alpha Nitro expectations to be clarified at high school parent meeting.
- **14U Staff Approved (01:26:31)**
 - Brad Bryson approved as 14U A assistant coach.

- Travis Almquist approved as 14U B assistant coach.
- Managers for 14u are Hailey Seedall, Julie Fowler, and Casey Schanz, with tournament plans confirmed for Billings, Missoula, and Watford. Manager for 14uB is Emily Hardan, with tournament plans confirmed for Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula.
- **Girls Coaches Approved (01:29:26)**
 - Shay Counts approved as 19U girls head coach.
 - Billy Hone approved as assistant coach.
 - Kelly Hannick approved as 14U head coach. Carolyn Arlington and Amy Seaman approved for 14U girls assistant coaches, but primary assistant designation still required for one of them.
- **House Coaches Approved (01:35:04)**
 - Kent Schlosser, Per Frisk, and John Flynn approved for House 2.
 - Josh Erickson, Brock Beckner, Ryan Ball, and Josh Gillespie approved for House 1.
 - House tournaments targeted for the first two weekends of March.
- **House Player Exceptions Approved (01:42:16)**
 - An eligible 8U player may skate with House 1 if fit is appropriate.
 - Player returns to 8U if maturity or skill level makes House 1 unsuitable.
 - House practices expected to begin the first full week of October.

YETI And Ice Contracts

- **YETI Governance Developing (01:45:05)**
 - 14U and 16U YETI groups began league games.
 - YETI forming its own board and working toward nominating a HAYHA board representative.
 - Separate handbook needed for YETI-specific tryout, coaching, uniform, and operating policies.
- **YETI Liaison Process Formalized (01:48:03)**

- Jed volunteered to attend YETI meetings.
- HAYHA board to provide prepared questions and desired updates.
- Updates should cover board formation, handbook progress, and program operations.
- **Ice Contract Year Changed (01:53:22)**
 - Contract period changed to August 1 through July 31.
 - Current-year payments spread across 11 months, with monthly payment of approximately \$21,818.
 - Chad to redline contract dates and payment language for Jed.
- **Gym Contract Set At Flat Rate (01:57:03)**
 - High school gym agreement approved at \$4,500 for season.
 - Payment structured at \$750 monthly.
 - Agreement to cover one weekly class per high school player, with class capacity generally capped at 10.
- **Video Room Agreement Unchanged (02:02:46)**
 - Video room remains designated for video use.
 - Conference room may be requested separately for smaller meetings.
 - No contract changes required.

Policies And Administration

- **Handbook Cycle Extended (02:34:13)**
 - Proposed move from annual handbook updates to two-year handbook period.
 - Year-specific and price-specific items to move into an addendum.
 - Chad to circulate final wording for email approval.
- **Out-Of-Area Transfer Process Standardized (02:19:54)**
 - Division representatives to identify inbound and outbound players requiring release forms.

- Process: compliance check with Chuck and Ashlee, signature from Rachel, then signature from Chad.
- Completed forms to be submitted to MAHA.
- **Coach Reimbursement Process Clarified (01:05:44)**
 - Coaches submit receipts for qualifying training expenses.
 - Reimbursement occurs at season end and requires coach to remain active through season end.
 - Venmo preferred to reduce check processing.
- **Tryout Evaluation Feedback Captured (02:12:49)**
 - Evaluation sheets should better align with coach practice and tryout plans.
 - Coaches need clearer explanation of evaluation-sheet purpose.
 - Feedback to be retained for policy review around November.
- **Scheduled Breaks Confirmed (02:15:55)**
 - No normal practices, home TSL games, or HAYHA tournaments scheduled from Christmas Eve through January 2.
 - Teams may independently attend outside tournaments during break.
 - Thanksgiving weekend generally avoided, but games may be required due to league scheduling.

Products And Communications

- **Bighorns Custom Sticks Under Review (02:27:12)**
 - Proposed custom sticks priced at approximately \$135 each, with first custom order requiring at least 25 sticks.
 - Options include custom length, flex, curve, kick point, player name, and Bighorns branding.
 - Chad to obtain prototypes, develop ordering portal, and return with details before member promotion.
- **Marketing Committee Continuing (58:29)**
 - Logo committee evaluating unified HAYHA branding options.

- Committee to recommend retaining, redesigning, or combining existing logos.
- Monthly association communication should continue through the new secretary.
- **External Camps May Be Promoted (02:45:24)**
 - Goalie camps in Billings and Great Falls approved for distribution to members.
 - Chad to send opportunities to membership.

Action items

Chad Senechal

- Confirm bylaws permit meeting change (52:36)
- Send revised arena contract (01:55:21)
- Review hockey-stick program (02:32:41)
- Update HAYHA handbook (02:34:13)
- Verify meeting note sensitivity (02:35:41)
- Notify Bree Gee appointment (02:43:39)
- Distribute goalie camp information (02:46:58)

Scott

- Circulate approved meeting minutes (02:41)
- Attend MAHA scheduling meetings (26:41)
- Review association budget feedback (02:14:30)
- Track arena scheduling updates (02:18:37)
- Submit player movement forms (02:21:15)

Cory Whitmore

- Publish tournament registration details (07:35)
- Finalize tournament logo selection (21:05)
- Contact out-of-town teams (23:55)

- Maintain reimbursement spreadsheet (25:05)

Ashlee

- Open tournament registration (23:55)
- Track coach compliance (29:25)
- Process roster changes (01:08:16)
- Collect player movement forms (02:21:15)

Brad Bragg

- Schedule officials meeting (36:31)
- Configure WebRef permissions (36:31)
- Evaluate scheduling platform (37:36)
- Send officials recruitment message (39:46)

Baylie

- Review surplus tryout jerseys (40:54)
- Obtain keyless-entry quotes (43:35)
- Clear equipment door area (47:24)

September Executive Committee Board Meeting

Virtual meeting, September 2, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

In attendance: Chad Senechal, Sabrina Pfeifer, Scott Fanning, Michael Palcisko, Jed Snyder, Chuck Denowh, Cory Whitmore, Alyssa Kennedy

The executive committee reviewed ice contract and approved annual budget billing to pay for ice time. Discussed girls' hockey player numbers, budget, and local recruitment and sponsorship; rink improvements, appointment of interim secretary; tournament planning, and tryout-policy responses.