

HAYHA Board Meeting Minutes

Mar 27, 2025

Lewis and Clark Public Library

1. Roll Call

- a. Zoom - Kelly Marrinan, Cassie Parr, Will Parr, Amy D____, Andrea ____
- b. In Person - Mike Palcisko, Chuck Denowh , Darryl James, Joe Baumgart , Scott Fanning, Chad Senechal, Melissa Lewis, Miranda Briggs
- c. Public - Bill Shropshire, Grace Hoene (left early), Justin Hicks

2. General Business:

- a. Any revisions/corrections to previous meeting minutes
 - i. Old Business
 - ii. Referee in Chief
 - 1. Opportunity for training in Missoula (April).
 - a. HAYHA should consider supporting travel, meals, etc.
 - b. Would they consider hosting in Helena?
 - 2. Referee situation in Helena
 - a. About the same as in previous years.
 - b. HAYHA can share information about how to become a ref, and other opportunities.
 - iii. General Member Comment
 - 1. Jon Flynn
 - a. Sharing how the house tournament went and a discussion of how the profits will be used.
 - 2. Bill Shropshire
 - a. High School - 17 kids coming up and possibly 4 or 5 graduating/leaving. Advocating to the club to consider three teams. Willing to use the 6 a.m. practice time and book games at other arenas if needed.
 - b. Non-Parent Coaches - The Shropshire family would like to sponsor this for a "bridge period". \$5-10,000 a year. With the club figuring out how to build this into the budget. Would want to see a hiring committee, with a performance evaluation. Also advocating for all coaches.
 - i. Discussion of what a reasonable payment for a coach would be. Discussion of selecting on a needs basis. Discussion of a donation and reasonability within the 501c3. Would require some policy review and possible revisions.
 - ii. Consider reaching out to Great Falls to ask how they pay coaches. Market analysis.
 - iv. MAHA Coach-in-Chief Discussion:

- v. Grace Hoene to join us to discuss parent education and expectation setting
 - 1. Discussion of parent education around playing hockey. Educating around coaching philosophies and parent expectations.
 - 2. Grace is offering to do training with the HAYHA membership. USA Hockey curriculum can be catered to the needs of the organization. Thinking of something in September or October 2025. Long term athlete development is part of the current coaches curriculum. Connect players, coaches and parents. Her role as coach developer is to have these conversations and support Montana associations. She has a few favorite slides and discussion points, but she is looking for feedback from us on what is needed. (long term athlete development, relationship between player development and winning). Thinking it would be possible to do this over Zoom using breakout rooms with 50-60 people. Suggestion to add real life experience from players who have made it to collegiate level or beyond.
 - 3. Positive Coaching Alliance - focus on the relationship between athletes, coaches and parents. It is a virtual training. Costs \$2-3,000.
 - 4. Grace will work on a draft of what she is planning and send it to Miranda.

3. Ice Arena Coordination:

- a. Change in ice rates for 2025-2026 season?
 - i. Jed is considering ice fee increases. Summer ice \$285/hour.
- b. Summer training opportunities
 - i. Cunningham will offer private camps for 14u/highschool age.
 - ii. Coach Dahl is interested in offering training opportunities for all age groups. A plan has been created. The board supports this approach and we will move forward with registration and advertising.
 - iii. Off-ice training opportunities
 - 1. Save for the next meeting and request information from Jed.
 - iv. May consider drop-in games or rec league.

4. Business Operations:

- a. MAHA Update (Chad)
 - i. Northern Plains District is in bad standing with USAH
 - 1. Situation now rectified but NPD is being monitored by USAH
 - ii. USAH has increased fees
 - 1. MAHA will not for the 2025/26 Season but will for the 2026/27 Season - Amounts will be discussed in MAHA annual meeting
 - iii. MAHA Concerned about Adult Programs Numbers

1. Looking for ways to incentivize associations to have adult programs join through MAHA/USAH and to engage associations that do join through MAHA/USAH
2. Losing Adult Participants could (eventually, will) reduce our USAH rep count
- iv. State Bid Announcements Coming Out Soon
 1. Helena did not bid on any State Tournaments
 2. Helena will have the 6U/8U Jamboree again for 2025/26
 - a. It will then go out for bid again (likely another 3yr term)
- v. MAHA reported unintended removal of large sections of the Annual Guide & Tournament Guide this year
 1. MAHA will be attempting to replace those sections based on Guides from the last few years
- vi. Yeti have been approved by MAHA High Performance Committee for 2025/26 Season
- vii. Complaints about MAHA personnel/processes should go to Association MAHA Rep, then to MAHA President/Executive Director
- viii. Player Development Camps are Open for Registration
- ix. CEP Deadline is moving forward to Dec 15th
- x. GameSheet expenses are \$5/player and will be 100% the responsibilities of the Associations in the 2025/26 Season and beyond
 1. MAHA received positive feedback from the use of GameSheet and will look for ways to expand usage
- xi. MAHA is switching to Crossbar
- b. SafeSport Update (Chuck)
 - i. Two incidents: one resulting in a written warning, the other incident will be discussed in executive session.
- c. Treasurer's Report (Joe)
 - i. Balance: \$129,574.91
 - ii. Debits: \$44,184.71
 - iii. Credits: \$38,670.59
 - iv. Joe has been discussing accounting needs with Christie (accountant). Joe should be able to run monthly reports moving forward.
 - v. Chad requested Financials be sent to Board for HAYHA and High School Account
- d. Out of area policy
 - i. Chuck and Chad will continue working on this and review the Missoula policy and bring a draft back to the April meeting. Agree to have some "grandfathering" in the policy.
- e. Website updates (Chad)
 - i. Website Update - areas that would enhance website but need to be built
 1. Helena Hockey History
 2. Sponsorship Opportunities
 3. Next Steps / College

4. Get Involved
5. Practices Resources
6. Manager's Corner
7. Game Management

- f. HAYHA Communications Protocols
 - i. Discussion of how/what information is being shared with membership.
 1. Past practice has been not sharing other “for profit” advertising. In the past these opportunities have been shared on Facebook but not an email to full membership.
 2. Discussion:
 - a. should our website have links to things like - what is happening at steed? What is happening with the Junior Bighorns? Perhaps we could have a “bulletin board” with information and a tab that says opportunities NOT endorsed by HAYHA.
5. Organizational Updates:
 - a. Invoice for 87 hours of accounting for 2023-2025, \$4,545.
 - i. Motion: Chad - move to pay the full amount Christie Austin Accounting.
 1. Second - Chuck
 2. Motion passes.
 - b. Summer hockey programming (Miranda)
 - c. Out-of-Area Player Policy Discussion (Chuck)
 - i. Grace - Missoula recently developed a policy. Clarifies that Missoula hockey is community based most of the players will be from that area and recognize there are some exceptions. Process is to request in writing to the hockey director: financial release with previous association, state what school they will be attending, if they are going to make all practices and off ice events, allow age eligible players.
6. Yeti Discussion - Will Parr
 - a. What is needed from HAYHA for Yeti.
 - b. What is the fee, how many teams? 12U and 14U. Tryout fee \$100, Training fees up for 14U by \$100, decrease 12U by \$300. (included in the form)
 - c. Should have similar if not better numbers than the 2024-2025 season.
 - d. Yeti coaches are considering adding summer training for 10U and 16U.
 - e. Who will be the Director for the Yeti program? Still looking at a few options.
 - f. When will information come out to share with the HAYHA membership?
7. Non-Parent Coaching Discussion
 - a. Gather information for how other associations do this.
8. Division Updates (as necessary):
 - a. 6U-8U (Melissa) - won the Jackson Hole tournament

- b. 10U-12U (Scott)
- c. 14U-HS (Kelly)
- d. House/Girls (Mike)
- e. MT Yeti (Matt/Will)

9. Elections

- a. Need to send the application out. (Facebook and email).
- b. Need to find the google form.
- c. 2023-2024 Election Plan
 - i. Close applications April 19
 - ii. Election buddy out to membership April 24
 - iii. May 15 ballots close
 - iv. Announce new board May 17

10. Executive Session – Discussion only, no action items:

11. Confirm next meeting date and venue, and Adjourn

- a. April