

CHEYENNE CAPITALS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

JULY 15, 2025 MINUTES

DATE: 7/15/25 TIME: 6:00p MEETING LOCATION: Cheyenne Ice & Events Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Attendees include President J HESSER, Treasurer A. MILDENBERGER, Secretary J GRONSKI, Registrar T SCHLAGEL, Scheduler J PARISH, Scheduler K WASHENFELDER, Coach-in-Chief S WASHENFELDER, Fundraising Chairs C HAMMACK and A TIGHE, Discipline Chair B MOORE, Equipment Manager C VAUGHAN
- b. QUORUM ESTABLISHED

III. Approval of June 24 minutes

- a. Approved unanimously with no edits (Motion: B MOORE, 2nd K WASHENFELDER)

IV. Presentations

- a. K KIEL, HS Head Coach
 - a. K KIEL asked the board, what is working well and what needs to change with the HS team?
 - i. B MOORE encouraged KIEL to overhaul everything. Complaints from parents/players have included repetitive drills, no solid practice plans and coach attendance (and punctuality).
 - ii. K WASHENFELDER added that many players feel stagnant.
 - iii. S WASHENFELDER highlighted that team chemistry may be an issue
 - iv. J GRONSKI suggested he coordinate good team managers who will facilitate logistics and encourage appropriate communication. Tell them what you need and how you envision getting there.
 - b. K KIEL asked for feedback on what has been required of players in the past—team gloves? Coordinated warmups? Etc.
 - i. S WASHNEFELDER shared that right now none of that is required—several years ago the club purchased Caps gloves but many of those players have moved on.
 - ii. K KIEL said he will focus initially on professionalism before games and will ask players to dress up for home and away games.
 - c. K KIEL inquired about what camps the club typically hosts
 - i. J HESSER noted that we partner with Black Hills Hockey and have often hosted Steve Strunk and Grunnah Power Skating. But that we are open to whatever K KIEL may want to bring in.
 - ii. K KIEL requested permission to run a camp
 - 1. C HAMMACK inquired if the camps would be for everyone? K KIEL shared his intention to include all, but have several sessions focused on higher level development.

- iii. K KIEL asked about hosting closed-door tryouts. He intends to bring outside coaches/hockey folks in to help evaluate and keep things impartial.
 - 1. J HESSER clarified that many players may miss the first week as it conflicts with football and highlighted that the City/rink will not allow us to officially close the tryouts/cover any windows,
 - 2. S WASHENFELDER replied he would like to do similar tryouts for Squirts on up to get them used to this system
 - 3. B MOORE inquired about who would be on the tryout committee and pointed out we need to make sure there is a neutral evaluator.
 - a. J HESSER suggested CCYHA coaches only for Squirts and Peewees, external evaluators for Bantam and High School
 - b. S WASHENFELDER included his thoughts that tryouts really need to focus on the bubble kids. It may take a couple of rec games for the Squirts/Peewees to determine the right rosters
 - c. K WASHENFELDER pointed out that there has been much later in the season movement between Varsity HS and JV HS rosters
 - i. T SCHLAGEL reminded everyone that rosters must be set by mid-December
- iv. K KIEL inquired if CCYHA has any rules about seniors on JV team?
 - 1. S WASHENFELDER confirmed we do not
- v. K KIEL asked if we can get Live Barn
 - 1. J HESSER provided the background on the City Attorney's previous no decision. He does not anticipate that changing this season. He will set up a meeting for K KIEL to meet with Jeff to discuss Sports Engine, Hudl, and other alternatives.
- vi. K KIEL asked about options for dryland training
 - 1. C VAUGHAN shared that we have used Roller City in the past, previous coaches have hosted at Brimmer Park and the high schools are sometimes available for a fee (Barry Ward and Jerry Schlabs are the points of contact)
 - 2. J HESSER shared that Smart Sports reached out last year but it never came together
- vii. K KIEL asked for no more 9:15p start time games
 - 1. K WASHENFELDER shared that 4:45p is the latest start time for a Saturday game if you don't want to go that late. 7-9p is blocked off by the city.
- viii. K KIEL asked if he could bring in outside things like food trucks, etc. for special events (like a First Responders night)?
 - 1. J HESSER shared that the board should help him navigate this if he decides to proceed. The ask has to be done in the right way to get approval from the rink.
 - 2. S WASHENFELDER suggested approaching the rink in a way that it's less work for staff but will still allow the rink to make money

- ix. K KIEL wondered what percentage of the rink board sponsorship funding comes to CCYHA?
 - 1. J HESSER shared that we should get 40% after expenses for any sponsor we bring in
 - 2. K KIEL wonders if he can put up a temporary banner at games as long as it is removed in our rental time? This would give us 100% of the proceeds.
 - a. J HESSER shared there is no precedent for this
 - b. J GRONSKI inquired if we could project business logos rather than having a full banner?
 - c. C HAMMACK asked if we could hang sponsorship banners up in between senior banners? Or have the banners double sided—so you have sponsors on the back of each?
- x. K KIEL asked if there were any retired numbers (there are not) and highlighted his list of numbers he doesn't allow players to select (99, 69, 00,0)
- xi. K KIEL wonders what CCYHA does for individual game awards? And end of season awards?
 - 1. The board shared that we've not done individual game awards in the past but want to start doing so; end of season awards are team dependent
 - 2. S WASHENFELDER shared his intention to get a Grit award to be given at each game for each team; past end of season awards have included defensive MVP, offensive MVP, grit player of the season, most improved, hustle award and most coachable
 - 3. C HAMMACK suggested we share the player of the game honorees on our social media
- xii. K KIEL inquired about HS lettering. He believes a letter is something to be earned and aspire to.
 - 1. As a board we decided he can decide what this should look like and take over from the board
 - 2. J HESSER cautioned that this could be a fight—he suggests being clear at the parent meeting about changes in lettering
 - 3. K KIEL asked permission to order a letter of his choosing—the board agreed
- xiii. K KIEL asked how we currently advertise to 3-7 years?
 - 1. J HESSER highlighted try hockey for free, a partnership between CCYHA and the City
 - 2. K KIEL asked if we could get in with local schools? AM suggested connecting with PTOs/PTAs.
 - 3. A TIGHE suggested a camp and intermission performance like cheerleaders do at local football games
 - 4. J HESSER committed to trying to get an Avalanche Mini Mites program this season

- xiv.** K KIEL asked how we currently advertise HS games
 - 1. Short answer is we don't.
 - 2. A TIGHE offered to have posters put up at Central and East
 - 3. K KIEL asked about the newspaper—JG suggested, based on readership, that may not be worth the cost. Social media may be a better option
 - 4. K KIEL asked for permission to create a poster and take it to local businesses for display—the board agreed
- xv.** K KIEL stated that he hates Crossbar from a communication standpoint. Can he choose to use an alternative platform? Specifically Stack Team app?
 - 1. J HESSER agreed he can use whatever he wants as long as it is free, but J HESSER and/or J COVER need to be added to whatever he selects
- xvi.** K KIEL shared his goal of getting 2-3 good locker room monitors rather than a rotating door of monitors
 - 1. J HESSER expressed concern about families meeting volunteer hours if we take locker room monitoring off the table
 - 2. K KIEL asked how volunteer hours will be tracked
 - a. Managers can track via Crossbar (but only on the website, not on the app)
 - 3. S WASHENFELDER shared that he wants coaches to take attendance
 - 4. K KIEL would also like to have 3 parents/team who know learn how to operate Game Sheet well
- xvii.** K IEL asked for access to past surveys to see where we can improve? He would also like the board to prioritize an end-of-season survey
 - 1. S WASHENFELDER shared that he has a survey he uses for soccer that we could adapt to hockey
- xviii.** K KIEL asked if he could have a CCYHA association card
 - 1. A MILDENBERGER could pre-pay for hotels; the board agreed to extend that offer to Sierra and Cam for Girls and Bantam teams
- xix.** K KIEL asked how we get a non-parent JV coach? Could we offer \$100/game (a \$2,000/season expense) and reimbursement?
 - 1. J HESSER asked what other organizations are doing
 - a. K KIEL shared that Gillette pays their HS coaches \$5,000; Casper pays north of \$3,000; we would not be competitive with Jackson's payment
 - b. K WASHENFELDER asked what Laramie is paying
 - 2. J HESSER highlighted that we have a contract for non-parent coaches
 - 3. S WASHENFELDER shared that he has one guy in mind, but no one wants to commit to the full season/away games.
- xx.** K KIEL asked about practice jerseys

1. Each team will have them; the board is in the process of ordering for the teams that do not currently have them
- xxi. K KIEL asked if there are medical waivers for the association? (no)
- xxii. K KIEL brought up USA Hockey Bylaw 10 and its requirement that we have a hearing before any suspension
 1. J HESSER reiterated that we must remain compliant, but the board supports what coaches need to do, including sitting players
 2. B MOORE asked that coaches let B MOORE and J COVER know as soon as possible if something comes up—and know that a hearing likely cannot happen mid weekend
 3. There was a significant conversation about sitting vs. suspending vs. a healthy scratch
- xxiii. K KIEL asked about hosting Thursday night dinners
 1. T SCHLAGEL shared that these were common before but are not currently happening. A coach must attend if it's an official event. It may be a better fit to have parent-facilitated dinners
 2. K KIEL asked if he could have access to the room where the board meets. KJ HESSER shared that might be an option, but we would have to coordinate with Jeff
- xxiv. K KIEL asked about registration costs (\$1100 for on-time HS registration) and what players get for that
 1. Players get ice costs, refs—costs do not include jerseys, warmups, etc.
 2. K KIEL would like a monthly dryland budget and \$20/month for video editing
 3. He would also like a better understanding of the sponsorship levels. C HAMMACK and A TIGHE will send the levels (which are also on the website)
- xxv. K KIEL asked what CCYHA manages, what the City runs
 1. J HESSER outlined that we partner with the Learn-to-Play program. It's a city program but our coaches often assist. Many of our players do both at a young age.
 2. Do we have a gear donation program? (no)
- xxvi. K KIEL asked permission to bus kids to Laramie games
 1. JG suggested we could tackle that next season—there are significant costs and liability issues to work through

VI. Open Issues (Old Business)

- a. Confidentiality Policy—tabled
- b. Discipline Guide—tabled
- c. Photography Agreement—tabled
- d. Fundraising Policy--tabled

VII. New Business

- a. Dryland

- a. S WASHENFELDER has been reaching out. Roller City is \$50/hour, no skates, but can use helmets, gloves and sticks; he is also trying to connect with Smart Sports (which would be weights based for older teams), the gymnastics facility and Crossfit Frontier/Lumen Athletics.
 - b. S WASHENFELDER highlighted that we give all age levels Squirts and above \$200/month. He wants to see dryland incorporated into practice times. That would allow each team to have a solo ice practice once every 3 weeks.
 - c. He emphasized this is something that is missing in our program and teams will be expected to use the off-ice day for dryland, not just skip practice entirely
 - d. T SCHLAGEL wondered if we can't use skates, is Roller City the only option? What about the Northside Gym at \$25/hour
 - e. K WASHENFELDER offered to call places to see the options and costs and will follow up by email
- b. Cross Roster Fee
 - a. B MOORE motioned that we charge all players who intend to cross roster \$250 for the season. A TIGHE seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - c. Fund transfer at Edward Jones
 - a. T SCHLAGEL moved to transfer all registration funds to the Money Market account then move back to fund the season as needed. C HAMMACK seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - b. T SCHLAGEL motioned that we move all interest that we make in the general account to the Money Market account monthly. C HAMMACK seconded the motion which passed unanimously
 - d. Practice Schedule
 - a. C VAUGHM asked that we move Mite scrimmages to Friday night (instead of Saturday morning) and offer a Tuesday night practice

VIII. Reports—tabled

IX. ADJOURNED 7:57p