

CHEYENNE CAPITALS YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2025 MINUTES

DATE: 10/9/25 TIME: 6:00p MEETING LOCATION: Cheyenne Ice and 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 K WASHENFELDER, Scheduler J PARISH, Coach-in-Chief S WASHENFELDER, Fundraising Chair A TIGHE, Fundraising Chair C HAMMACK, Discipline Chair B MOORE, Equipment Manager C VAUGHAN
- b. QUORUM ESTABLISHED

III. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTION

- a. Brittany LaFontaine, Makina LaFontaine, Brianna White, Megan Hesser, Georgia Spicer, Kasey Kiel.

IV. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. September 2025 – APPROVED with no edits (Motion: T SCHLAGEL, 2nd A MILDENBERGER; passed unanimously)

V. OPEN ISSUES (OLD BUSINESS)

- a. Confidentiality Policy—Tabled
- b. Photography Agreement
 - a. J GRONSKI reports that we've officially separated from Image Tek, but left the door open if we decide to go back to them in the future.
 - b. S WASHENFELDER shared that he has not followed up with the selected photographer, Chandra, but she's ready to take pictures in January.
 - c. We discussed having all photos taken on Monday night as that night has the most teams practicing and that we would have a goal of taking individual and team photos all in the same night.
 - d. J HESSER asked S WASHENFELDER for additional follow up before our November meeting.
- c. Dryland Practice
 - a. S WASHENFELDER shared that we have conversations or agreements in place with Northside Gym, Smart Sports (HS only); he has been unsuccessful in connecting with Crossfit Frontier. It is up to coaches to coordinate. He will be available to assist as needed.
 - b. J HESSER inquired what dryland looks like for Girls and Bantams—would they do it outside their normal practice times? S WASHENFELDER responded yes—it will give them flexibility to have it at a time that works for the team.
 - c. A TIGHE volunteered to connect with Crossfit Frontier.

- d. J GRONSKI asked about keeping teams on track for dryland budget. S WASHENFELDER reports that teams will have to seek payment in advance through A MILDENBERGER.
- d. Mites Icebreaker Jamboree Nov. 7-9
 - a. C HAMMACK shared that she has secured \$1500 in sponsorships, has 8+ baskets coordinated, the tournament store is up and running and she has a food truck (Mad Flavors) lined up for Saturday. At this time, only one team (UT) has registered, but she has connected with several others including Laramie, Rock Springs and Boulder. The registration deadline is October 24.
 - b. J HESSER asked who is coordinating the sanction.
 - i. T SCHLAGEL has completed our USA Hockey sanction and will add the sanction number to the website.
 - c. J HESSER asked for clarification on baskets—are all teams expected to sponsor one?
 - i. C VAUGHN replied that all teams are to have a basket for this tournament and the Girls State tournament. This information has not been shared with team managers.
 - d. J HESSER brought up volunteer hours—will this be open to parents from all teams? How will that be shared with teams and who will coordinate to make sure we have what we need?
 - i. C HAMMACK will need help with stuffing team bags, setting up the boards, helping with baskets and setting up the rink each day. She will send out a Sign Up Genius to give people an opportunity to volunteer.
 - e. T SCHLAGEL reminded the board that rosters for our Mites will need to be submitted 2 weeks in advance. She highlighted that we are missing many of their birth certificates which will take time to chase down.
 - f. J GRONSKI asked if we will be telling local vendors that we are not going to offer vendor space at the Jamboree given what we shared with them when they asked about serving as a team store vendor.
 - i. General consensus was that the board did not feel like we had promised that opportunity previously and that if an individual board member wanted to share with the interested parties they could but it would not come from the board email.
- e. Volunteer Hours
 - a. B MOORE brought up the question she’s been hearing from parents about how many hours are required on behalf of each player.
 - i. J HESSER mentioned that we’ve informally been telling families that they need to complete 5 hours/player. He also highlighted that if families are asking, they are likely to volunteer.
 - ii. B MOORE volunteered to list volunteer opportunities and run an analysis of how many each team needs. She will share this with team managers. A MILDENBERGER volunteered to assist if needed.
 - iii. We will need to ask team mangers if they will track hours before we get too far into the process.

- iv. B MOORE will also create a QR code for parents to “check in” for volunteering. That will help with tracking. This could be placed outside each locker room.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Expenses—none
- b. Bantam Team Rostering/Practice Player
 - a. J HESSER outlined the issue: we are trying to find a solution with the Bantam age group. We are one player heavy for what we are allowed to roster with USA Hockey. The state registrar as stated that we may only register 18 skaters and 2 goalies (we have 19 skaters and 2 goalies). Kasey Kiel as the age director is looking into alternative options to roster 20+ players so long as no more than 20 are ever on the bench as we are classified as a recreational not Tier 2 team. The coach would then decide who is playing each weekend.
 - b. B LAFOUNTAIN shared her thoughts:
 - i. She appreciates the board looking into this. She feels that her son is being penalized for being a newer player, even though he has made great improvements in his time with the Capitals. She highlighted that it will be dangerous for him to play JV next season without ever playing a game where checking is allowed. Regrettably, moving to another team is not an option. She would like to be released from volunteer hours and see fees decreased should her son have to be a practice-only player.
 - c. J HESSER mentioned there is an option to keep rosters more flexible until the 12/31/2025 final roster deadline. This could allow the 19th skater to get some games in the meantime.
 - i. J GRONSKI asked if doing so would cause issues with the state registrar given that she’s said we are to minimize roster changes? J HESSER replied this would not be an issue given that we’re just trying to give the player a few games.
 - d. B WHITE shared her son’s positive experience with this player and suggested that players from the Bantam team would love to give him additional support.
 - e. J GRONSKI asked how we make sure we do not fail this player again?
 - i. S WASHENFELDER asked what the player did this summer?
 1. The player mentioned doing a powerskating clinic and Black Hills Hockey Camp, as well as some rollerblading at home.
 - ii. J HESSER shared that we have several windows of ice time—if there is a Captials coach available, we could add additional development practices.
 - iii. B MOORE asked if it would be an option to have a HS player on the ice to work one-on-one with this player to help with development. S WASHENFELDER said that decision would be up to the head coach.
 - f. J GRONSKI made a motion to decrease the fees for this player to #100 and remove all volunteer hours and fundraising commitments. S WASHENFELDER 2nd the motion; passed unanimously.
 - i. A MILDENBERGER connected with B LAFOUNTAIN to get her a refund.

- c. Lettering Policy
 - a. K KIEL shared his draft varsity lettering document
 - i. J GRONSKI asked if there is an element of eligibility/grades? We do not have access to that information. K KIEL agreed to remove (he just based this on the WHSSA lettering policy)
 - ii. C VAUGHAN asked how we would enforce that players “meet and obey all high school rules for the school in which they attend during the requested season”? K KIEL suggested that could be replaced with “Meet and obey the CCYHA Code of Conduct”
 - iii. T SCHLAGEL asked if freshmen can letter from the Bantam team? K KIEL is not opposed.
 - iv. C HAMMACK asked who will track their volunteer hours? K KIEL is tracking.
 - v. J GRONSKI asked what K KIEL needs from the board? He’d like permission to create an arm sleeve patch?
 1. Board members shared concerns about getting those produced in a reasonable number (the minimum was 500 previously) and any concerns about players not getting a letter if this is possibly the only way they will letter
 2. After some discussion and K KIEL’s agreement, the board decided to continue with individual letters for each school.
 3. J GRONSKI offered to assist with ordering letters/pins
 - vi. The board amended the proposed varsity lettering document with edits as attached. J GRONSKI moved to approve the edited document, C VAUGHAN seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
 - d. Deferred Registration Fees/Federal Workers
 - a. J GRONSKI proposed that we offer relief to any families affected by the federal shutdown in the form of delayed registration payments. J HESSER asked that we expand it to clarify we would offer financial assistance to any member for any reason. With board approval, J GRONSKI will draft a statement to share with members by email, C HAMMACK will prepare it for Facebook.
 - e. Girls State Tournament
 - a. J HESSER shared that Girls State will be the first weekend in March; he has named Brianna White as the tournament director with support from the board. He also highlighted that we would host a Girls Try Hockey For Free event during the tournament.
 - b. B MOORE asked if we have all the ice for the weekend? No birthday parties? J HESSER will have the conversation with Jeff.
 - c. J GRONSKI asked how we will get enough volunteers and keep people involved that late in the season. Also inquired about what our club obligations are. J HESSER highlighted that we must coordinate ice and refs.
 - d. J HESSER would like to see a committee form in the next couple of weeks.

- i. J GRONSKI suggested giving banners to second place teams and replicating the success of the photo backdrop from Peewee State last year.
- f. Hockey Fights Cancer
 - a. K KIEL shared his plan to host a Hockey Fights Cancer weekend for the high school varsity and JV opening home weekend on October 24 vs. Rock Springs.
 - b. We should pink out the rink, host a 50/50 raffle which we donate 50% to cancer resources in the community and potentially invite impacted families on the ice. TBD, but we could have a ceremonial puck drop.
 - c. C HAMMACK helped design a shirt which will be available to order prior to the game. K KIEL is working on a poster to advertise the event.
 - d. J GRONSKI moved that the board approve the purchase of several extra short sleeve shirts in various sizes to be sold at the event. K WASHENFELDER seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

- a. PRESIDENT'S/VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - a. Nothing major, just please remember to be good people and not add to any drama.
- b. REGISTRAR'S REPORT
 - a. We have 184 registrations and are working to roster teams.
 - b. T SCHLAGEL needs teams ASAP, but no later than Friday, October 10.
 - c. T SCHLAGEL needs to know what coaches to roster to which team, same timeline
 - d. T SCHLAGEL is working on a volunteer roster so we'll be compliant on that side of things
 - e. T SCHLAGEL is tracking missing player SafeSport Certificates.
- c. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - a. See attached
 - b. A MILDENBERGER is going to continue using the previous travel template.
 - c. Equipment has been ordered; Venmo and PayPal are set up.
- d. SECRETARY'S REPORT
 - a. Sense Arena is still in progress. Players/parents can email J GRONSKI to get set up. We are working on a "registration" that would allow us to check the equipment out via Crossbar. J GRONSKI is still in the process of confirming all equipment works.
 - b. J GRONSKI wants to see the Squirts B coach ASAP. These kids have played over a third of their games and still do not have a coach. The board agreed a coach must be named by Friday, October 10.
- e. SCHEDULER'S REPORT
 - a. There are 8 games left to sort out. They will be releasing games to families, but times will not be included. K WASHENFELDER and J PARISH shared that teams are traveling far, on multiple weekends/no combo weekends and families may not be happy.

- b. J HESSER shared the situation at the scheduler's meeting and talked about wanting to see the process shift, maybe even utilizing AI to create a master schedule.
- f. SAFESPORT/DISCIPLINE CHAIR'S REPORT
 - a. B MOORE highlighted they hosted a Mites parent meeting to discuss the Code of Conduct and the need to respect the building, coaches and one another.
- g. EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT
 - a. C VAUGHAN shared that the company that produces our jerseys is on holiday October 1-8. She has inquired about shipping costs and hopes jerseys will be here in 2-4 weeks. This was a large order with 71 jerseys to submit.
 - b. C VAUGHAN has been working on a number conflict on the High School/JV teams.
 - c. Coaches jackets are still a work in progress.
- h. FUNDRAISING CHAIR REPORT
 - a. C HAMMACK and A TIGHE have secured another season sponsor. Recent events have raised:
 - i. Westby's: \$286
 - ii. Fill My Player (so far): \$1,660
 - b. C HAMMACK also asked that we close Mite registration until December given the number of players on the ice. T SCHLAGEL asked if we might need two nights or two groups of players. Regrettably, we are out of ice time to accommodate that.

X. Informally ADJOURNED