

Wausau Youth Hockey
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11th, 2026

Time- Place: 7:00 pm – Marathon Park

Attendees: Seth Sierk, JJ Deffner, Eric Pergolski, Rick Pergolski, Kristi Toner, Adam Hall, Jason Little, Ashley Kickbusch, Nick Gumtz, Ben Krenke, BJ Brandt, Andrew Bruggeman, and Kelly Denzin

Public Attendee: n/a

Call to order: 7:01 pm

Minutes: motioned by Andy, 2nd by Jason- all in favor.

Finance Update: Nick

Have received a request for 3 goalie reimbursements. Verified all are ok to proceed with reimbursement. There is a request to expand Raise Right to cover raffles and registration fees. Motion by Andy to include an extra \$300.00 to cover raffles, 2nd by Rick, all in favor. Currently there are about 57 total families that use the raise right program.

*If you would like any additional financial information, please reach out to a board member to request them.

Girls Committee: Jana / JJ

No girls update besides the girls attended a PWL game in MN. The girls had fun and it was a great experience. The 14U girls were able to give the PWL players a fist pump and the 10U were able to do a Zamboni ride.

Fundraising: JJ

We have the East West game coming up and looking to pie some coaches. Names that we were thinking of were Jana, Seth, Eric, Brian, Travis Dan? Will see if they are interested. Ice Breaker is coming up and need to secure a location. Places that were mentioned were the Labor Temple, maybe aftershock, the bar is booked that day already. The insurance policy to have at Campus is \$350.00 so if we can find something less than that.

Recruiting and Retention / Tournaments: Adam

Squirt Tournament went well using game sheets. Wondering if there is a way we can update it on the site vs sending to Megan? Maybe the manager can do this in the future? Bantams are this weekend. Suggestion was to hang up pictures of the QRC code for the link to the game sheet so the teams can follow it. JJ will talk with the managers and Megan.

It was brought up that there was an issue this weekend in the Lobby and hallway when it was time for the Cyclones to start setting up. Would like to keep a good relationship between the 2 Associations. Agreed we can move the items out of the back hall by 5:00 pm and can make sure to draw the raffles at 4:00 in the Lobby, so we can start cleaning items up for them.

Disciplinary Committee: Kristi

There were no reports. It was brought up if a situation needed to be documented. Bantam A team, there was a skater that was reported to have 4 penalties (but only 3 were on the game sheet) in a game, and the coach had 17 total. Coaches are only allowed 12 penalties and then they are given a misconduct. Kristi looked up and the coach only had 11 reported. Would just documents it.

Equipment: Adam, Rick, Kelly

n/a

VP of Players: Eric:

Will be looking to post dates for next season tryouts. Will look to see when the School District finalizes their Calander. Should look at blocking off Christmas and New Years and not schedule any games or buy ice these weekends. Looked at maybe starting the weekend of October 31st. Talked about tournaments to see if we think we should host them or not? Do believe we just need to look at dates and see when others are doing them and try and plan around them. Normally look at Squirt A/B, Peewee A/B, Bantam A/B, Squirt C/ Peewee C, Mites.

New Business:

*Seth- talked about when the ice is set to come out of MP2. Set for March 1st. JJ has dibs out for a couple individuals to clean up the equipment closet to move items off the floor as there is concern there may be water that leaks out. Season ends dates – Lts will be done Feb 22nd, 6U will end Feb 21st, 8U Mites will be Feb 24th, Squirts and Peeweess will be after their state Tournaments, and Bantam will be Feb 21-22nd weekend. Do have that last week open in Feb, however discussed its not necessary if there are no games.

* Seth attended the executive meeting with the County and there is no interest in fully funding

a new rink. Jamie had estimated 45 million for a new rink and Lance is thinking they would be able to get maybe 5 million. We have no FEMA money. They would like to meet after the season and talk about options. We should see if we can take ownership of the rink and then we could do fundraising to fix it up, like the holes in the ceiling, rodent problems or the parking lot. Seth did meet with the Y to see if there was any interest in partnering with us and they were not on board with this. The Fair has a land lease with the County, and we did meet with them 12 years ago and they keep bringing up the contact they have. Seth would like to send the County an email asking if we can make improvements to the rink and promise to stay. The Youth Association cannot afford to build. Will wait a little bit on the email and see what conversation are had the next couple months. This might be a good opportunity to educate the representatives. Each County has a representative on the board, and some might not understand all the problems that are going on with the rink or what the program does for our community and the kids. It might help if we can remind individuals of this. Our tournament brings in a lot of income for our community. If the County does want to get out of the ice business, then we should see if we can take over. Years ago, we raised money to add Rink 2, and it was looked at in a positive way. Will look to talk with the other user groups too and see what their thoughts are also. We should look to see if we can get something in writing saying that a % of our money is or will go to improvements in the rink.

* We have 7 people up for renewal on their position on the board. If you know of anyone that would be interested in running, let them know. We will publish the list of potential candidates so voters can see who is up and running. Deadline will be a week prior. Meeting will be, Wednesday April 8th.

* JJ bought up a new rule she would like to make in effect (the Nick Gumtz). If you serve on the board 6 years or more, would like to make the rest of your dibs exempt for the rest of your children's time with the association. Andy second, Nick sustained, all the rest in favor. It would be nice to also honor some of our members or those that have made a difference. In Eau Claire they have names on the wall. BJ brought up naming the rinks. Would like to next year dedicate MP2 to Don Bradford and MP1 to Pete Susens. BJ would also like to try and host an outdoor event to honor this area, as hockey started at Marathon Park. We have the grandstand we can use which would be perfect for seating.

* JJ is going to put a lock box in the concession for anyone that needs to drop off money.

* Received an email from an Everest Mite family 2 weeks ago asking for a release as Everest is requiring it before they will allow them to skate. It was discussed we do not register our mites so we will not be signing a release. If Everest will not allow them to skate, they are more than welcome to skate with us.

* Talked about practices for Peewees and Bantams and see if we can get them 2 mandatory full ice touches a month. This will hopefully help prepare them for High School. Ideally this would be great, however it would be hard to schedule. If we wanted to try and do this, we may need to go away from 3 touches or do Friday or Saturdays practices. If we can try and do even one full ice a touch a month, that would have a big impact. We think this would be a big benefit at the Peewee level and up to help them prepare. Andy stated he will take on scheduling this year and see if he can make it work.

* Talked about off season STP- normally a coach will run the sessions. Mites last year had 1-2 a month. Will need to see if we can get this set up. Everest will be closing March and April this year and will not have ice as an FYI.

Meeting adjourned: 8:59 pm

– motioned by Andy

– second by BJ

all in favor, motion approved.

Next meeting is: February 1st at 7:00 pm at Marathon Park.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Denzin, WYH Secretary