

Hinsdale Central Hockey Club
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026
Via Zoom

Attendance: Garrett Ryan, Louise Crabb, Rick Joutras, Kelly Staver, Cara DiPasquale, Mark Konieczka, Brandon Beck, Eric Dazé, Tony Harris

President's Report

Goalie Recruitment

- Senior goalie **Conner Trout**, formerly with the DuPage Stars, will join Hinsdale Central Hockey Club for his senior season.

Crossbar App

- Louise will review the Crossbar app to ensure it is user-friendly and can serve as a reliable resource for members throughout the season.
- Louise will add upcoming tournament dates and other key early-season dates to the calendar.

Fall Kickoff Meeting

Sunday, August 15 at 5:00 PM – Hinsdale Community House

- Garrett is preparing the agenda.
- All coaching staff will attend, with the exception of Ryan Sullivan.
- The club's Social Media Interns will be introduced.
- The room at the Community House has been booked and paid for.
- Louise will send an additional reminder email to families.

Conditioning Skates

- **Monday, August 17:** 8:00–9:00 PM
- **Wednesday, August 19:** 6:40–7:40 PM
- **Thursday, August 20:** 6:50–7:50 PM

Tryouts

- **Wednesday, August 26:** 6:30–8:00 PM
- **Thursday, August 27:** 8:20–10:10 PM
- DuPage Stars are unavailable to scrimmage during tryouts. Eric will look for another team.

Ice Schedule & Season Dates

Season Ice: September 1, 2026–February 28, 2027

- **Monday:** NHL Rink, 6:50–8:20 PM
- **Tuesday:** NHL Rink, 8:30–10:20 PM
- **Wednesday:** Skills Rink, 8:00–9:00 PM – Goalie Practice
- **Thursday:** NHL Rink, 9:00–10:10 PM

Tournaments

Warrior Back to School Tournament

- **Varsity:** September 10–13
- **JV** will need to participate in a different tournament because the Warrior JV dates of September 17–18 conflict with Hinsdale Central Homecoming weekend.
- Kelly will forward the **Kings Cup Tournament** invitation to Garrett and Eric to explore JV participation (dates: September 10–13)
- Eric will notify the Warriors that HCHC JV will no longer be able to participate due to the Homecoming conflict.

Additional Tournament Discussion

- The goal is to participate in approximately two tournaments during the season.
- The Board and coaching staff will also explore opportunities to play out-of-state high school teams in a doubleheader format, as an alternative to a tournament.
- A question will be included on registration page to gauge parent interest in traveling out of state for games or tournaments.

Coaches Contracts

Ryan Sullivan

- Ryan had several questions regarding his contract.
- Alex Mahler is reviewing the questions from a legal perspective.

Coaching Staff

- All JV coaching and goalie coaching positions are in place.

2026–2027 Season Fee

The final season fee is **\$7,500**, representing approximately a **10.5% increase** from the prior season.

The season fee includes:

- Approximately 52 total games
- Varsity in-season tournament with IL North teams
- Potential out-of-state tournament/games
- Professional locker room
- Practices
- Playoffs
- Player and team pictures
- Off-ice training
- Player banquet
- Other season-related expenses

The Board will consider financial hardship situations on a case-by-case basis.

AHAI Meetings & Training

AHAI Registrar Meeting – Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 PM

- This meeting is specifically for high school hockey clubs.

- Club registrars and presidents are strongly encouraged to attend.
- The session will cover general registration information as well as information specific to high school organizations.
- **Garrett and Brandon will attend.**

AHAI Zoom Training – Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 PM

- This session will review how clubs should manage misconduct issues that may arise during the season, including:
 - Rules & Ethics
 - SafeSport
 - Suspension & Review
- **Louise, Brandon and Eric will attend.**

Events

Season Kickoff Gathering

- The Board discussed options for an all-club season kickoff event.
- The Board agreed to move forward with a tailgate at the first home game.
- The **Homecoming Parade** will serve as another all-club event/picnic.
- Maureen Kunitz will be contacted regarding the possibility of utilizing J. Jordan Homes for the Homecoming gathering.

Homecoming Parade

- Jen has secured two trailers from U-Haul.
- Two vehicles will be needed to tow the trailers. Mark and Eric have offered to use their trucks.
- Hitches will need to be secured for the trailers.

Apparel & Equipment

New Player Package

The new-player package will include:

- Warm-up jacket and pants
- White game jersey and white game socks
- Red game jersey and red game socks
- Game shells
- Red and white practice jerseys
- Black practice socks
- Hockey bag

All players will be required to purchase the new red game jersey and red game socks, along with helmet stickers and any additional items they have outgrown or need to replace.

- Brandon and Cara will coordinate the apparel/equipment line items on the registration form so players and families clearly understand what needs to be ordered for the upcoming season.

Coaches Order

- Coaches will receive hockey bags and T-shirts.

Sizing

- Cara plans to conduct sizing during all three Conditioning Skates.
- Spring players and returning players are expected to retain their current jersey numbers.
- Kelly and Louise will assist Cara with sizing.

Locker Room

- The inspirational quote sign for the locker room has been ordered.
- Eric would like the sign installed before the Conditioning Skates begin.
- Name plates will be ordered for player stalls.

HCHC Swag Store

- The new HCHC swag store is active.
- The Club will receive 10% of all sales.

IL West Updates

League Composition & Regular Season

- **Varsity:** 16 teams, with approximately 25 regular-season games.
- **JV:** 15–18 teams, with approximately 24–26 regular-season games. Final numbers will be determined once team registrations are complete.
- Seniors may not play JV unless approval is received from both the IL West Board and Coaches Committee.
- A Senior JV Exception form will be distributed to clubs to request approval for individual senior players.

Important Dates

- **Week of September 21:** Required Team Manager Training at the NIU Campus near I-88 and Route 59.
 - Both club iPads will need to be updated.
- **January 23:** Final day of the regular season.
- **January 24:** JV and Varsity All-Star Games and All-Conference vs. North Central at Fifth Third Arena in Chicago.
- **Weekend of January 29:** West Cup and McKeague Cup games begin.

Game Operations & Security

- Two Yellow Jackets will be required at each game and are to be worn only by home-team volunteers.
- Security should be contracted for rivalry games.

Emergency Backup Goalies

AAA goalies may be used as Emergency Backup Goalies under the following conditions:

- Varsity only
- League permission is required
- Opposing team must be informed

IL West Tiering

- Tiering is expected to be released during the week of August 24.
- Clubs will have only three days to schedule games once tiering is released.
- IL West will use Black, Blue and White rather than Gold, Silver and Bronze for tier names.

Black – Tier 1

- 6 teams
- Play Black teams three times
- Play Blue teams twice
- Approximately 25 total league games

Blue – Tier 2

- 5 teams
- Preliminary format discussed:
 - Blue opponents multiple times
 - Black opponents twice
 - White opponents once
- Final scheduling formula needs to be confirmed with IL West, as the game totals presented during the meeting did not appear to reconcile to 25 games.

White – Tier 3

- 5 teams
- Play White teams five times
- Play Blue teams once

Additional IL West Updates

Club Contacts

- IL West will distribute a list of club contacts in the coming weeks.
- The list will include names, titles, email addresses and phone numbers.

Designated Seating Areas

- Clubs should submit designated seating areas before their first home game.
- The goal is to prevent students from changing sides of the rink to heckle opposing goalies.

Backup Goalies

- IL West should be copied on communications with Chris Waters regarding goalie and Emergency Backup Goalie requests.
- This will allow the league to track requests and assist with goalie placement.

League Rules

- Updated league rules will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Zero Tolerance Policy, Suspensions & Club Fines

IL West provided clarification regarding the club fines and suspensions referenced in its welcome letter.

If a parent or spectator is removed from a game:

- AHAI will assess a five-game suspension.
- If the incident occurs during an IL West league game, IL West will assess a three-league-game suspension for a first offense.
- If the AHAI and IL West suspensions overlap, the five-game suspension applies.

Fines & Escalating Penalties

- **First Suspension:** \$100 fine; five AHAI games and at least three IL West games if the offense occurred during a league game.

- **Second Suspension:** \$500 fine and one-year suspension.
- **Third Suspension:** \$1,000 fine and permanent suspension.

HUDL Camera

- Dave DiPasquale has offered to serve as the primary point person for the HUDL camera.
- Two additional volunteers will be identified to ensure coverage for all JV and Varsity games.

Fundraising

- Mark, Rick and Brandon met separately to brainstorm fundraising opportunities and presented their ideas to the Board.
- Key fundraising opportunities discussed included:
 - Vertical Raise
 - Super Bowl Squares
 - Potential pickleball fundraiser at Netgame
 - Potential joint **“Fire & Ice”** event with the Hinsdale Fire Department
- They will email their presentation to the Board.
- Rick also developed a Corporate Sponsorship flyer outlining sponsorship tiers and the benefits associated with each level.

Miscellaneous:

- All Board Members should check make sure their USA Hockey membership is up to date. Some board member may also be due to renew Safesport.

Next Board Meeting:

Wednesday, September, 9th at 6:30pm