



Valley Youth Hockey Board Meeting Minutes

Valley Youth Hockey Association - Syracuse, NY
April 2026

Attendees:

Present:

Michael Foley (President), Katie MacIntyre (Vice President), Brad Brechler, Becky Brightman, Paul Casinelli, Erin Engelhardt, Christina Verratti-Hawelka, Greg Bliss, Marissa Maines, Jaime Moran, Jason Potter, Dannielle Richardson

Absent:

Jessica Allman, Craig Schwartau, Chris Szulwach

President's Report:

- Jenna Richardson has resigned from the board. In accordance with Article 9 of the bylaws, the President has appointed Paul Casinelli to fill the vacancy, effective upon the transition to the new board.
- Meachem will remain open until the required part arrives and repairs can begin. Once repairs start, the estimated timeline for completion is 2–4 weeks. The Nation rink is scheduled to open on October 1, and efforts are underway to secure consistent ice time there.
- Skills sessions will be offered again this season, with efforts underway to finalize details with a new individual or organization. Additionally, the organization is working with multiple goalie coaches to provide greater consistency, stability, and support for goalie development.
- The Nation rink has announced an increase in ice costs. Efforts are underway to manage the impact and secure consistent ice slots as soon as possible. Additionally, plans are in place to formalize the arrangement through a contract, with a face-to-face meeting being scheduled to finalize details.

Treasurer Report:

- Financial Report - Balance Sheet and Profit Loss
- Refund for 16U Girls Player - **Approved**

Vice President & Discipline Report:

A proposal was presented to engage an external consultant to provide nonprofit board training. Option 1 includes a one-hour session for the full board at a cost of \$700. An additional executive-level session is available as an add-on, bringing the total cost to \$1,000 for more in-depth work with the executive committee. - **Tabled**

A request was made to review the bylaws and Code of Conduct. A small committee consisting of Katie, Danielle, and Christina will conduct an initial review and determine whether a broader discussion is warranted. It was noted that any changes to the bylaws require significant input and consideration ([see link provided](#)).

Discipline Report

- On March 8, a 16U player served the third of three penalties stemming from a November game. The delay in serving the penalties was due to the split-season schedule and was also noted in last month's report.
- On March 14, a 16U player received a game misconduct for fighting and served the suspension in the following game during a tournament.
- The organization has communicated with the Central Section regarding roster issues identified during a mid-March tournament in Niagara Falls. The Central Section is leading the review and will make any necessary determinations.
- On March 23, a disciplinary hearing was held by the Central Section of the New York State Amateur Hockey Association regarding a match penalty issued in a March 13 14U game. The player has since been cleared to return to all hockey activities.
- On April 3, a response was received regarding an investigation initiated on January 4 involving alleged racial discriminatory language during a 12U game against Auburn. The investigation was inconclusive; however, it resulted in recommended actions from NYSAHA to the opposing organization to help prevent similar incidents in the future.

Secretary Report:

- Absent

Registrar Report:

- USA Hockey has opened registration for all 2026–2027 players and volunteers. In order to register, all participants must have a valid 2026–2027 USA Hockey number.
- Travel registrations will be managed through offers in Crossbar.. House registration is currently open.

Director of Scheduling:

Start dates for Valley ice for the 2026–2027 season are as follows:

- 16U, 18U Youth, and 12U Girls: August 1
- All other Travel age groups: September 9
- House: October 5 (may begin earlier pending additional ice availability)

- 8U/Part-Time teams and IP: October 13

Director of Coaches Report - ACE/Safesport/Youth Travel Teams:

It was suggested to hold Coaches and Managers meetings earlier in the season, with two sessions planned:

- A Travel meeting in August
- A House and 8U meeting in late September

League Affiliations (Travel)

- Only the 2013s will be playing in the AHF
- 12U Girls will play in the NGHL

Director Report - Girls Hockey Committee

- The Girls Hockey Committee will be co-chaired by Erin and Paul. They will identify and recruit additional members from outside the board to support and develop all aspects of the girls program.

Director Report - Snowbelt & House Teams:

- The Snowbelt reimbursement payment was reviewed as part of the financial report. For future hosted events, the organization will explore additional opportunities to increase revenue.

Director Report - Marketing, Promotions Fundraising and Sponsorship:

- Fundraiser dates of May 1 and October 2 have been confirmed. Coordination has been completed, and details for the May 1 fundraiser, including the flyer, will be included in the April 15 communication regarding the uniform store opening.

Director Report - Uniforms and Merchandise:

- Jersey stores will be opening soon. Travel players are strongly encouraged to order during the first store window to ensure uniforms arrive in time for the start of the season.
- Reminder: Game jerseys are **not** to be worn during practices. All travel players are required to have designated practice jerseys, with colors determined by the coaching staff.

Board Actions

1. Accept the financial reports as presented.

Date: 4/8/2026

Motion #: 2026-04-08-01

Motion: Katie MacIntyre moved to accept the financial reports as presented..

Second: Christina Verratti Hawelka

Vote: 8-0-0

Result: The motion carried.

Supporting Document: [Balance Sheet](#), [Profit Loss Statement](#)

2. Refund Request – 16U Girls player for the 2025–2026 season due to limited participation.

Date: 4/8/2026

Motion #: 2026-04-08-02

Motion: Erin Engelhardt moved to refund Request – 16U Girls player for the 2025–2026 season due to limited participation..

Second: Jamie Moran

Vote: 9-1-0

Result: The motion carried.

3. Nonprofit Board Training – Option 1: \$700 for a one-hour session facilitated by an external consultant.

Date: 4/8/2026

Motion #: 2026-04-08-03

Motion: Brad Brechler moved to nonprofit Board Training – Option 1: \$700 for a one-hour session facilitated by an external consultant..

Second: Paul Casinelli

Vote: 9-0-1

Result: Tabled.

Notes: Tabled due to concerns regarding timing and the anticipated addition of several new board members at the next meeting. The board expressed a preference to defer the decision until the availability and interest of the incoming members can be assessed.

4. Motion to Adjourn

Date: 4/8/2026

Motion #: 2026-04-08-04

Motion: Jamie Moran moved to motion to Adjourn.

Second: Katie MacIntyre

Vote: 10-0-0

Result: The motion carried.