



Valley Youth Hockey Board Meeting Minutes

Valley Youth Hockey Association - Syracuse, NY
May 2026

Attendees:

Present:

Michael Foley (President), Katie MacIntyre (Vice President), Brad Brechler, Mindy Morris, Paul Casinelli, Erin Engelhardt, Marissa Maines, Jaime Moran, Jason Potter, Dannielle Richardson, Chris Szulwach, Nate Bazydlo, Jennifer Weinstein, Ryan Yamini, Kelly Walker, Tom Devito, Michael Platt

Absent: Becky Brightman, Jessica Allman, Greg Bliss, Christina Verratti-Hawelka, Craig Schwartau

President's Report:

- New board member onboarding was completed, including a governance overview.
- Board roles and responsibilities will be assigned at the next meeting.
- Crossbar has been acquired by SportsEngine; no immediate action required due to our existing contract.
- Central Section updates:
 - Multi-association agreements are restricted:
 - Not permitted for Tournament Bound or Tier 1 players (with lower tiers).
 - Snowbelt does not accept such agreements.
 - All tournaments we participate in must be USA Hockey sanctioned.
 - Snowbelt is seeking additional teams; NTB teams are eligible.
 - Terminology update: "House" programs will now be referred to as "Recreation."
- The Association will review bylaws to ensure alignment with Central Section policies.
- The NYSAHA Annual Meeting will be held June 13–14 in Fairport.

Treasurer Report:

- Financial Report - Balance Sheet and Profit Loss
- [Balance Sheet](#)
- [Profit/Loss Statement](#)
- CD matures in June; reinvestment options will be reviewed.
- Anticipated decrease in team numbers for the upcoming season:
 - Registration fees will remain unchanged.
 - Team budgets may be reduced to offset revenue impact.
- Paul requested that registration fees for the 2027–2028 season be established by December 2026 / January 2027.
- Ice cost updates:
 - Meacham: \$175/hour
 - The Nation: \$275/hour
 - A contract is in place with Meacham; The Nation would also like us to have a contract.
- Players must be fully registered and paid prior to participation.

Vice President & Discipline Report:

Discipline Report

- No report

Secretary Report:

- A Board Action Log will be implemented to track decisions and outcomes.
- Board members may submit agenda items for review.
- Efforts are underway to improve document organization and accessibility.

Registrar Report:

- Absent

Director of Scheduling:

- Summer ice schedule established (Monday–Thursday at 5:30 PM and 6:45 PM).
 - Requests must be submitted at least two weeks in advance.
 - Teams are responsible for associated costs.
 - We are currently subletting open slots to Austin Block.
- Ice allocation for the 2026–2027 season:
 - Tier 1 and older teams begin in August
 - 14U and younger begin in September
- Meacham facility update:
 - Chiller replacement planned; possible one-week disruption in August.

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

- Emphasis will be placed on skating-focused skills clinics.
- Feedback regarding Austin Block as skills coach will be addressed with clear expectations moving forward. In the event of his absence, head coaches may implement pre-established clinic plans.
- Efforts are underway to secure consistent, season-long goalie coaching support.
- If there is weekend ice available it may be used for additional skills sessions.

Director Report - Girls Hockey Committee

- Erin solicited 3-5 priorities from girls coaches. Top priorities identified:
 - Skills development
 - Goalie training
- Friday night practices were successful for Part Time girls teams.
- Full-time girls teams need 1.5 sheets of ice weekly consistently.
- The committee is exploring hosting a Girls hockey Play Free Event.
- The committee is looking for additional committee members outside of the board.
- A proposal outlining Friday night ice needs for Part Time girls teams and associated costs will be developed.

Director Report - Snowbelt & House Teams:

- All jamboree events in the prior season were successful.
- Transition of responsibilities will require submission of appropriate documentation to Snowbelt.

Director Report - Marketing, Promotions Fundraising and Sponsorship:

- Communication efforts will expand beyond social media to include email distribution.
- Upcoming initiatives:
 - Dick's Sporting Goods promotional event
 - Evaluation of installing a Howie's vending machine at Meacham. Brad to discuss with the City and get back to Dani.
- There is consensus that the Cougars concession is not worth the effort due to low return on investment.

Director Report - Uniforms and Merchandise:

- 1st jersey store has closed; socks must be ordered separately online. Paul will distribute sock orders.
- Additional merchandise stores are open or planned (including McKie's).
- Howie's also does merch but is more expensive.

Open Discussion:

- A Mite program coordinator is needed.
- Increased focus is needed on recruitment and retention within the Mite program.
- Mike Platt attended the board meeting and asked whether he would be assisting with coaching now that there is only one 16U team. He mentioned he hadn't heard back from the head coach. The board discussed the question and advised the head coach to make whatever staffing decisions are best for the team.

Next meeting June 10, 2026 6:30pm at Cecile Community Center

Board Actions

1. Approve April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/13/2026

Motion #: 2026-05-13-01

Motion: Brad Brechler moved to approve April 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Second: Paul Casinelli

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: The motion carried.

2. Approve financial reports as presented

Date: 5/13/2026

Motion #: 2026-05-13-02

Motion: Paul Casinelli moved to approve financial reports as presented.

Second: Katie MacIntyre

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: The motion carried.

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

3. Motion to Adjourn

Date: 5/13/2026

Motion #: 2026-05-13-03

Motion: Marissa Maines moved to adjourn Meeting.

Second: Jason Potter

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: The motion carried.