



NIHA August Board Meeting

"The Mission of the Newark Ice Hockey Association is to teach the youth of central Ohio sportsmanship, fair play, respect for coaches, referees, players and fans through the sport of ice hockey, so that they can continue to be good citizens and enjoy the sport of ice hockey forever"

Date: August 18, 2026

Time: 6:27–8:00 PM

Location: LGRIA Conference Room

Members Present: Brad, Summer, Mike, Adam, David, Tyler, Barry, Andy, Miranda, Rick

Non-Members Present: Kristen, John, Ed

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:27 PM by Brad.

II. Rink Items — Kristen and John

A. Rink Renovations and Schedule

1. Exterior painting of the rink is nearly complete.
2. The rink is scheduled to remove the ice and close for renovations beginning May 17, 2027.
3. The rink is expected to reopen around Labor Day 2027. The exact reopening date is not yet known and will be communicated by the rink once confirmed.
4. Ice may be available for purchase by NIHA in late April and early May 2027.
5. Approximately 60 teams are currently competing for available ice time.

B. Stick and Puck

1. Stick-and-puck sessions are becoming available and will be offered primarily on weekends.
2. The price has increased to align with competing rinks.
3. Participation will be capped at 35 players.

C. Ice and Bench Procedures

1. John asked that coaches begin cleaning up before the curfew clock sounds and complete all on-ice team meetings before curfew.
2. Players should remain off the benches until the Zamboni has finished cleaning the ice.

D. Dasher Boards

1. The dasher boards still need to be moved.
2. The rink will no longer have adequate storage space for the boards due to the upcoming staging of equipment for renovations.

E. Try Hockey for Free

1. Try Hockey for Free will take place this weekend.
2. The rink is looking for coaches to assist with the Learn to Play program.
3. Kristen will create a Google availability form for distribution to NIHA coaches.
4. Coaches must have current USA Hockey certification and have completed the appropriate age-level coaching course.
5. Coaches under the age of 18 will be classified as volunteers.
6. Coaches will be paid directly by the rink.

F. Coaches' Locker Room

1. Due to the dense schedule, the coaches' locker room will frequently need to be used as a player locker room.
2. Coaches should confirm the availability of the room each night before using it.

III. Treasurer's Report — Barry

A. Player Dues and Preseason Injuries

1. The Board discussed adjusting or reimbursing dues for players who pay but are unable to participate because of an injury sustained before their season begins.
2. The Board reached consensus that dues may be adjusted for players who have not yet begun their hockey season.

3. For this purpose, a player's season will be considered to have begun once the player has participated in at least one game.

B. Past-Dues

1. The current progressive action process for past-due accounts will continue.
2. The process may ultimately result in a player being disqualified from participation after an account is more than 60 days past due.

C. Motion

1. Brad moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.
2. Mike seconded the motion.
3. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Scheduling — Summer

A. NIHA Ice-Time Allocation

1. Summer requested clarification of the language used when discussing NIHA's allocated ice time.
2. The rink generously allocates a significant number of ice hours to NIHA each year.
3. NIHA has historically not used all of its allocated ice time.
4. The Board agreed that unused allocated ice time should not be described as being "given away." Rather, NIHA is not using ice time that has been generously allocated by the rink.

B. Use of Unused Ice Time

1. The Board discussed whether NIHA could benefit from making greater use of its unused allocated ice time.
2. Holiday camps have historically had low participation, which appears to be related more to dates and times than to pricing.
3. An alumni game was discussed as a possible use of unused ice time.
4. Allowing the adult league to use available ice time was also discussed.

C. Thursday Night Lights

1. Additional volunteers are needed to operate the system.

2. Parents have volunteered in the past.
3. **Action Item:** Summer will check with the rink to determine whether parent volunteers are permitted to operate the system.

D. Lady Generals

1. The Lady Generals would like to bring in a Columbus Blue Jackets team for a practice.
2. The Board is supportive of the opportunity, provided it is understood that the ice time allocated to the Lady Generals is NIHA's allocated ice time.
3. The Board expressed its continued full support for the Lady Generals program.

E. High School Tailgate

1. The High School Tailgate is scheduled for November 21, 2026, in conjunction with the game against Dayton.
2. The rink has expressed concerns regarding security.
3. **Action Item:** Brad will investigate the possibility of hiring an external security service.

V. 14U House Program — Brad

A. Potential Continuation of 14U House

1. Following the Board's decision at the supplemental meeting to discontinue the 14U house program, a new opportunity has arisen that may allow the program to continue.
2. The Athens 14U division is facing similar circumstances and has contacted NIHA regarding the possibility of combining teams for the season.

B. Proposed Partnership with Athens

1. Each team would practice at its respective rink with its respective coaches.
2. The teams would combine for games, which would primarily be played in Athens in the MCHL league.
3. The combined team would play under a unique team name and would not be identified as either the Generals or Bobcats.

C. Questions and Concerns

1. The organizations will need to determine which organization will officially register the combined team.
2. The Board discussed the number of Newark players needed to make the arrangement viable.
3. The Board agreed that five Newark players would be needed to maintain the current 14U practice ice allocation.
4. If fewer than five Newark players participate, the remaining 14U players would practice with the 12U program, and the 14U ice time would be reallocated among the remaining house teams.

D. Dues and Jerseys

1. The Board discussed player payments and jersey orders.
2. If Generals jerseys have been ordered but not yet received, Brad will attempt to cancel the order through Pure Hockey.
3. If practice jerseys have already been ordered and received and a player no longer wants the jersey, NIHA will purchase the jersey back from the player.
4. Jerseys for the combined team may receive sponsor support.
5. The estimated cost for a new jersey is approximately \$25.

E. Board Support

1. The Board expressed support for pursuing the combined-team opportunity with Athens.

F. Action Items — Brad, Nandi, and Mike

1. Communicate with 14U house families regarding the potential opportunity.
2. Determine how many Newark players are interested in participating.
3. Communicate with Athens regarding Newark's interest.
4. Work with Athens to finalize the details of the arrangement.

VI. Welcome Back and Marketing Updates — Nandi

A. Welcome Back Day

1. An open forum with coaches, the Board, and Hockey Director Julian will be held during the Welcome Back event this weekend.

2. Brad will introduce Julian and the Board, review Board standards, and provide an overview of current numbers before opening the forum for questions and answers.
3. Julian will conduct an on-ice practice involving 14U and JV players.
4. The ice will then be opened to all players. Hockey equipment will be required.

B. Communication

1. NIHA needs a Welcome Back message to be distributed to families.
Action Item: Brad will prepare the message.
2. The Board would like to see regular communication from Julian so that NIHA families become familiar with him and his role as Hockey Director.
3. The Board would like photographs for use on social media.

C. Volunteer Recruitment

1. Nandi requested approximately five minutes with each team during its first team meeting to recruit volunteers.
2. The Board discussed ways to encourage volunteer participation.
3. One proposal was to purchase NIHA "swag" for volunteers who reach a designated volunteer-hour threshold, such as 10 hours.
4. The Board also revisited the idea of offering a significant discount on holiday camps to players whose parents meet the volunteer-hour threshold.
5. **Action Item-Board-determine** a definitive strategy to recruit volunteers

VII. Hockey Director Updates — Julian

- A. The Varsity team will participate in a preseason tournament this weekend.
- B. The dryland program has been successful and will continue to be incorporated into practices throughout the season.
- C. The Board discussed the possibility of hosting a Saturday night game.
 1. The idea cannot be facilitated at this time because of scheduling and time constraints.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Brad moved to adjourn the meeting.
- B. Mike seconded the motion.

- C. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Action Items Summary

1. **Summer:** Confirm with the rink whether parent volunteers may operate the Thursday Night Lights system.
2. **Brad:** Investigate hiring an external security service for the November 21 High School Tailgate.
3. **Brad, Nandi, and Mike:** Communicate with 14U families regarding the potential combined team with Athens.
4. **Brad, Nandi, and Mike:** Determine the number of Newark 14U players interested in participating.
5. **Brad, Nandi, and Mike:** Communicate with Athens and work out the details of the combined-team arrangement.
6. **Brad:** Prepare and distribute an NIHA Welcome Back message.
7. **Nandi/Team Leadership:** Coordinate opportunities for volunteer recruitment at first team meetings.