



## NIHA May 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: May 19, 2026

Time: 6:30-7:52 p.m.

Location: LGRIA Conference Room

Members Present: Brad, Mike, Summer, Andy, Ed, Barry, Nandi, Miranda, Carla, Rick

Non-Members Present: Kristan, John, Julian, David

1. **Call to Order**- 6:30 p.m. Call to Order (Brad)
2. **Rink items** – (Kristan and John)
  - a. The rink is currently closed for maintenance and is scheduled to reopen on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Upcoming summer events include:
    - i. Christian Hockey Camp-early July
    - ii. Figure Skating Camp-early August
    - iii. Pond Hockey-beginning in June
  - c. Regular scheduling will resume after summer camps in mid-August
  - d. The 2027 rink overhaul continues to progress.
    - i. Tentative shutdown date: May 17, 2027
    - ii. Tentative reopening: Late August 2027
    - iii. Additional funding is still pending and may impact project scope and timeline
    - iv. Dennison has not changed its practice schedule. Game times have changed but will not be before 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays
  - e. The rink overhaul will include new boards and players benches and coaches walks.
  - f. The rink has started preparing space for project staging.
    - i. Dasher boards currently stored outside need to be moved or sold.
      1. ACTION ITEM: Shed managers will coordinate with John regarding storage unless the board decides otherwise
    - ii. Hockey equipment on the bench side of the rink will be organized by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
      1. ACTION ITEM: Shed managers need to coordinate with John to help organize equipment
      2. Brad stated the red pads can be discarded.
  - g. John is seeking sponsorships for under-ice advertising

- i. Board members should direct sponsorship leads to John

### **3. Approval of April Minutes**

- a. Brad remarked how great the April minutes were and motioned for approval.  
Mike Seconds.
- b. Nandi suggests they are great as well *but* maybe the minutes should include a dedicated Action Items section.
- c. Minutes approved unanimously.

### **4. Treasurer Report (Ed)**

- a. Financial Overview:
  - i. Organization finances are currently on par
  - ii. Approximately \$6,000 was refunded to us from HTP.
  - iii. NIHA finished approximately \$30,000 ahead for the fiscal year.
  - iv. Travel player participation increased from 83 to 103 this past year
  - v. Projected revenue increase from 25/26 approximately \$180,000 to \$240,000
- b. Budget Discussion for 26/27 fiscal year.
  - i. Anticipated New Expenses:
    - 1. Hockey Director Fee: \$20,000
    - 2. Increased ice costs: \$15,000
    - 3. Tournament expenses: \$18,000 (some tournament fees were donated last season)
  - ii. Discussion: use of the current surplus.
    - 1. Maintain current player fees despite rising costs
    - 2. Potentially reduce player costs if finances remain strong
    - 3. Fund alternate/third jerseys for teams.
    - 4. Coaching and development
      - a. Brad introduces David Deal as a hockey consultant while Jeff reduces involvement.
      - b. The board expressed unanimous support for hiring a dedicated goalie coach
      - c. Additional staffing ideas discussed included:
        - i. Fitness coach (Travis Glosser)
        - ii. Videographer/video coach
    - iii. Summer notes correction to Treasurer report: True cost to NIHA for the banquet was approximately \$5,000 after sponsorships and donations.
- c. Budget Approval was postponed until the next meeting pending revisions from Ed.

### **5. Hockey Director Update (Julian)**

- a. Summer Tournaments
  - i. Julian proposed participation in 2-3 summer tournaments for the Varsity/JV team
  - ii. Earliest tournament availability is the weekend of June 12
  - iii. Benefits discussed included:
    - 1. Team camaraderie

- 2. Player evaluation
- 3. Team skill assessment
- iv. The board approved moving forward with tournament participation.
- b. Additional Tournament Planning
  - i. Ed noted there is room for one additional tournament on the schedule.
  - ii. Julian requested an early season tournament and will coordinate with Ed about details
- c. Julian will return to town full-time beginning in August
- d. ACTION ITEMS:
  - i. Identify another Varsity/JV tournament opportunity
  - ii. Follow up with Travis Glosser regarding fitness coaching and pricing
  - iii. Nandi and Julian will coordinate a family meet and greet event

## 6. President's Updates (Brad)

- a. Board Appreciation: Brad thanked board members for their continued work and dedication
- b. Summer banquet 2027
  - i. Brad is comfortable with the idea of a banquet in 2027
  - ii. Summer will lead the organizing committee
- c. Newark Invitational: Summer will also lead the Newark Invitational committee
- d. Newark Invitational discussion:
  - i. Concerns were raised that tournament planning may be too large for one person
  - ii. Adult tournament options were considered impractical
  - iii. The possibility of hiring a tournament management company was discussed
  - iv. ACTION ITEM: Research costs associated with using tournament management company.
- e. Jerseys and Registration
  - i. Pure Hockey Partnership: Brad requested approval to proceed with jersey ordering through Pure Hockey
    - 1. Benefits discussed:
      - a. Convenient Location
      - b. Competitive Pricing
      - c. Additional customization options
      - d. Improved sizing support
      - e. Reversible practice jerseys
      - f. ACTION ITEM: Brad and Miranda will coordinate with Pure Hockey regarding registration lists
    - 2. House Registration:
      - a. The board discussed opening house league registration immediately to ensure jerseys arrive before the season begins
      - b. Consensus supported launching registration as soon as possible

- c. The board also discussed promoting the benefits of BTHL participation for house leagues
    - d. Concern was raised regarding sufficient participation for a 14u house team due to increased travel participation
  - 3. 8U Select Team
    - a. Coaches must be secured before registration opens
    - b. Ice time needed for tryouts
  - 4. Vote
    - a. Brad motioned to proceed with Pure Hockey
    - b. Approved unanimously
    - c. ACTION ITEM: Launch house league registration
    - d. ACTION ITEM: Communicate registration information to players and families
  - 5. Goalie Coach Discussion
    - a. Julian suggested exploring goalie coaches from Dennison
    - b. Brad will send Julian additional contact information
  - 6. Mastodon Discussion:
    - a. Concerns raised:
      - i. Mastodon was discussed as a growing competitor, particularly at the 8u level
      - ii. Players are reportedly attracted to
        - 1. Additional Clinics
        - 2. Increased Ice Time
    - b. Proposed Strategies:
      - i. Promote NIHA advantages, full ice and organizational structure
      - ii. Launch house registration immediately
      - iii. Increase targeted social media advertising
    - c. ACTION ITEM: Continue discussion and develop a more detailed response strategy
  - 7. Mission Statement/Slogan
    - a. Proposed Slogan for 26/27 "Together we are Generals"
- 7. Marketing Updates (Nandi)**
  - a. Committees
    - i. Nandi would like to launch committee sign ups
    - ii. Clarification is needed regarding volunteer incentives and expectations.
    - iii. ACTION ITEM: Further define committee volunteer incentives
  - b. Social media: Nandi requested guidance on social media priorities
  - c. Website Updates: New board members need to submit bios for the website
  - d. Women's Hockey: Brad supports allowing the rink to manage the women's hockey league
- 8. Additional Business**
  - a. Treasurer's Report Approval
    - i. Motion by Ed

- ii. Approved Unanimously
  - b. Website Pricing: Barry noted the prices on the website are outdated.
    - i. ACTION ITEM: Update pricing on the website
- 9. Adjournment**
- a. Motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.
  - b. Approved unanimously

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Shed managers will coordinate with John regarding storage unless the board decides otherwise (Tyler/Adam)
2. Shed managers need to coordinate with John to help organize equipment (Tyler/Adam)
3. Identify another Varsity/JV tournament opportunity (Julian/Ed)
4. Follow up with Travis Glosser regarding fitness coaching and pricing (Brad)
5. Nandi and Julian will coordinate a family meet and greet event (Nandi/Julian)
6. Research costs associated with using tournament management company. (Summer/Miranda)
7. Brad and Miranda will coordinate with Pure Hockey regarding registration lists (Brad/Miranda)
8. Launch house league registration (Miranda/Mike)
9. Communicate registration information to players and families (Mike/Nandi)
10. Continue discussion and develop a more detailed response strategy (Board)
11. Further define committee volunteer incentives (Brad/Nandi)
12. Update pricing on the website (Mike)