NIHA September 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: September 15, 2026
Time: 6:30–7:47 PM
Location: LGRIA Conference Room

Members Present: Brad, Mike, Adam, Andy, Barry, Miranda, Nandi, Rick
Non-Members Present: Kristan, Kobe, Julian

1. **Call to Order**
    a. The meeting was called to order at 6:29 PM by Brad.
    b. It is noted that the agenda distributed by the secretary was incorrectly dated.
2. **Rink Items — Kristan**
    a. CBJ Learn Play
        i. Participation in the CBJ Learn to Play program has increased from the rink run program from 10-15 participants to approximately 25.
        ii. CBJ Learn to Play (LTP) would like NIHA's input after approximately 6-8 weeks of the program to determine whether any players are ready to transition into NIHA.
        iii. CBJ LTP has requested five local staff members to assist on ice during the program and they are currently being staffed by LGRIA staff but the rink is asking if any NIHA coaches would like to assist.
            1. Adult staff would be paid positions
            2. Minor coaches would participate as volunteers
            3. The board discussed the possibility of NIHA providing compensation for younger coaches
    b. Recruitment and Player Tracking
        i. The board discussed how NIHA can track LTP participants in order to recruit them into the NIHA program.
        ii. Kristan will ask CBJ about the possibility of tracking these players and report back
        iii. Kristan noted that most LTP participants are local, including a Granville family that originally registered for the Easton program but switched to Newark after learning about the local CBJ offering.
    c. Get Out and Play
        i. CBJ is looking to host another Get Out and Play event in late November or early December, depending upon available ice time.
    d. Volunteers

i. The board discussed the difficulty of recruiting volunteers for the 8U and minor programs.
ii. Possible incentives were discussed, including CBJ tickets
1. **ACTION ITEM**: Brad will discuss with CBJ contact

e. Locker Rooms
i. Kristan asked NIHA to remind its teams to be respectful in the locker rooms. The rink recently experienced an incident involving a visiting team and would like to remain proactive.
ii. Locker Room C may occasionally be unavailable to coaches due to rink programming. Coaches should verify that the room is not in use before utilizing it.
iii. **Action Item**-(**Coaches on the Board**)-Communicate to other coaches the restrictions on locker room C

f. Championship Banners
i. Brad asked about hanging last year's championship banners
ii. Kristan assured the board that the banners will be hung.

3. Treasurer's Report - Barry

a. Finances are on track as funds continue to come in.
b. Barry is working to obtain details regarding the organization's CD.
c. The golf outing was a financial success, generating approximately $5,000 in profit.
d. NIHA is still waiting for a refund from BTHL. The organization will be given additional time before Nandi and/or Brad follows up.
e. **Action Item (Brad/Nandi)-** Follow up with BTHL
f. There are currently no unforeseen expenses
g. Scholarship fund
i. Mike provided an update regarding scholarship requests.
ii. Barry reported that the budget currently allocates $5,000 to the scholarship fund.
iii. The scholarship committee will bring requests before the board for approval. Approved scholarships will be reflected through Crossbar payments.
iv. The board discussed increasing awareness of the scholarship program.
v. The board agreed to make a greater advertising effort next year around tryouts and to remind current families about the opportunity through social media and email next week, (Deadline for the scholarship applications is September 30th.)

h. Video Equipment
i. Brad asked whether the budget could accommodate video equipment for training purposes.
ii. Kobe noted that cameras have already been purchased, including one purchased by the varsity team in previous years.
iii. Use of the cameras would require a subscription service costing approximately $150.

iv. Brad nominated Kobe to research the cost and options for the subscription service. None opposed.
v. **Action Item (Kobe)**- Research the subscription service and present his findings to the board.

i. Varsity Game Transportation
i. The board discussed the possibility of providing shuttle service to increase fan attendance at varsity games.
ii. Liability and feasibility concerns were discussed regarding NIHA transporting minors to games.
iii. Kobe noted that he "knows about a bus"
iv. Issue tabled at this time.

j. Budget
i. Barry reminded the board that the season is still in its early stages and encouraged the organization to remain conservative regarding additional expenditures due the possibility of unforeseen expenses.

4. Hockey Director Update -Julian

a. Coaches Practice
i. Julian hosted a coaches' skate/practice/meeting on September 13.
ii. Feedback from the event has been positive and Julian would like to make it a regular occurrence.
1. The board is in agreement
iii. Teams are continuing to come together despite conflicts with fall sports
iv. Julian reported that team practices have been going well and he is pleased with what he sees

b. Supporting Coaches and Hockey Director
i. Rick asked how the Board could better support Julian
ii. Julian would like the board to encourage coaches to meet more frequently as a group.
iii. Julian has explored bringing in guest speakers to speak with teams and the organization. The board supports Julian in the endeavor.
iv. Brad would like to meet regularly with Julian outside of board meetings to discuss potential issues or concerns as well as the direction of the program.
v. Nandi would like to promote the successes of Julian and the hockey program and asked Julian to provide talking points that can be used for marketing.
vi. Kobe noted that the coaches' skate/practice/meeting could be a useful way to recruit potential local coaches who may be hesitant to commit to coaching.

c. Coach Compensation
i. The board and hockey director discussed the possibility of providing monetary compensation to coaches in the future, particularly if the organization remains financially healthy.

ii. Kobe suggested that eliminating adult league dues for coaches could be another way to provide compensation.
iii. The board also discussed potentially discounting the registration fees of coaches' athletes.
iv. The discussion will continue as the board gains a better understanding of the season's overall financial position.

d. Additional Ice Time
i. The board discussed how to best utilize additional ice time that NIHA has purchased.
ii. Goalie specific practices were discussed as one possible use.

5. Fundraising Update-Rick

a. Rick will send his fundraising reports to the board via Slack
b. Rick emphasized that NIHA does not need to "earn and burn" funds. Long-term organizational success and stability require financial discipline, transparency, planning and maintaining adequate cash reserves.
c. Rick expressed support for compensating coaches
d. CBJ 50/50 Night
i. NIHA's CBJ 50/50 night is scheduled for October 9, 2026, which is also the Generals varsity home opener.
ii. Volunteers are needed.
iii. NIHA will receive 25% of the 50/50 proceeds
1. Kobe noted that this has brought in around $3,000 in the past
iv. Nandi asked whether the event could be moved to October 17, to coincide with NIHA Night at the Blue Jackets.
v. **Action Item-**Rick will ask whether the date can be moved.
e. Raisin Canes Promotion
i. Raisin Caines is offering NIHA a promotion on October 22. Fifteen percent of sales using NIHA's promotional code will be donated to NIHA
ii. **Action Item (Rick/Nandi)**-Notify Generals community of this event.
f. Feet Fleet
i. Feet Fleet is willing to work with NIHA on skate insoles, with 20% of profits going to NIHA.
ii. **Action Item-Rick** will coordinate with Summer regarding this opportunity.
g. The Lot
i. The Lot would like to host another Generals Night and/or Pucks & Pints event, with a percentage of sales benefitting NIHA.
ii. **Action Item (Rick)**-Coordinate with the Lot regarding potential dates
h. Additional Fundraising
i. Rick asked board members to inform him of other potential fundraising opportunities or to reach out to their own contacts.
i. Pizza Roller Promotion
i. Brad discussed the Pizza Roller promotion and noted that it was particularly popular because proceeds went directly to individual players rather than the organization.

ii. Brad also noted that organizing the promotion requires significant effort.
iii. Nandi agreed, noting that the board is already spread thin and currently lacks the manpower to organize the promotion.
iv. Miranda suggested forming a committee to run the promotion
    1. The board expressed support for this idea.
    2. **Action Item-Board** discussion is needed to decide how to form this committee

6. Marketing Update-Nandi

a. Volunteer Point System
    i. Nandi thanked Summer for her assistance in developing a volunteer point-system proposal
    ii. The proposal would award approximately one volunteer point for each hour of service, with volunteer hours tracked through Crossbar.
    iii. Volunteers who reach 25 points would receive a T-shirt. Additional benchmarks and rewards are yet to be determined.
    iv. The board expressed support for the proposal.
    v. The possibility of using Pure Hockey points to purchase T-shirts was discussed.
    vi. Brad noted that Pure Hockey points can only be used for non-Generals gear, though they could potentially be used toward non-customized gear that could then be embroidered/printed elsewhere.
    vii. Miranda noted that some Generals families operate a printing business and may be willing to assist
    viii. **Action Item-Miranda** will inquire about the possibility and report back
    ix. **Action Item-Nandi** will finalize the details of the volunteer point system and roll it out during the week.
b. Annual Theme
    i. The board discussed the annual mission theme and unanimously supports “Together We Are Generals.”
    ii. **Action Item (Nandi**) will determine who was previously used to produce the organization’s pins and report back
c. Varsity Opening Night
    i. The board discussed ways to make the varsity opening night special and memorable.
    ii. Additional help and volunteers will be needed
    iii. Barry suggested a competition between schools in which the school with the highest attendance would receive some type of recognition or reward.

7. Adjournment
    a. Brad Moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Items Summary
    a. **Brad:** Discuss volunteer incentives for 8U/minor programs with CBJ contact.

b. **Coaches on the Board:** Communicate to other coaches the restrictions on Locker Room C.
c. **Brad/Nandi:** Follow up with BTHL regarding the refund.
d. **Kobe:** Research subscription service costs and options for training video equipment and present findings to the board.
e. **Rick:** Ask whether the CBJ 50/50 Night date can be moved to October 17.
f. **Rick/Nandi:** Notify the Generals community about the Raising Cane's promotion on October 22.
g. **Rick:** Coordinate with Summer regarding the Feet Fleet skate insole opportunity.
h. **Rick/Board:** Coordinate with The Lot regarding potential dates for Generals Night / Pucks & Pints event.
i. **Board:** Discuss how to form a committee to run the Pizza Roller promotion.
j. **Miranda:** Inquire with Generals families operating a printing business regarding assistance with volunteer T-shirts.
k. **Nandi:** Finalize details of the volunteer point system and roll it out during the week.
l. **Nandi:** Determine who was previously used to produce organization pins and report back.