

**International Falls Recreation Hockey Board Meeting
Dry Land Facility
August 17, 2026**

Call to order: Time not stated in transcript.

Present at call to order: Leif Larsen, Tawna Hilfer, Robb Pastor, Ryan Rudd, Adam Claybundy.

Arrived after call to order: Derek Bilben.

Absent: Josh Glashauckas, Jared Baldwin, Jerad Kostiuik.

Others in attendance: Tony Palm, David Eddy, and Paul Amro (arrived after call to order).

I. Gambling Report:

June / Fiscal Year-End Report: Tony presented the June year-end gambling report. Gross receipts for the month were reported at \$311,283. Year over year, receipts were up approximately \$14,169. Pull-tab and electronic activity were both strong, providing a positive finish to the fiscal year.

July Report: The July gambling report was not yet complete. Tony is reconciling two bank accounts and working through credits related to returned games and other year-end adjustments. The report is due August 19 and will be completed by the filing deadline. Tony also noted that the final year-end tax return remains to be completed after he meets with Meghan.

Motion to accept the June / fiscal year-end Gambling Report: made by Robb. The second was not clearly identifiable in the transcript. Motion passed.

New Gambling Site: Tony reported that Rec Hockey is expected to begin gambling operations at the bowling alley on September 11, pending completion of the city resolution, state approval, and the required release paperwork from the previous organization. The site operates six pull-tab boxes and plans to offer linked bingo. The board discussed opportunities to cross-promote tournaments, youth events, and gift certificates with the bowling alley.

Annual Raffle: The board began planning the annual raffle. The prior prize structure of \$10,000 for first prize, \$3,000 for second, and \$1,000 for third was reviewed along with donated and purchased secondary prizes. Members discussed whether to keep the same mix or substitute an ice-fishing-related prize for one of the traditional prizes. The drawing will continue to be held on Sunday of the Old Timers Tournament, with 2:00 p.m. favored as the drawing time. Tony will obtain board input by email and proceed with ticket ordering once the prize structure is finalized. Families will again be asked to assist with raffle ticket sales.

II. Treasurer's Report:

No Treasurer's Report was presented because Jared Baldwin was not in attendance.

III. Director of Hockey Operations Report:

Forecheck Hockey Clinic: David reported that Max Hayes / Forecheck Hockey has availability for October 14 or a date in November. October 14 is the association's traditional clinic date, and the board supported moving forward with that option, subject to final confirmation.

Leadership Development: David is working with Kevin Hartzell on a youth leadership program for late August or early September, potentially during one of the Rec Hockey development days. David will continue coordinating the date and format.

Mini-Mite / Mite Season Structure: The board revisited starting Mini-Mites two to four weeks later than older groups. October learn-to-skate sessions were discussed for new skaters, with the regular Mini-Mite season beginning later. For Mites, the board favored providing more consistent game opportunities, with Saturday mornings discussed as the preferred time when tournament schedules allow.

Practice Length and Ice Utilization: David recommended longer practice blocks for older teams, particularly Bantams, Peewees, and 12U, using 75- to 90-minute sessions when possible. The board supported combining lower-number teams for skill work while still providing some team-specific practice time. David will continue refining the master ice schedule.

Goalie Development: The board supported continuing a recurring Monday goalie clinic, preferably at Bronco Arena. The intent is for goalies to attend the goalie session in place of portions of their regular Monday team skill work so they are not expected to complete both. David will confirm final arrangements and keep the Monday time protected if available.

Coaching Support: David discussed using more structured coach support during the season, including short pre-practice teaching segments, one-on-one coach check-ins, and periodic "hot stove" style coaching sessions. The goal is to provide coaches with drills, teaching points, and age-appropriate development guidance throughout the season.

IV. Old Business:

A. Policy Review / Annual Director Review: The board scheduled a combined work session for Monday, September 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to complete the policy review and the annual review of the Director of Hockey Operations. Robb will prepare a simple evaluation tool for the board and a corresponding form for David to provide feedback to the board.

B. Concessions Plan: Tabled until October.

C. Equipment / Building Purchases and Fiscal Year-End Spending: Discussion was deferred because the Treasurer was not present. The board briefly referenced potential dryland training equipment and facility needs but took no formal action.

D. Kerry Park / City Fee and Long-Term Arena Management: The board discussed recent city conversations regarding Kerry Park. The consensus was that Rec Hockey is not interested in submitting a proposal to take over long-term arena management at this time. The board will wait for the city to initiate any further meeting rather than proactively pursuing the issue. No formal action was taken.

E. Tournament Director / Tournament Manager Responsibilities: The board agreed to defer detailed role clarification until teams and team managers are finalized closer to the season.

F. Coach and Team Manager Liaison Responsibilities: Deferred until team assignments and managers are in place.

G. Minnesota Wild Grant / Mini-Mite Registration Fees: No action was taken because Josh was not present and the board is still awaiting clarification on how the grant funds may be applied. Once direction is confirmed, Crossbar registration adjustments can be made.

H. Registration Update: The association had 85 players registered at the time of the meeting, significantly ahead of the same point last year. The board also reviewed tournament registrations, which are building across multiple levels. September 30 remains the primary registration target for planning purposes, although later registrations may still be accepted when appropriate.

I. Goalie Clinic – Brady Hjelle: The board reaffirmed the preference for a Monday evening clinic at Bronco Arena. David will confirm the recurring arrangement and coordinate shooters as needed.

J. Leadership Webinar / Session – Kevin Hartzell: David will continue working with Kevin Hartzell to finalize timing and format for the leadership session.

V. New Business:

A. Coaching Staff Meeting: A coaching staff meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2026, shortly before the start of regular-season ice.

B. Parent Meeting / Raffle Ticket Pickup: The board scheduled Wednesday, September 23, 2026, for raffle ticket pickup and parent orientation. The intent is to make the orientation especially useful for new families while allowing returning families to pick up raffle materials without sitting through repeated information. A location will be confirmed, with Backus discussed as an alternative because of ongoing school construction.

C. 12U / Peewee A Coaching Update: David reported continued outreach for the 12U girls and Peewee A coaching positions. Hayley Orange has been identified as a possible resource for the girls program. Peewee A still needs a head coach, although several people have expressed willingness to assist. The board supported another public outreach for interested coaches so the process remains open and transparent. David will continue contacting potential candidates and will provide additional support to whichever staff is selected.

D. Scheduling / Tournament Sanctioning: Shauna was unable to attend. The board discussed the requirement that tournament formats be submitted through the district and state sanctioning process before they are promoted through Minnesota Hockey. Shauna had emailed board members with questions regarding the current process. A direct phone conversation was recommended to clarify the remaining requirements.

E. USA Hockey Compliance: Board members and coaches were reminded to complete USA Hockey registration, SafeSport requirements, and other required preseason certifications as September approaches.

VI. Open Discussion:

Girls Program Numbers / Player Movement: The board held an extended discussion regarding 10U and 12U girls numbers, possible movement between youth levels and the high school program, and goalie placement. The group emphasized that roster decisions should be based on final registration numbers, player development, team viability, and established petition processes rather than informal parent requests. Coaches and the Director of Hockey Operations will bring specific recommendations to the board when needed. No player movement was approved at this meeting.

Girls Hockey Recruitment: The board discussed the need for more active girls hockey recruitment, including school outreach, flyers, first-year cost messaging, equipment availability, and promotion of long-term opportunities in girls hockey. Outreach to nearby communities and schools was also discussed where participation rules allow. No formal action was taken.

Season Planning: The board noted that player counts and team configurations remain fluid in August and should become clearer as the September registration deadline approaches. Members were encouraged to continue sharing potential coaching, recruiting, and roster solutions as information develops.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 23, 2026, following the parent orientation / raffle ticket pickup. The exact start time will depend on the length of the parent session.