MEETING MINUTES

AHAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

Date:	October 5, 2026,
Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting called to order by:	Surrette

IN ATTENDANCE

AHAI Board of Directors: Bolger, Dunne, Surrette, Rancourt, Johnson, Krausfeldt, Weinberg, Naveja, Jauch, Tuminaro, McGing, Veller, Locallo, Allord, Apter, Cavallini, Crowley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved September 2026 meeting minutes

Treasure Report

The Board received a financial update indicating a strong financial position. The Finance Committee reported on AHAI's investments and plans to expand its review to include banking practices, operating reserves and financial projections for future Board-approved initiatives.

Registrar report

The Board reviewed team and player registration trends, including changes in adult and women's participation. Monthly reporting and outreach to players who have not returned were discussed to better understand retention.

NEW BUSINESS

Goaltending Development

The Board supported moving forward with the AHAI Goaltending Development Program to recruit, develop and retain goalies and support local clubs. Initial plans include two high school goalie clinics in November and December, with regional expansion under consideration. AHAI will coordinate program administration, communications and oversight. Clinic details will be announced when finalized.

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Growth and retention:

The Board received an update on the October 3 Try Hockey for Free event, conducted in partnership with the Chicago Blackhawks and host sites across Illinois. The event drew 1,625 registrations. Attendance results and participant feedback are being gathered, with follow-up focused on connecting families to local hockey programs.

The Growth and Retention Committee continues outreach to approximately 40 youth hockey organizations to identify successful practices, participation barriers and resources clubs need. A statewide equipment exchange or sale is being explored as a possible spring project.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **High School Committee Meeting: :**
  - State tournament ice dates have been secured. The Board discussed more descriptive names for tournament divisions and a possible minimum age requirement for high school participation. The High School and Girls High School Committees will develop an eligibility proposal for further consideration.
- **Tier 3**
  - Tier III is developing proposed revisions to goalie rules and coordinating with Tier II and league leadership. The Board discussed the impact of the two-goaltender roster requirement in light of goalie shortages. Proposed changes remain under review.

- **Tier II and Tier III**

  Committee reports addressed club recertification, roster support, interstate transfers and review of player movement rules. Tier II continues to gather feedback on the import rule; its next presidents meeting is scheduled for October 26 at The Edge in Bensenville.

- **IT**
  - Work continues on the member portal, committee access, communications and centralized collection of committee reports.
- **Player Safety and Member Support**

  The Suspension and Review Committee provided an aggregate report on disciplinary incidents through September 30. The Board discussed access to mental health resources for program administrators and coaches, cardiac screening awareness, and updating insurance information for members. Concerns regarding rink conditions and follow-up with facility operators were also discussed.

Next meeting

Tuesday November 3, 6:30PM Zoom

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00PM and approved