Meeting notes

BTHL Supplemental Meeting

7/19/2026 8PM via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Zach Boyko, BTHL, CAHA
Kurtis Lindemann, MidAm
Megan Sparks, Cyclones
Jamie Williamson, Dayton Stealth
Allison Kelley, Athens Youth Hockey
Mike Eckhardt
Ashley Everly, Owensboro
Chris Lipset, Lexington
Autumn Stepanek, Newark Generals
Steve Long, Columbus Flames
Michael Jones, South Indy Sharks
Sarah Powers. Bloomington Blades
Neal Hoover, Louisville Ice Cardinals
Jeff Milano, Dayton Stealth
Jessica Absher
Josh Frider, IHWC
Derek Edwarson, IYHQ Jr. Fuel
Oliver Wenck, IYHA Jr Fuel]
Crystal Estes, NKY
Cory Ward

Leadership transition

- Zachary announced that Scriven resigned as president, and Zachary will temporarily step into the president role as vice president.

Leadership elections

- Nate Hawley was elected as secretary for the BTHL, representing the Columbus Flames, and will serve until the next annual meeting.
- Steven Budner was elected as treasurer for the BTHL after a formal nomination and vote.

- Zachary accepted the nomination for president, and participants discussed the importance of leadership and the process for filling executive roles.
- Zachary was elected as president after a unanimous vote and accepted the role
- Nate was nominated and unanimously elected as vice president, vacating the secretary position
- Autumn was nominated and unanimously elected as secretary following Nate's move to vice president

Bylaws and governance

- Kurtis and Zachary noted that the term lengths for executive roles are not defined in the charter and suggested addressing this in a future meeting.

Commissioner appointments

- Corey confirmed their willingness to serve as 12U commissioner after being approached by Zachary
- Steve agreed to continue as 14U commissioner for another year, pending board approval
- Steve was unanimously re-elected as 14U commissioner after a formal vote
- Corey was nominated and unanimously approved as one of the 12U commissioners
- Autumn was nominated and unanimously approved as the second 12U commissioner, joining Corey in the role
- Jamie announced their intention to step back from the 8U Commissioner role and offered to remain as co-commissioner in the short term

Governance process

- Sarah proposed that commissioner appointments be approved by the board, ideally on an annual basis
- Agreed to communicate meeting dates at least five days in advance to all members, as required by bylaws (Zachary)

League operations

- Participants discussed the challenges of organizing 8U Jamborees, including logistics and varying participation levels among organizations
- Sarah shared that the Bloomington Blades organization supports the Buckeye 8U League model and wants to see more organizations participate
- Jamie explained that the 8U Commissioner primarily facilitates scheduling and information sharing among 8U teams, given the lack of rankings and difficulty finding opponents
- Jamie explained that the 8U section functioned as a notice board and contact repository, with weekly emails sent to update teams about available game slots.

Commissioner responsibilities

- Steve described the commissioner role as organizing the seating tournament, compiling team data, forming divisions, monitoring the website, handling penalties, and overseeing the final tournament.
- Autumn confirmed that the commissioner is the main contact for coaches in their division and emphasized frequent communication with teams.

League administration

- Kurtis reported that they updated positions on the website and identified the need to resolve email account access for board members this week.
- Kurtis confirmed that registration for the upcoming season is ready to launch, pending final feedback on the registration form and confirmation of payment processing with the treasurer.
- The group unanimously approved maintaining the registration fee at $1,650 per team for the upcoming season after a formal motion and vote.
- Zachary proposed withholding registration until the results of the updated financial model are available
- Kurtis suggested setting up registration for the end-of-season tournament now, with payment details to be finalized before the season starts.
- Participants discussed the impact of including trophies and awards on team fees and clarified that previous surpluses were due to not purchasing these items last year.

Tournament planning

- Kurtis outlined the initial plan for the upcoming seating tournament, including mapping available ice, considering alternate sites, and preparing a rough budget based on ice and official costs.
- Kurtis presented a draft budget for the seating tournament, including estimated costs for ice, referees, game sheets, and volunteer refreshments, and confirmed that current ice bookings are sufficient if team numbers remain stable.
- Kurtis offered to assist with reserving playoff and future seeding tournament ice in advance to avoid last-minute issues.
- Participants discussed increasing the team fee to $1,800 to cover rising ice and referee costs and maintain a surplus
- Kurtis confirmed that referee fees and end-of-season trophies are not yet included in the current cost estimates and need further clarification
- Confirm that ice bookings for the tournament at Miami are completed and dates are locked (Zachary, Kurtis)

League registration

- Discussed the rationale for an all-or-nothing fee structure to prevent teams from dropping out after the seating tournament (Steve)
- Discussed opening league registration for a couple of weeks in August, with flexibility to extend until the end of August based on team needs (Zachary, Nate, Mike)

League finances

- Participants debated whether to maintain current team fees due to the league's surplus or adjust fees after the upcoming season (Corey, Zachary)
- Participants discussed the importance of presenting clear, itemized costs to league organizations to rebuild trust and credibility.
- Derek explained that a moderate increase in league fees would have a minimal impact on team budgets and could be managed by organizations.