



Meeting Minutes

SASA BOD Meeting

January 19, 2026 6:00 PM

NCSS – Mable Room

Attendees – *In-person* – Kevin Smith, Chelsea Forsyth, Andrew Norris, David Blatchly, Mike Irwin, Colin Branon, Tom Waltz, Emily Norris, Joe Montagne, Adam Routhier, Chris Heald, Melissa Viens. *Virtually*: None

Absent – Danielle Snelling, Nate Liese, Dan Ellis, Dustin Degree

Guests – *In-person* Jeremy Glerum, JP Routhier, Jason Booth – *Virtually*: Mike Tuttle, Marnie Carlton, Chrystie Jean, Katie Leclerc, Sarah (?), Jenna Tatro, Ed & Justine White.

Meeting called to order 6:00 PM.

1. Meeting minutes – Motion to approve December minutes by Emily, 2nd by Joe.
Unanimous – motion carries.
2. Public Comment – question pertaining to what teams get practices and opportunities to develop skills. There is no formal protocol for this. We attempt to get 2 practices a week for each team. Some teams get 1/week and a dryland. Ice times are equitable. Younger ages are on ice earlier, older teams go on later. T2 teams are getting more ice overall as the fee structure is higher for T2 teams. 8U teams and ice touches are skewed because 72 kids are on ice at once. All other age groups are on average 36 kids in total. Friday Night Lights does eat up 3-sheets of ice on Friday night that were otherwise practices. Perhaps moving the Friday Night Lights to Saturday could help. Could 50-minute practices have a meaningful impact and add a practice? Classroom and chalk talk are also impactful, which can be effective also. If we could create consistency in 1 dryland/chalk-talk for each team and set it on each teams schedule that would be helpful. Morning skates have been well run and great for the kids. In terms of numbers – we plan to have a cut-off this

year. A suggestion to communicate better around what is being done is being suggested.

3. Bylaws – revised Bylaws were distributed to everyone for review. Emily did provide the side-by-side comparison. Dustin did ask for a track changes, which is where Emily's print off came from. New Bylaws have been reviewed, discussed and advised upon by Megan Manahan Bliss. Documents are located in Teams Channel under Bylaws. Mike, Jason and David are available for questions, comments, etc. over the course of the next 21 days – between now and February meeting. Clarity on contentious topics is appreciated. Questions around the Executive Committee and voting powers as opposed to Directors – what are the expectations for when a Director is asked a question and doesn't know the answer. What decisions are being made by the Executive Board members and how are other Directors informed of those decisions...keeping people in the know. Still have the ability to approve with amended changes. Understanding and communicating the organization structure and the decision-making abilities/structure of Executive Board, Committees, etc. Clarify the powers of the Executive Committee & members may be very helpful at eliminating the 'good ol boys' network perception. Colin will notify membership tomorrow (1/20) and direct questions or David and Mike's SASA email.

4. Head Coach – Palace reached out last week and is looking for us to commit to ice now for next year. Jr. Cats get Mon-Wed, Essex gets Thursday, we get Friday. CSB wants the Friday ice. Tommy is suggesting we take advantage of this ice quickly to not lose this.

Coaching feedback was beneficial last year. We should look to do this again this year and get started by March. Same for coaching applications. Chelsea is offering to assist with the evaluations for coaches as she worked on the Excel spreadsheet.

Evaluations are coming. Process details will be presented at February meeting.

State tournament binder is something Tommy is going to review this with all coaches. Game Sheet makes this much easier.

5. State Rep – met last week with State Rep committee. 2026 playdown details have been shared. Schedule is being built out and needs approval from VSAHA. SASA is hosting playdowns 02/13 – 02/15 Youth 14 T3, 02/21 – 02/22 10U. Structure and details forthcoming from the State this week.

A question came up about team placement as 12U T2 is seeded last because so many games are not in GameSheet and we've beaten those higher ranked teams. JP will research if this division is a random draw or seeded. More information to come.

Rules committee asked us in November to send discipline policy for review to ensure compliance with USA Hockey 10. SASA is 1 of 2 organizations statewide that has not completed this.

State will be providing Penalty Pulse which will provide data to organizations on team penalty stats and allow for better management of this going forward. This information will be provided in detail to organizations, but high level overview (not player specific) will be posted by VSAHA.

Video review request process is available given the availability of electronic recording at most ice facilities. This will not be used to change the outcome of a game. This process includes a fee as a placeholder for VSAHA to review this.

Need to identify a site director identified for playdowns.

There will be a cost sharing model for use of Game Sheet that VSAHA will be providing in the Spring. This fee will be assessed in the 26/27 year.

Try Hockey for Free on March 7th – USA Hockey sponsored event via national promotion.

Is the State considering keeping statistics on refs? JP does not believe that the State is looking at this. Jeremy Glerum indicated that as a referee he does get feedback from VSAHA and USA Hockey. Joe is asking for that feedback.

6. Complex & Head Ref – no report or issues this month.
7. Skate Shack & SnackBar – Why do we have skate shack hours on Friday Nights? Chris Brosseau is stating that he was told to open up. Having a challenge in filling weekend hours. Week nights are not necessary. Joe worked 6-hours Saturday and 2-hours Sunday. There are 40 people trained. If we can't be consistent its not worth being opened – Joe. Could we hire something. Need to know how many hours are needed and work backwards...need to be able to measure it.

Snackbar is going well. Team is doing a good job. Marnie has created a binder which is working very well. She is creating a binder for the Skate Shack. Tape and mouthguards will be ordered directly.

People are not signing up for volunteer hours. Do we require members to pay their volunteer hours upfront and as they work their hours they get their money back? This is what the Steelers do. BFA players could fill this in as a paid position.

8. Girls Hockey – 35 girls showed up to 3-team practice. High school coaches came and provided feedback to coaches running stations. Chelsea reached out to 15 different organizations (T2) throughout New England to begin developing relationships. Most organizations need to get back as their leagues don't allow them to play just any team. We're unsure what we'll have for the numbers depending on who continues to play...many girls who don't make high school chose not to continuing playing. February 20th (ish) is an invite from the Comets to come skate with BFA. February 7th is SASA appreciation night for both the Comets and Bobwhites – come with jersey's, etc.
9. Tournaments – Maple City Tournament is in good shape. 211 players. Great group of volunteer parents. Bunch of swag. 14 teams.

Andrew Irving was a great success. 130+ games played.

State tournament planning is underway. Emily is working directly with VSAHA on the details. Solid 10 -15 people willing to help out and volunteer. \$2/day, \$5/weekend, kids enter free. Space is going to be our biggest issue. Tennis courts need to be reserved for the extra space. Committee is meeting next within a week or two.

10. Communications – FaceBook automation is something that we are too active to achieve...we run the risk of putting too much information out there. We've been consistent in our approach and have been active on social media. Katie Leclerc has our pictime ready to go and she is sending this off to our contact...she is also going to meet with Emily. Its unclear how others will be able to upload. Photos are currently organized by teams. If others are uploading it may be difficult to keep the filing by teams. Stina, Katie, Seth, Jason Guerino have been photographers.

Newsletter did not go out in December. A New Year newsletter will go out in the coming weeks.

Leafs are playing 12U T3 girls on February 1st at 5:50 PM.

11. Fundraising – gun raffle is wrapping up this Thursday. Live auction is this coming Thursday. If we sell all of the tickets - \$7,500 will go to M&R, \$17,500 will come to SASA as a fundraiser. Casey Mathieu's has sold 250 tickets. Looking to have each Board member take 5 – 10 tickets tonight to sell.

Being specific about what the fundraisers are designated toward would be beneficial...this fundraiser is to raise funds for XYZ.

12. Sounds System – Sounds system can be shipped out of Toronto next week. CCR donated \$10,000. Speakers that face the bleachers, one big sub in the middle, microphones, etc. CPSC is chipping in \$2,500. \$16,875 for everything. Casey would bring the lift and it could be installed in time for the State Tournament. Who takes ownership of the equipment? SASA needs to get partnership agreement with CPSC for capital improvements. Motion to approve funds necessary to complete the purchase and installation of the new sounds system by Chris, 2nd by Joe,. Unanimous - motion carries.

13. Camera – camera surveillance system for the skate shack and snack bar. Simply safe offers a key pad for entry. Folks are signing up for hours and not showing and stating that they were there. There have been many times over the course of the year where folks were signed up for hours and never showed up. BlackDog Electric offered camera's and wiring for \$2,000. A less expensive option is available via Ring and/or Simply Safe. Kevin to explore options and get back to the Board.

14. New Business – we need new nets for the mites. Nets are 20+ years old. Can repurpose some of the older nets. 4 new nets from Becker for \$3,400 (3x4 nets). Going to put on hold for now and explore less expensive option.

15. Old Business –

16. Executive Session – motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50PM by Joe, 2nd by David. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:40PM by Joe, 2nd by Emily. Unanimous.
Motion carried.

17. Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 9:4PM by Joe, 2nd by Emily. Unanimous. Motion carried.