



Meeting Minutes

SASA BOD Meeting

February 09, 2026 6:00 PM

NCSS – Mable Room

Attendees – *In-person* – Kevin Smith, Danielle Snelling, Andrew Norris, David Blatchly, Mike Irwin, Colin Branon, Tom Waltz, Emily Norris, Joe Montagne, Chris Heald, Melissa Viens, Nate Liese. Virtually: Dustin Degree, Adam Routhier,

Absent – Dan Ellis, Chelsea Forsyth

Guests – *In-person* Jeremy Glerum, JP Routhier, Tasha Dickinson – Virtually: Mike Tuttle, Marnie Carlton, Katie Leclerc, Heather Gonyeau, Jason Booth.

Meeting called to order 6:00 PM.

1. Meeting minutes – Motion to approve December minutes with revisions recommended by Chris Heald related to palace ice details by Emily, 2nd by Melissa. Unanimous – motion carries.
2. Public Comment – Huge shout out to SASA Leafs – scrimmage with U12 Girls. Hope and question is to have more teams do this. Very powerful evening. SASA 14U playing the Leafs Sunday 2/15.

Nervousness around evaluations and numbers for girls hockey. Rumors are swirling around who is registering, etc. Clear communication is needed. U12 girls moving to 14U – potential of girls coming back from Cats, handful of girls playing 12U Youth and are they playing girls or 14U Youth. Having a 20 girl roster isn't ideal either.

Tasha added that there are different motivations for girls (in particular) at this age group. By looking at how we run the girls program may positively influence participation by changing the motivation.

3. Bylaws – Discussion around why a Constitution and Bylaws document. It was determined that the Constitution is the incorporating document whereas the Bylaws dictate how the Board operates.

Joe Montagne brought forth the following questions and suggestions:

- a. Article 4 – section 3 suggestion to revise to define what Board means as ‘Board of Directors’.
- b. Article 4 - section 5 – suggestion to have 3 Board members and 2 non-board members. Historically the President appoints the nominating committee members. Embedded within the proposed changes are that membership will be voting on who from the candidates brought forth are elected.
- c. Article 4, section 4 – change language from accept to vote. One or 2 bodies vote instead of 3.
- d. Article 5, section 3 – 50% plus 1 is 8.5, 9 is actually a majority.
- e. Article 6, section 5 – President appoints nominating committee – preference for 3 board members, not 2.
- f. Bylaws Article 2, section 11 – SafeSport Coordinator responsible for USA Hockey – VSAHA should be included in there as we are governed by that.
- g. Definition for Locker Room Monitor and Team Manager should be identified. This is not for the Board to define, rather the Head Coach.
- h. Duties of Coaches – nothing stated on reporting injuries, locker room monitors, etc. Listing the VSAHA rules, etc. should be included here.
- i. Article 4 – affiliation – Why are we defining towns? Narrow it down to St. Albans Town, St. Albans City and all surrounding towns.
- j. Article 7 – 501C status – language related to 501C criteria – this section was not modified from the previous documents.
- k. Article 8 – COI Policy – personal interest is very vague. Define personal interest and who defines it?
- l. Governance – once these are voted on – all other documents should be null and void.

Question surrounding logistics of the voting. Committee reinforced the encouragement of legal counsel to not get into the weeds on logistics as that is a Standard Operating Procedure item to be created outside of these governing documents.

Is there a penalty for voting more than once?

Motion to amend and accept the revised Constitution issued January 19th to include the following edits by David Blatchly, 2nd by Joe Montagne. Unanimous 12-0.

Constitution – Article IV, Section 3

- Define ‘Board’ to state ‘Board of Directors

Constitution – Article IV, Section 7

- *Correct the typo “then” vs. “than.”*

Constitution – Article VI, Section 7

- *Add Young Blades and Girls Hockey Coordinator – to the list of appointments.*

Constitution – Make final paragraph

- All documents concerning the governance of SASA shall be null and void with acceptance of this document. Where other documents and vehicles concerning SASA should arise, this document shall take precedence.

Motion to amend the SASA Bylaws issued on January 19th to include the following amendments by David Blatchly, 2nd by Emily Norris. Unanimous 12-0.

Bylaws – Article I

Add a new section that reads:

- *Executive Officers provide governance and continuity and may handle urgent matters. Officers may act on behalf of the Board only when immediate action is required and convening the full Board is impractical. Actions must be limited to the urgent issue and must align with Board policies, the mission, and the budget. All actions taken must be reported at the next Board meeting, including the urgency, the decision made, and any financial impact.*
4. Head Coach – Practice priority is for teams with playdowns. Scheduling challenges have limited ice availability. Doing what we can do with the ice. Early morning skates are being attended by mostly 10U’s.

Good conversation with Shea around goalie clinics. He wants to do it again next year. Friday is the allotted night. We may have ice available for a full ice slot for Shea and goalies later this year at Collins Perley.

Playdowns start this weekend. Does communication need to go out on parent behavior – following etiquette and conduct that we're shooting for. Parents actions reflect our organization. Emily to send something out.

Burn out is a real factor right now for coaches. It's not an easy job. Parents and players need to keep this in mind.

We have ice until the 14th of March and we're going to go hard up until that point and beyond for tryouts.

5. State Rep – meeting tomorrow night at the State level. JP is deeply involved in the State discussions surrounding the tournament, etc.

6. Skate Shack & SnackBar – no report

7. State Tournament – planning meeting this Thursday 2/12. Successful meeting with Tim and now have the back tennis courts (3 & 4), spinning room and Claudette 1. Players bags will filter down the hall. Excess spectators can go to the tennis courts. Vendors will be in the tennis courts as well. Signage is being created to guide attendees...parking, bag drop, t-shirts, etc. Brochure will need to be created. Emily working on a master schedule for volunteer hours, etc. There seems to be plenty of volunteers available. This is an all hands on deck event for the Board...please be there to assist.

8. Communications – What do we want to say on top of our sponsorship thanks banner? Every sponsors get the same size logo, etc. Tasha and Kim will work on this and get a proof finalized. Want this up by the time the State Tournament comes. Social media post for thank you's as well. Reminder – sign up by the 15th for registration. Colin and Emily to work together on this communication.

9. Fundraising– conversation in the spring to layout fundraising for next year.

10. New Business – Young Blades pizza party is coming up at the end of the year and it is anticipated to be more than \$500. Kevin to connect with Dennis at Pie in the Sky

as he has treated us very well with pizza for the snack bar this year. Last practice is Sunday 2/15 – Olympics. Come support if you are able.

11. Old Business – None

12. Executive Session – motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03PM by Colin, 2nd by Chris. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:20PM by Colin, 2nd by Melissa. Unanimous. Motion carried.

13. Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 9:21PM by Joe, 2nd by Emily. Unanimous. Motion carried.