



River City Youth Hockey (RCYH) – February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present

- Lucas Schwaller, President
- Regis Stief, Vice President
- Brittany Henderson, Secretary
- Jamie Melde, Treasurer
- Anthony Kirchner, Board Member
- Matt Hansen, Board Member
- Ryan Sauter, Co-Director of Hockey & Board Member

Agenda

1. Tournament Operations
2. Volunteer Hours & Participation
3. Community Outreach & Fundraising
4. Ice Operations & Facilities
5. Election Preparation
6. Additional Updates

1. Tournament Operations

State Tournament Debrief

The board reviewed the recent state tournament and discussed opportunities to improve tournament operations moving forward.

Matt Hansen reported that the tournament was successful overall and generated meaningful revenue for the association, but volunteer participation was significantly lower than needed. Board members agreed that future state tournaments and large-scale events will require stronger volunteer involvement and more clearly defined responsibilities.

Tournament Operations Structure

The board discussed the role paid employees should play in tournament operations. Members agreed that paid staff can assist with scheduling, tournament setup, rules administration, and other logistical functions, while volunteers should remain responsible for tournament leadership, hospitality efforts, fundraising activities, and overall event execution.



The board also discussed providing additional support to tournament directors through designated helpers and improved volunteer coordination to reduce workload and improve event execution.

Tournament Rule Standardization

The board discussed inconsistencies in tournament rules used across age levels during the season. Members agreed that standardizing tournament rules and procedures would improve consistency and reduce confusion for teams, families, and officials.

Regis reported that he has begun collecting tournament rules from each age group and will work toward developing a standardized format for future tournaments.

2. Volunteer Hours & Participation

Volunteer Program Review

The board held an extensive discussion regarding volunteer participation and fulfillment of volunteer hour requirements.

Several members expressed concern that a relatively small percentage of families continue to complete a disproportionate share of volunteer responsibilities while some families primarily fulfill requirements through practice concession shifts.

The board discussed alternatives to the current DIBS system, including assigning volunteer responsibilities directly to families and allowing families to coordinate shift trades among themselves. Members noted that similar systems are successfully used by other hockey organizations and may improve participation across all age groups.

The board also discussed concerns that younger families are not consistently participating in tournaments, concession operations, and other volunteer opportunities at the same levels as older age groups.

No formal action was taken at this time. Lucas will work with Emily Franzen to develop recommendations for a revised volunteer assignment process before next season.

Volunteer Equity

Board members also discussed ensuring volunteer expectations remain equitable across all families, including families with parent coaches. Members agreed future discussions should focus on broad participation and fair distribution of responsibilities throughout the association.



3. Community Outreach & Fundraising

La Crosse Soup

The board discussed participating in the upcoming La Crosse Soup community fundraising event scheduled for March 17 at the Weber Center.

Members reviewed potential messaging for the presentation and agreed that the association should focus on scholarship assistance, providing hockey equipment for new players, and maintaining affordable participation opportunities for economically challenged families.

The board also discussed encouraging RCYH families and players to attend the event and support the presentation.

4. Ice Operations & Facilities

Extended Ice Season Discussion

The board reviewed a request from 5.7 Hockey to extend ice availability through March 26 for its 3-on-3 league.

Anthony Kirchner outlined operational considerations that would allow the extension while still maintaining the planned ice-out schedule. Proposed restrictions included limiting facility access to locker rooms 1 through 4, restricting use of back-of-building facilities, and allowing maintenance work to continue in unused areas of the rink.

The board discussed rental rates and agreed that any extended ice rental should remain at \$175 per hour.

Members expressed support for extending ice through March 26 provided operational requirements can be met and sufficient volunteers are secured to assist with post-season glass cleaning and maintenance activities.

No final action was taken at this time.

Facility Maintenance

The board also discussed spring maintenance projects and volunteer needs following ice-out, including painting and facility improvement work. Anthony noted that additional volunteers would be needed for glass cleaning and other year-end facility projects.



5. Election Preparation

Election Planning

Brittany Henderson reported that election preparations are progressing well and that most positions currently have nominees.

The primary vacancy remains the Bantam Parent Representative position. The board discussed potential candidates and agreed to continue outreach efforts prior to the election meeting.

Electronic Voting

The board discussed options for increasing participation in the upcoming election and agreed to implement electronic voting through Crossbar.

Members agreed that electronic voting will improve accessibility and increase participation among families who are unable to attend the election meeting in person.

6. Additional Updates

Green Island Lobby Signage

Lucas discussed creating a River City Youth Hockey sign for display in the Green Island lobby to improve RCYH branding within the facility.

Eric Gustafson Coach Recognition

The board discussed recognition for Eric Gustafson, who has provided significant support to the Pee wee program throughout the season.

Regis confirmed that Eric has been properly registered with the program and has actively assisted the coaching staff throughout the year. After discussion, the board approved a \$750 coaching payment for Eric Gustafson in recognition of his contributions to the Pee wee team.



Action Items

Owner	Action Item
Matt	Send note about creating a River City Youth Hockey sign for the Green Island lobby
Regis	Standardize tournament rules across all age groups (Squirts through Bantams)
Lucas	Work with Emily Franzen to develop new volunteer hour assignment system for next season
Lucas	Focus pitch for La Crosse Soup on scholarships, providing gear, and low rates for economically challenged families
Lucas	Coordinate with Regis and Brittany to organize kids attendance for the La Crosse Soup event on March 17th at Weber Center
Anthony	Coordinate with 5.7 Hockey regarding limited rink access (locker rooms 1-4 only, no back facilities) for extended ice period
Anthony	Confirm volunteer list for glass cleaning after ice-out with Lucas and Regis
Brittany	Find volunteers interested in painting jobs at the rink
Jamie	Cut check for Eric Gustafson for \$750
Regis	Add Eric Gustafson as paid coach at \$750 and update tracking sheet
Brittany	Send additional email blasts promoting the election meeting next Wednesday
Matt	Connect with Brittany and Regis to set up electronic voting via Crossbar for the election

Meeting Adjourned: Approximately 9:15 PM.