



Connecticut RiverHawks Hockey Club August Meeting of the Board of Directors

9/8/26 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Connecticut RiverHawks Hockey Club (the “Association” or “CT RiverHawks”) was held on September 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM via Google Meet pursuant to notice duly given.

Board Member Attendees:

Michael Serricchio – President
Rob Loh – Treasurer
Erica Siegel – Registrar
Joe Sims – Master Scheduler
Toby Giangrande – CHC Representative
Chad Siegel – Incoming President

Other Attendees:

Connor Grillo
Brendan Kaptina – Hockey Director
Amanda W.
Others as noted

PROCEEDINGS:

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was confirmed.

FUNDRAISING:

- Connor Grillo presented a fundraising opportunity involving a \$5 per-ticket add-on and offered to assist with implementation.
- The organization continues to seek a Fundraising Chair to help lead fundraising initiatives.

- Discussion included opportunities to increase participation among younger RiverHawks teams.
- Teams may coordinate with Connor regarding game-day promotional opportunities.
- Fundraising and promotional opportunities will also be shared through RiverHawks communications.

GAME PROMOTIONS & SHOWCASES:

- Opportunities are available for RiverHawks teams and programs to be showcased during games.
- Potential activations include booking ice between periods to allow players to skate and promote RiverHawks programs.
- Information regarding these opportunities will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

PRESIDENT / LEADERSHIP TRANSITION:

- A quorum was confirmed for the presidential vote.
- A motion was made to appoint Chad Siegel as President of the Connecticut RiverHawks Hockey Club.
- The Board voted unanimously in favor of the appointment, with no opposition recorded.
- Michael Serricchio will remain involved with the Board in a different capacity and will chair and/or support the Disciplinary Committee.
- Michael will also remain available to assist Chad and the Board during the leadership transition.

TOURNAMENTS:

Battle of the Biscuit

- The Board discussed the feasibility of holding the Battle of the Biscuit tournament this season.
- Due to limited lead time, ice logistics, and the significant staffing requirements associated with hosting the event, the Board agreed not to hold the tournament this season.
- The event may be reconsidered next season if a Tournament Director and adequate volunteer support can be secured.

State Tournament Hosting

- The Board discussed the benefits and operational impact of hosting a CHC State Tournament.

- Historically, hosting has been approximately financially break-even but provides marketing exposure and allows at least one RiverHawks team to participate in a state tournament at its home rink.
- Last season's 12-team Tier 4 tournament created significant scheduling challenges and resulted in the loss of weekday practice ice.
- If RiverHawks hosts this season, preference would be given to a smaller bracket, such as a five- or eight-team Squirt or Pee Wee division.
- The Board will wait approximately one month for CHC tournament matrices and submission information before making a final decision.
- Any decision to host will depend on Board support and the identification of a Tournament Director.
- Donna will assist with tournament matrices and serve as a CHC liaison if RiverHawks moves forward.
- Referees and scorekeepers are included within the tournament model, reducing the on-site staffing burden.

TREASURER UPDATE:

- Rob is closing out the prior fiscal year, which ended in June.
- Tax returns are due in November.
- Team managers should notify the Treasurer as soon as teams register for outside tournaments so family billing can be established promptly in Crossbar.
- Tournament fees should be allocated by tournament and by player shortly after registration rather than billed as a lump sum at the end of the season.
- Adjustments can be made later if tournament rosters change.
- The proactive tournament billing process used last season worked well and will continue.
- The organization continues to seek volunteers with financial or bookkeeping experience who may be interested in assisting the Treasurer.

REGISTRAR UPDATE:

- All RiverHawks teams have been registered and approved.
- Erica is working with Brendan on CEP training and requirements for coaches and managers.

- Volunteers participating in locker room, scoreboard, and other team activities must provide USA Hockey numbers and complete applicable SafeSport and background check requirements.
- Erica will review registration responses and compile a list of parents who indicated an interest in assisting with special projects or volunteer opportunities.

WEBSITE & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Website updates are needed to reflect Board leadership changes, including the President position.
- Coaches' photographs and biographies should also be updated.
- Photos from the organization's photographers are expected to assist with the coach profile updates.
- The Board discussed potentially adding a section recognizing members-at-large and other organizational volunteers.
- An upcoming newsletter will include fundraising and game-showcase opportunities as well as reminders regarding tournament fee billing.
- Toby will coordinate website updates with Jill and communications/marketing support as appropriate.

MASTER SCHEDULER / REFEREE UPDATE:

- No significant additional practice ice is expected to become available in the near term.
- Team schedules have been loaded and referees have been booked for the season.
- The referee pool is smaller than in previous seasons, and some games may need to operate with one referee.
- New referees can enter the scheduling system through Arbiter, with individual rinks or districts using designated assigners.
- Contacts are available to assist interested referees with entering the rotation.

HOCKEY DIRECTOR / PLAYER DEVELOPMENT:

- Brendan proposed offering yoga and flexibility sessions for older age groups, particularly Pee Wee and Bantam players, during skills nights.
- Sessions could take place on the mezzanine and focus on balance, mobility, flexibility, and breathing.
- Existing equipment currently in storage may be used where appropriate.

- Access to the equipment storage area can be coordinated through Erica, Chad, or rink staff.
- The Board discussed how the offering could be branded and positioned to encourage player participation.
- Brendan will coordinate with Joe and Nick regarding mezzanine availability and scheduling.
- Brendan also plans to coordinate a coaches' meeting with Tyler and Chad within the next several weeks.
- Topics will include coaching expectations, payment schedules, 1099 requirements, and planning for the season.

CHC UPDATE:

- Toby was unable to attend the most recent CHC Presidents' meeting.
- Meeting minutes will be reviewed, itemized, and shared with the Board once received.
- The September CHC meeting is expected to take place via Zoom in approximately two weeks.
- Current CHC discussions include Tier 1 and Tier 2 rules and mercy-clock procedures.
- Other areas of focus include hate speech, abuse of officials, and enforcement of mandatory equipment requirements, including neck guards and mouth guards.
- With referee numbers limited, stricter enforcement of conduct standards is anticipated.
- Michael will provide Chad with relevant CHC contacts as part of the leadership transition.

DISCIPLINE & CONDUCT:

- The Board discussed the importance of appropriate conduct toward game officials and expects firm enforcement of abuse-of-officials policies.
- Michael will continue to assist with disciplinary hearings, which typically also involve the Club President.
- Board members, coaches, and organizational leadership are expected to model appropriate conduct and decorum when interacting with officials.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- The Board discussed the importance of developing and retaining qualified non-parent coaches within the organization.

- Providing reasonable hotel and mileage support for coaches without children on a team was discussed, particularly for longer-distance tournaments such as Lake Placid.
- The per-family financial impact would generally be small and may assist with long-term coach recruitment and retention.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Meeting adjourned at **7:40 PM**.