📝 Meeting Minutes - Northwest Montana Youth Hockey Association

Date & Time:
June 29, 2026 5:30-7:00PM

Attendees:
Heather Vezane - President
Cara Ryan Lemire – Vice President
Cristinna Gebbia - Treasurer
Rich Evers - Secretary
Susie Kalgren
Brittney Crest
Lindsey Foster
Abbie Steffen
Amanda Hayes – Executive Director

Meeting Objective / Agenda:
Review and approve 2026-27 practice schedules, discuss coaching applications and hiring process, review fundraising and financial planning updates, and address organizational transition items.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Practice Schedule Review

- Reviewed updated ice schedules for all age divisions.
- Discussed accommodations for dual-rostered girls participating in both co-ed and girls programs.
- Considered additional development opportunities for 12U players through bonus Friday practices.
- Discussed 6U/8U programming at both Woodland and Stumptown and flexibility based on registration numbers.
- Reviewed Learn-to-Play and Learn-to-Skate offerings at both facilities.

2. Coaching Applications

- Coaching applications were distributed to previous coaches and posted publicly.
- Current application count reported at approximately 15.
- Discussed application review process, interviews, and use of evaluation rubrics.
- Access to coaching applications expanded to committee members.

3. Fundraising and Marketing

- Discussed committee structure and need for fundraising support.
- Brittney agreed to assist as co-chair for fundraising efforts alongside Susie.
- Importance of increased communications and outreach emphasized.

4. Financial Planning and Projections

- Reviewed need for historical registration data to assist with revenue and cash flow projections.
- Discussed projected player growth and budget development.
- Requested historical player registration numbers from previous organizations.

5. Ice Hut and Facility Use

- Discussed continued use of the Ice Hut facility.
- Reviewed associated rental costs and benefits for team meetings, training, and events.
- Confirmed costs were included within budget planning discussions.

Decisions Made ✅

Approval of June 22 meeting minutes.
Rich motioned. Cristina 2nded. All approved.

Approved the 2026-27 practice schedule with flexibility for 6U/8U programming adjustments based on registration numbers.
Rich motioned. Susie 2nded. All approved.

Approved to continue Ice Hut usage as part of the new organization's operations.
Rich motioned. Susie 2nded. All approved.

Approved to utilize stitched crested jerseys for high school aged teams.
Cara motioned to approve. Rich 2nded. All approved.

Approved to hire Amanda Hayes as Executive Director and Brandon Cottrell as Hockey Director with agreed upon wages.
Abbie motioned to approve. Rich 2nded. All approved.

- Set **August 1, 2026** as the coaching application deadline.
- Granted Cristinna access to coaching application submissions.

Next Steps:

- Promote coaching applications and increase communication before the August 1 deadline.
- Coaching committee to review applications and schedule interviews.
- Complete financial projections using historical registration data.
- Gather remaining registration and budget information from prior organizations.
- Monitor registration numbers and adjust 6U/8U programming if needed.
- Finalize remaining budget, registration, and operational planning items at upcoming board meetings.