

SAYHA Development Committee

April 22, 2026

Present:

Absent:

Curtis Emerson

DJ Salquist

Henry Vik (remote)

Bryan Keown

Nick Freeman

Kc Kronlund

Anne Focht

D.C. received a request from Burnett Blizzard to co-op with SAYHA for PeeWee and Bantam levels.

- I. Reviewed estimated number of skaters at each SAYHA level; 10 for Bantams, 21 for PeeWee.
- II. Reviewed USA Hockey recommendations regarding composition of teams, noting a maximum number of 20 players with 18 skaters. Oversized teams could slow development by limiting ice time and game time opportunity.
- III. Reviewed benefits of smaller teams for coaching to improve fundamentals, accountability, and team bonding.
- IV. Identified that concerns could not be determined without a specific request plan set forth from Burnett Blizzard

Plan: DJ will request Burnett Blizzard submit formal a request with details before a decision could be made. Will request be submitted in 2 weeks.

Goalie Development

- I. Northwest Express has confirmed commitment to assisting SAYHA goalies with skill development at each level.

II. Henry Vik will coordinate with other Northwest Express goalies to create a development plan. Success will need an established ice schedule established and separated by development level.

Plan: Henry Vik will coordinate with Northwest Express and D.C. will request structured ice time for next season.

Player Development

I. Reviewed benefit of developing an Ice Hockey System of development to ensure that specific skills are learned at each.

II. A system would mean coaches will have a template for players to have necessary skills with goal of being prepared and successful at the high school level.

Plan: D.C. will create a handbook of skills at each level and practice plans and drills to master each skill. Goal to have handbook available for coaching one month before 2026-2027 season starts.

Establishing coaches for 2026-2027 season.

I. Reviewed the benefits in establishing head coaches and assistant coaches for each level during the summer months.

II. Earlier determination of coaching would allow for increased planning and preparation.

Plan: Bryan Keown will update a survey document for interested volunteers. Will send it out to Cross Bar and Facebook. Goal to have a survey by May.

Creating a plan for hockey development over summer break.

I. Recognized the benefit of adding off-ice skill building opportunities at the civic center.

II. This would provide an opportunity for team development and bonding.

Plan: Nick Freeman will begin drafting options and get support from other D.C. members. Goal is to have a schedule available to families by the start of summer break.

Next meeting: May 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

