

Minnesota Hockey – District 8

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date: June 24, 2026
Meeting Time: 7:00
Meeting Location: Angelos, So St Paul, MN

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

D8 Board Members:

Present: Rak, Dave, Kate, Zac, Mickey, Paul

Absent: Andy, Bill, Julie, Kent, Jamie, Chris, Elliot,

Association Representation:

Present: Cottage Grove, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, Hastings, IGH, Rosemount, SSP, WSP, Woodbury

Absent: AVB, Lakeville, Red Wing

III. Previous Meeting Minutes Approved

A. Passed

IV. New Business:

A. Referee fees will be going up to remain competitive with other districts

➤ The increase has not been confirmed at this time

B. Game-change fees will be going up

➤ Part of that fee will go to the game change cost, and the other part will go to the scholarship fund.

➤ The new fee has not been confirmed at this time

C. League fees will be going up; the amount is dependent on what the ref fee increase is

D. District 8 has been selected as a host of one of two level 1 referee seminars held in person.

➤ The seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis

➤ There is not a group of seats being set aside for District 8 members

➤ This seminar is open to anyone in the US

E. District 8 will be doing some on-ice training at Doug Woog the weekend after the State Meeting. (Sept 19)

➤ 64 participants last year

➤ The individuals that participated in the on-ice training had much better results

V. Officer's Reports:

A. District Director (Rak):

➤ Per Minnesota Hockey, starting this season, it will be mandatory for all players Squirts/ 10U and above to have tethered mouthguards (colored/ no white).

○ Mouthguard's main purpose is to help prevent concussions

○ Referees have requested this change as it was too difficult to tell if kids were wearing mouthguards

- Uniform update: All uniforms shall have numbers that sufficiently contrast with the jersey color. The goal is to make the numbers easy to read
- Team rosters must be approved prior to the first league, exhibition, or tournament game. The managers will need to get the players and coaches to the registrar as soon as possible; the registrar will have to turn them around quickly.
 - If the roster has not been approved, that team should only be doing controlled scrimmages.
- Managers/ Coaches need to ensure that the GameSheet roster is matched up correctly with the approved USA Hockey roster.
 - Example: If only 2 coaches are approved, there should only be two coaches on the bench
 - If a substitute player is filling in, they need to be added to the roster and any skater not playing will need to be taken off.
- There will be no roster changes after Dec 31 to teams eligible for state tournaments; non-state eligible teams can add skaters as long as they are not moved from one team to another.
 - Coaches can be added/ removed at any point
- There is a limit of 20 players for any team except for Junior Gold which can roster up to 30.
 - National bound teams can have up to 22 players (All District 8 teams are tier 2; so not national bound teams)
 - At the lowest age level, Rak can approve more
 - If a team is using an ebug and there are already 20 players, you will need to sit one of the skaters as the ebug counts as another player.
- If an association decides to bring in 3 or more teams from other districts, it will be considered an invitational tournament and sanctioned as required. (This rule is for Exhibition weekends specifically)
- Squirr net proposal passed effective Sept 1, 2027
 - The new net size will be 54' x 36"
 - For the first two years, associations can use the 42' x 36" net or the 54" x 36" net
 - Effective September 2029, all nets will be required to be the new size.
 - It will be up to the associations to work with the rinks to ensure proper net sizes are on the ice at the right times.
 - Minnesota Hockey Development Committee is behind the change, and MH is the front runner nationally.
 - Minnesota Hockey is working with the vendor to finalize costs of new nets
- LiveBarn was purchased by GameSheet, unsure what the implications may be at this point
- USAH has a new SafeSport agreement that needs to be signed and returned to Rak before any registrar will have access to the registration system
 - Apple Valley- Burnsville and Hastings have already signed and returned them
- There is a new pilot program for Bantam AA and PeeWee AA teams that qualify for the state tournament.
 - The Sunday night of the Regional Tournament weekends will now include a conference with the 8 head coaches of the teams that qualified.
 - Once the 8 teams are set after regions, the coaches will see the actual teams in South Region 1 vs. East Region 2.
 - Coach seeding, similar to how the high school tournament seeding happens
- The idea of having a separate league for PeeWee AA and Bantam AA is dead.
- Crossbar is now owned by the same parent company as Sports Engine.
- District 8 board members are available for association meetings if requested
- Rak is thinking about hosting a President's only meeting

- There is no update from USAH on the requested changes to the tag up/ offsides rules yet. Hopefully will hear soon.

VI. Close

Next D8 Board Meeting: August, 2026, 7:00 pm @ TBD