

Minnesota Hockey – District 8

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date: January 28, 2026

Meeting Time: 7:00

Meeting Location: Moose Lodge, Inver Grove Heights

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

D8 Board Members:

Present: Rak, Dave, Paul, Kate, Mickey, Elliot, Chris, Kent, Julie, Bill

Absent: Jamie, Andy

Association Representation:

Present: Apple Valley/ Burnsville, Cottage Grove, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, Hastings, IGH, Lakeville, Red Wing, Rosemount, SSP, WSP, Woodbury

Absent:

III. Previous Meeting Minutes Approved

A. Passed

IV. New Business:

A. Minnesota Hockey Rule Changes

i. By-law Changes for Minnesota Hockey

- *Article 6 has been modified to require an offer of a hearing rather than the requirement of a hearing. In cases where an Association refuses registration to a party, a hearing as outlined in this Article (6) must be offered to the party who was refused membership. (In this situation, the association must offer a waiver to play elsewhere.)*

ii. Youth Rules and Regulation Change – clarifying what “first year of Squirts/10u for purposes of Mandatory Waivers.

- For purposes of this rule, the first year of squirts or 10U shall mean the first year a player is age eligible for squirts or 10U. A player that has moved up to play as a squirt of 10U shall still be allowed to seek a Mandatory Waiver despite their early participation in squirts or 10U.
- Junior Gold aged skaters get mandatory school waivers. (Note this does not include bantams that are playing up)
- Definition of residence has been modified to include “market rate” for any lease or purchases. (This would be confirmed by cancelled checks, receipts, etc.)
- A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside of their home association.
 - Trying out for an association is considered participating.
 - A player that participates on another team or association is considered an ineligible player.
- District Director Committee: In cases where a decision is to be made by a District Director Committee, the District Director shall appoint two other persons besides themselves as the designated committee, one of which will be either the Maroon or Gold Vice President.

- If the District Director either made or was involved in the original decisions being appealed, neither the District Director nor any district administration members shall be on the District Director Committee. In the case where the District Director was involved in the decision being appealed, the District Director committee shall be appointed by the applicable Vice President. (Pursuant to USAH Bylaw 10 E (1) (b).)

Current Eligibility Period for the 2026/ 2027 Season:

Birthdates between 06/01/2016 to 05/31/2017

V. D8 BOARD REPORTS:

A. Director (Rak): MH Meeting Update (January 2026)

- i. If a team is rostering only one goalie and they are not available for a game, a replacement goalie may be chosen from an eligible team or league.
 - If you have a replacement goalie – they must be rostered on GameSheet. The regular goalie will need to be un-rostered.
 - Teams will need to roster at least 1 goalie.
 - Reminder that Rak will NOT be reaching out for any game substitutions that are approved.
 - Substitute goalies must wear their regular team jersey and if team colors are the same, the sub goalie must wear the opposite color.
 - There cannot be duplicate numbers on your roster.
- ii. EBUGs must be added to the score sheet before games start. EBUGs can only play if the regular goalie is injured and remains in net for the remainder of the tournament.
- iii. Rak has handed out fines to two teams this season for having too many coaches on the bench. **USAH bench rule reminders:**
 - GameSheet must show ONLY coaches that are actively on the bench; in addition, all coaches on the bench must be accounted for (example: only 2 coaches on roster (GameSheet), but 4 on bench).
 - Any coaches not on the bench need to be marked as “not-coaching”
 - If your association has mentors, they need to be registered as a student coach per USAH rules and will follow student coach protocol. This individual counts as one of the 4 coaches allowed on the bench.
 - Any players that are not playing but are on the bench (injured or backup goalie) need to be wearing their helmet and their jersey with number showing.
 - USAH may not cover injuries for anyone that are not rostered; this leaves the association with any potential financial risks.
- iv. Only active skaters should be on the roster; anyone not on the actual team (high school players, red-lined coaches) should be taken off the roster.
- v. Associations that are hosting invitational tournaments and jamborees need to be verifying USAH approved rosters. A roster is approved if there is a stamp in the upper right corner marked “approve.” This is especially important for jamborees. Teams that play in a jamboree must play with the kids that were on the team when formed for the year. (Example – cannot form a team with a mixture of kids from different teams)

- vi. MH Ops is potentially looking into using smaller nets for Squirts/ 10U. They are currently working with a vendor to design a net in between intermediate and standard sizes. There is not a timeline for this decision, but if it is in effect next year information will be provided as soon as available.
- vii. The next Try Hockey for Free day is March 7. If your association would like to host an event, get it set up with USAH.
- viii. When scheduling games for younger teams that are not league play; consider hiring younger refs to help them get experience and paid. Reach out to Paul Moen for more information.
- ix. USAH player fees will increase by \$2 next year for all levels. Some referee levels could increase up to \$25.

B. Financial Update (Dave):

- i. **Where's the money?** Only 3 associations have paid their league fees (Shout-out to Eagan, Rosemount, Eastview, and West St. Paul). Finance contacts for associations delinquent have been contacted, crickets as a result.
- ii. This bill needs to be paid as this is the fund that referees are paid from.
- iii. If you are unsure if you have paid, reach out to Dave.
- iv. GameSheet bill has been sent to the District for the 2nd half of the season.
 - District 8 is paying \$31,473 for this season, approximately \$7,000 increase from last year.
 - Minnesota Hockey will pay \$306,000 for this season
 - MH has signed a 5-year contract with GameSheet to limit increases to \$6,000/year.
 - The District Directors have requested that MH picks up part of this fee as they have a large balance of over \$2mm. To be determined where this goes.
- v. A potential change to billing for invitational tournaments for the 2026-27 season could see that MH will directly bill associations for those tournaments instead of going through the District.

C. President (Dave):

- i. **Remind all teams to double check that all games are uploaded and their fair play point count is correct.** Once seeding is posted, there will not be any changes.
 - Still 8 games that have not been entered.
- ii. Seeding for district tournament divisions that have two leagues are formed based on a number of factors. The goal is to make the brackets as competitive as possible.
- iii. If you run into an invitational tournament in Minnesota that is not using GameSheet as their electronic scoring system, reach out to Rak with details.

D. Officials (Moen):

- i. If a game starts with the hour clock on, **it cannot be turned off** once the game has started.
- ii. February district tournaments will have timeouts available, and ice will be resurfaced every two (2) periods.
- iii. If a team shows up to a game with only one color jersey, the home team will choose which color they want to be.
- iv. **Reminder that video submissions to Paul Moen cannot be viewed.** This is a Minnesota Hockey rule.

- v. If there is a concern about a ref, the head coach can fill out the form on the District 8 website – this form goes to Paul Moen and team to be evaluated.
- vi. Paul Moen, or a member of his team, will go and evaluate referees when requested
- vii. **Only the head coach should be talking to the referees**, not assistant coaches. Refs have been instructed to not go over to any (assistant) coach that is unhappy, if the coach continues to escalate, a misconduct penalty could be assessed.
- viii. Discussion around whether first year refs should wear an identifying marker such as a green band on their arm. Paul will talk with his team.
- ix. Reminder that scheduling refs for games at non-D8/ non-association ice rinks will need to be scheduled through the program that owns that ice.

E. Girls Program (Jamie): n/a

F. Coach in Chief (Bill) –

- i. There have not been any decisions made for a USAH ran developmental league for levels 15 and 17. MH will most likely not be eligible as it sits now. MH would need to make some changes, but they may not be positive changes.
 - This could affect other teams by limiting the number of players from outside your state. Each team would be allowed only 4 non-affiliates.

G. Tournaments (Zac):

- i. All February playoffs are posted, including schedules. Hosts should know where the Regional tournament will be for teams that move to the next level.
- ii. Make sure all games are scored and uploaded in GameSheet – the faster this is done, the faster the brackets will come out for March Districts. All games and fair play points must be uploaded prior to the brackets coming out. Once brackets are posted, there will not be any changes.
- iii. Waiting for ice times for the 10A and 10B1 District Tournaments
- iv. Tournament Fees are listed on the District website, if you have questions – reach out to Zac
- v. District 8 tournament apparel is available on the district 8 website. All proceeds from this sale will go to fund the College Scholarship Program.

H. Director of Coaching (Elliot):

- i. High Performance Team
 - Information has been emailed to all head coaches with eligible skaters, reminder emails will go out soon
 - Deadline to nominate is Feb 15; Tryouts will begin in March
- ii. Futures Program
 - MH runs this program and as of 01/28/2026, there is nothing scheduled.

I. Bantams (Mickey): n/a

J. Peewees (Chris):

- i. Keep behavior in check – **no punching or foul language (all levels)**

K. Squirts (Julie):

- i. Remind teams to always keep mouthguards in

- ii. Reminder to Squirt teams that they must stay under the 35-game limit – Any game over 35 will be assessed a \$250 penalty. (Does not include end of year district tournament)
- L. Goalie Director (Andy): n/a

M. Junior Gold (Kent):

- i. Junior Gold Playdowns start Feb 26
- ii. Stop punching!

VI. Discussion Topics

- A. District 8 will no longer make changes to score sheets once they are locked and uploaded. Junior Gold has always had this rule.
- B. Any Junior Gold questions/ concerns/ etc. need to go to Kent
- C. Best Practice suggestion – if a team makes a change to the score system, such as the Auto Horn, ask that it be changed back to the original settings when their ice time is complete.

VII. Close

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