



Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association

The Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association (FVYHA)'s mission is to give youth ages 4 to 15 the opportunity to develop character, sportsmanship and teamwork skills through the sport of hockey.

May 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting date and time: 5/21/2026

Meeting called to order at: 6:34 by Nick Miller

Location: Woodshed Bar & Grill 6:30 p.m.

Present

Nick Miller (Vice President & Scheduler)
Ben Weight (Treasurer)
Sam Hawkinson (Tournament Director)
Kevin Grater (Appleton Ice)
Christina Syverud (Secretary)
Brittany Sullivan (Registrar)
Sara Hansman (Squirt Director)
Jill Steffeck (Mite Director)
Jimmy Taylor (Website Coordinator)
Teryn Williams (Volunteer Coordinator)
Zack Boycks (Growth Coordinator)
? (Safety Coordinator)
? (IP Director)

Absent

Troy Hawkinson (Director of Hockey)
Megan Czosek (Bantam Director)
Hannah Scholl (PeeWee Director)
Kristen Hirsbrunner (Fundraising/SCRIP Coordinator)
Emily Grasse (Equipment Manager)
Rene L'Esperance (President)
Melissa Hodgson (Sponsor Coordinator)

Member attendees: N/A

BOARD MEETING

- **APPLETON ICE. DISCUSSION:** Kevin Grater
 - Possibly move the girls locker room to the old JV room, coaches room, or by the concession. Need one designated back to storage.
 - Rate increase: 2023 was the last increase mid-season. 2026 increase coming, should be the last one for the foreseeable future, but things could change. WE Energies just increased rates 5 1/2 percent. Translates to about 8-9% because we use it during peak

times. 40% increase 2013-2026. 246% costs have increased. \$350 large ice / \$165 small ice fees.

- Need to start looking for taxpayer support, fundraising, and donations. We are not offset like the Champion Center with taxpayer support, so our ice prices need to increase.
- Currently working to refinance all of our debt.

- **MEMBER COMMENTS: N/A**

- **RECOGNITIONS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Brittany approved, Sara seconded

REPORTS:

- **President's Report-** Rene L'Esperance
 - **WAHA Update:** WAHA Board meeting was held on April 25.
 - **Bylaw and rule proposals:** WAHA reviewed 38 bylaw change proposals and 68 rule change proposals. Associations will discuss these items at upcoming Region meetings with their Region Directors.
 - **Registration fees for 2026–27:** Player and coach registration fees will increase for all age groups except 6U. USA Hockey fees increased by \$2 as part of its annual CPI-based adjustment, and WAHA fees increased by \$5, marking WAHA's first fee increase in more than 20 years. These updated fees are already reflected in 2026–27 registration.
 - **Executive Director:** WAHA hired Rebecca (Becky) Hildebrandt as Executive Director, effective April 1.
 - **Association Leader Conference and Annual Meeting:** This event will be held July 31–August 1 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Friday evening includes two two-hour sessions, one for association presidents and one focused on growing, retaining, and coaching girls hockey. Saturday will feature breakout sessions followed by the Annual Meeting.
 - **6U/8U Coaching Clinic:** A coaching clinic for 6U/8U programs will be held on August 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. The session will be led by Dan Jablonic, USA Hockey Player Development Manager, and is intended for those beginning to coach younger players.

- **Important Dates**
 - Association bids for the 2028 State Tournaments are due May 15, 2026. In light of FVYHA hosting PW A in 2027, we are not submitting a bid to save costs, but will consider hosting a vacant tournament that is available.
- **Association annual dues** and association registration with WAHA are due June 15, 2026.
- The WAHA Region 3 meeting is scheduled for May 28 at 7:00 p.m. Rene and Troy will attend.
- **Vice President's Report – Nick Miller**
 - Talking with Tommy Wroblowski insulation July- Aug. Everything is on track as of now.
 - Appleton Ice - looking for someone to take a position on their board. Nick Miller has decided to take the position on.
 - Projecting end of Aug a shortfall if loan doesn't get refinanced. Would need both rinks to pay fees early. Ice buy has already been figured out between Troy, Nick and Kevin. Vote on when /if it comes up.
- **Treasurer's Report – Ben Weight**
 - The transition from Justin to myself is complete.
 - Present FY25 Year End Financials "Preview" (Apr.'25 - Mar.'26)
 - Discuss access to SCRIPP account for reporting purposes, access to Crossbar
 - Support needed in creating the budget for FY26?
- **Registrar's Report – Brittany Sullivan**
 - Coaches and volunteers can start registering on Crossbar. I will not be accepting emails with information.
 - The new USA Hockey season begins July 1. Need to submit a roster of board members before any skater rosters can be completed. Would like all board members to have USA Hockey Numbers, Safesport, Background screens and registered as a volunteer (or coach) on Crossbar by August 1. Once you have a USA hockey number, I can check Safesport and background status.
 - Once budget meeting is complete 26-27 skater registration will be set up
- **Fundraising Report – Kristen Hirsbrunner**
 - The transition from Tara to myself is complete. The last piece of the transition is the bank account at Community First.
 - Will run Raise Right report on 5/31 so that codes can be generated for registration.
- **Volunteer Report - Teryn Williams**
 - Catfish hours posted and filled.
 - Volunteer hours to remain at 15 hrs. Crossbar now has a new spot for hours. IP will be at 0 Hrs.
- **Website Coordinator- Jimmy Taylor**

- Met with Tommy, insulation is puck proof
- Off ice tracker - Needs to get together with Troy
- Working on transition with Sam to take over Website.

Tournament Director - Sam Hawkinson

- Blades Blastoff 89 registered already - Lots of out of area skaters, meeting in June.
- Drop the Puck at tri-county Oct.
- **Growth Report -**
 - Zach continues as coordinator?
- **Sponsorship Coordinator - Melissa Hodgson**
 - N/A
- **Safety Coordinator -**
 - Katie Nonweiler?
- **Equipment Coordinator - Emily Grasse**
 - N/A
 - I motioned & Brittany Sullivan seconded to keep Emily on as equipment coordinator.
- **Scheduler Report - Nick Miller**
 - N/A
- **Director of Hockey Report – Troy Hawkinson**
 - Summer Skills with John Kriz is out & Filling Up
 - We will have an off ice program coming out
 - Breakfast Club Will be going live in the next week or so. Which will be live in the next week open to just Blades skaters.
 - Meet with Kevin from Appleton Ice, Ice schedule for next year confirmed.
 - We would like to get a videoTV for TCIA.
 - Coaching Committee on the Calendar, Thursday June 4th.
- **Age Directors' Reports - Time allotted | 15 min| Action required: please submit reports via email prior to meeting if possible.**
 - **IP-**
 - ?
 - **Mites – Jill Steffek**
 - N/A
 - **Squirt – Sara Hansman**
 - N/A
 - **PeeWee – Hannah Scholl**
 - N/A I motioned, Sara Hansman seconded to have Hannah as PeeWee Director.
 - **Bantams – Megan Czosek**

- N/A

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSIONS

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NEW BUSINESS/VOTING ITEMS

Budget meeting coming up in June

UPCOMING IN MAY:

Associations hosting tournaments submit tournament directors by end of MAY

Recruit volunteers (eg Fundraising, Sponsorship, etc)

Recruit volunteers for Summer Parades and Events

Submit for Red Smith Grant

Submit for USA Hockey 2 and 2 grant

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn 8:32 made by Sara.

NEXT MEETING: June 18th, 6:30 Woodshed

