

MN Hockey – District 16
Spring 2025 Meeting – Monday, May 5th, 2025
Lazy Jack's – Bemidji

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:01pm
- II. **Roll Call:** Bagley, Bemidji, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Hallock, Red Lake Falls, Roseau, Thief River Falls, Walker, and Warroad.
- III. **Associations Absent:** Lake of the Woods. Elliott said that they called and notified him that they would be absent, but it is still inexcusable not to have a representative at the meeting. Lake of the Woods could possibly be subject to a fine.
- IV. **Agenda Additions:** None.
- V. **Approve Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 Minutes:** Roseau moved/TRF-Second. Motion approved.
- VI. **Spring MN Hockey Recap:** Dragich said there is a lot going on with the World Juniors tournament coming to MSP this winter. Exhibition games and practices will be held prior to the tournament, with Bemidji being one of the host sites. Minnesota Hockey is planning on hosting a World Showdown Tournament during the WJC, information can be found on the MN Hockey website. D16 proposed a Girls 12U AA/A/B playing level split like in bantams, but it was rejected by the district directors. There was a lengthy discussion on GameSheet, which will likely be finalized in June. The current thought is that they will renew GameSheet for one more year, then switch to a different company. The 25-26 season is a USAH rule change year, but there are no major changes coming to the rules. For MN Hockey rule changes, equipment penalties will now count as a 10-minute misconduct towards Fair Play Points, they previously only counted as a 2-minute minor for FPP. Player waivers were also discussed, with the focus on allowing players to waiver to other communities that have a higher-level team than what their association offers and making residency a more highlighted part of waivers. No changes were made to waivers at this time. Joe Delich is no longer the Executive Director for MN Hockey and Louis Snee is leaving as well, so there is a lot of transition happening at the state level. There is also talk of requiring intermediate nets at the Mite/8U and Squirt/10U levels, District 2 will play all games at those levels with intermediate nets for the first two months of the season this year. Severson added that MN Hockey is working on charging associations \$7-8/game for using GameSheet, so expect a three-to-four-thousand-dollar bill due around April of next year. Elliott said that the district will pay part of the cost for District games. This should be resolved in June at the State Summer Meeting. Elliott also said that there were a few issues with discretionary waivers, but most of the time, the associations can work with each other and resolve it. Delich resigning was a shock to him. Kevin Suoja is the interim Executive Director, but he is also the District 2 Director, which is a conflict of interest. Elliott would like Kevin to stem down as D2 Director in the interim. The Summer Meetings are June 20-22 in Golden Valley.
- VII. **District-Region-State Hosts:**
2026 District Tournaments:

Bantam AA – None	Bantam A – Roseau	Bantam B1 & B2 – Bemidji
Peewee AA – None	Peewee A – East Grand Forks	Peewee B1 – Red Lake Falls
Peewee B2 – East Grand Forks	Girls 12U A & B – TRF	Girls 10U A & B - Bemidji
Squirt A – Lake of the Woods	Squirt B – Thief River Falls	Squirt B – Warroad

Region Tournaments:

Peewee AA: East Grand Forks	Peewee A: Thief River Falls	Peewee B: Roseau
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State Tournaments:

Girls 15UA: Lake of the Woods	Girls 12UA: Roseau
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Tournament hosts were determined for the 25-26 season. Roseau will purchase trophies for the District Tournaments this year. Bemidji asked if there was an opportunity for a North 10UB or 10UA region

tournament at the end of the season? It was noted that there are not many teams at those levels. Elliott will check into this.

VIII. Committee Reports:

1. Stats – No report.
2. District Web Page – continuing to be worked on with information being added, per Dragich. Standings for 25-26 will come directly from GameSheet. Associations will need to ensure that games are being entered correctly.
3. Coach-in-Chief (CEP) – Jay Hardwick, not present, but send a report about coaches' certification. Coaching clinic registration will open the first week of June, with more clinics being added for newer coaches later. Coaches can register for a clinic anywhere in the U.S.
4. ACE Coordinator – Jude Boulianne, not present but will send out an email for HPs. Elliott is encouraging smaller associations to participate.
5. Goalie Coordinator – No report. Still looking for a coordinator.
6. Referees – Ron Laturi, not present, but would like associations to remind parents to behave. Elliott said for 25-26, parents will be suspended for 3 weeks if they are ejected for abuse of officials. Associations who violate this suspension will not get to participate in district playoffs. Dragich said the MN Hockey Officials Association is encouraging mentorship programs and having a 3rd referee on the ice, skating with younger officials. Keith Block said they have done it in Lake of the Woods. Please let Elliott know in advance if it is going to be done.
7. HP Programs – No report on the HP Program. The 14U Tier 1 Blue Ox team qualified and won the Boys 14s National Championship with a few players from within the district, congratulations! Tryouts for the 25-26 Blue Ox season are coming up in East Grand Forks on May 17/18.
8. Awards – Roseau will provide awards for 2026 district tournaments.
9. Tournaments – Dragich reported that there is no information available on invitational tournaments from MN Hockey yet for the 25-26 season. Dragich had spoken with Elmer, who said at this point, there are likely no changes from last year. Bemidji asked about clarification on ND teams participating in MN Tournaments, especially if they register at a different level.
10. Risk Management – Elliott, please continue to report injuries if you have them. An email should be sent to both Elliott and Dragich anytime a player is injured in case they want to or are able to use USAH Insurance. Any doctor/hospital visit that is required should be documented.
11. Girls Hockey – 25-26 will be the 30th season of Girls' Hockey in District 16 per Elliott.
12. Retention/Recruitment – Severson, some opportunities lie ahead, but also headwinds. Typically, there are less players during a recession. There was a 4.8% loss at the state level with players aged 9 and older. Please apply for grants. Encouraging each association to have a position dedicated to recruitment and retention.

IX. Old Business:

1. Mark Elliott's address – 2030 Harding Ct SW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Cell – 218-766-4433. Work – 218-759-9411.
2. Locker Room Monitors – Issues and lawsuits continue to happen across the country because of locker room issues. It is very important that they are used.
3. Waivers – Get them a waiver as soon as it is needed, it must be approved by both associations and the district director.
4. Officiating Development – Severson, will send out an email with an update in a week or two.
5. AA Playoffs – Elliott said that they are working on a pre-regional playoff between District 11, 12, 15, and 16, but it is currently on hold.
6. AA North District Playoff Request – Eichstadt, Northern MN is fairly interested in showcasing the top teams that Northern MN has to offer, so he is in favor of a pre-regional playoff between the North Districts. Eichstadt also asked if we would get more representation in regionals with 9 AA teams, but Elliott said we would not. Reiersen noted that with how the district decided which AA teams advanced to regionals in 24-25, it offered some teams no opportunity for a playoff environment in his opinion. Elliott said that he, along with Pete Hill, Mark Stupar, and Dennis Bushy will decide how the mini-regional tournament will be done and force it through. Eichstadt asked then if all teams would need to play each other, to which Elliott replied that it would be discussed

in June. The District Directors would make the decision on that, but he would like teams to play each other at least 1 time per season.

7. Team Designation – Dragich, noted that this conversation applied more at the Peewee level, as there were a lot of non-competitive games at the Peewee B1 level this season. Associations need to do a better job of designating teams at the Association level. The goal is to find competitive games for all teams, so we need to look at what we are doing at this level. Teams used to all be designated B, then designated B1/B2 at district meetings. Then teams started being designated ahead of times as tournament registration started earlier. Designating teams can be difficult, with Crookston dropping from Peewee A to Peewee B being used as an example. There are also too many games where teams don't want to play, despite league rules being that you must play everyone twice. One solution to look at could come from District 5, where they require that every team that has an association must field an 'A' team.

X. New Business:

1. Rostering – There was an issue in District 16 this year, where a player in Bemidji was not rostered correctly. The issue was taken up by a Bagley parent and went farther than it should have. Need to ensure that mistakes like that don't happen.
2. 13U Pilot Program – Staying the same. MN Hockey is going to be lenient with the number of overage players playing down and could even petition to have them play at the 'B' level as well.
3. The Fall meeting will be held in Thief River Falls, location TBD, at 4pm on Monday, September 8th, 2025.

- XI. With no further business, East Grand Forks moved to adjourn the meeting and Crookston seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 5:44pm