

HINSDALE CENTRAL HOCKEY CLUB

BOARD MEETING

Willowbrook Ice Arena

May 21, 2025

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Jay Scharkey, Don Draudt, Julie Rzeppa, Jennifer Tallard, Kelly Staver, Louise Crabb, Garrett Ryan, Coach Brooks

President Update:

Don attended the recent IL West Meeting for Jay. Key takeaways from that meeting: Spartans (from Oak Lawn) are dropping down a league to North Central. Manuka will be joining our league and playing out of Canlan. League fees should be about the same as last year. Looking at 14 teams, so 28 IL West games for next year. Don and Coach Brooks brought up player safety issues at the meeting and urged them to make that a bigger priority for next season. Our club will continue to bring up this issue at each meeting to keep it a priority. Officiating assignments are moving to a new portal and will be run by Brett Straley. There was talk among the various clubs to build an IL West roster database to track where high school hockey players are playing hockey post high school (juniors, college club hockey, etc.) for recruitment purposes.

Bob McPherson agreed to take on the role as Varsity Team Manager.

Looking ahead, we need to consider an early registration incentive for families to help with managing budget and roster for the upcoming season.

Hockey Director Update:

It was agreed that we need to reserve ice for August conditioning skates & tryouts now. Coach Brooks will talk to Sue to see if we can try to schedule our ice on the heels of Central States tryouts at other clubs to allow those who get cut to come try out for us. Club lost money this spring season due to low number of skaters, and the forecast for skaters this coming fall is roughly 36-38 players (no less than 32). Due to lower numbers we should focus on scheduling/hosting a fall and spring showcase to off set fixed costs.

Numbers for Coach's summer hockey camp in July are a bit low - 16. Need 26 players but hoping for more.

Coach would like offer more on ice opportunities this summer for the players. Maybe coordinate one 3v3 team for summer league. He would like to offer open skates, as well, but worried about cost of ice versus the number of players. Coach will talk to boys during their end of season exit interviews.

Discussed potential tournaments for next season:

- Fall Showcase: First 2 weekends in September (JV 9/13; V 9/5)
 - Spring Showcase: dates TBD
 - Culver: Fall weekend for a 3 game series
 - Possible OOT tournaments in: Philadelphia, Rochester, Vegas, Tampa, D.C., Pittsburgh, Nashville.
- A survey to club will be sent out to gauge interest in the number of tournaments this season and which locations most desirable,

Social Media & Recruitment Update:

Kelly found out there is no way to copy archived photos in SportsEngine as a group to transfer them to Crossbar. It would have to be done individually taking a great deal of time. Moving forward, we will consider having photos dropped into Google Workspace folders.

Unfortunately, the majority of HCHS interns want hours over the summer which does not work well for our social media needs, so we may have to open up the search pool to other Hinsdale Central clubs.

Recruitment issues: Chicago Hawks are aggressively downplaying our club to prevent their players from making the switch to our club. Coach will reach out to prospective families to touch base on his summer camp and get their temperature about next season.

Treasurer Update:

Don looked into Zone Coaching with Jim Fannin (mental coaching) for our players. It would include 4 sessions focused on self discipline, concentration, optimization, relaxation and enjoyment. He will factor this cost into the budget forecast he is currently working on.

Apparel Update:

Julie and Coach Brooks still working with their vendors on the white jersey mock up with our logo. Red and white jerseys will need to be ordered by the end of June to get them in by September.

Events Update:

Banquet date is locked in for March 12th, 2026. Jen will be connecting with Jen Baskel to go over all club event details from last season.

Fundraising Update:

Rick will be looking into working with Vertical Raise (like the LAX program) for our Fall fundraiser next season.

The parking spot and Super Bowl Squares still on the table as other fundraising sources.

IL West League Update:

See President's report above.

June Board Meeting:

June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Ice Arena.