

HINSDALE CENTRAL HOCKEY CLUB

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Willowbrook Ice Arena

July 21, 2025

President's Update

Jay opened the meeting by announcing that the Coaches Committee has secured Mike Levine, a Chicago Hawks and HCHC alum, as our new Goalie Coach and Assistant Coach for both JV and Varsity. Mike, a lifelong goalie, currently works as an analyst at Morningstar and leads the goalie station for the Chicago Hawks. He is eager to play an active role in our recruiting efforts.

Jay provided the Board with this IL West League Update:

- Team fee: \$1,550 per team (unchanged from last year)
- Key Dates:
 - League Play Begins: September 12, 2025
 - League Games Conclude: January 25, 2026
 - Playoffs Complete: February 27, 2026
 - Quarterfinals: February 28, 2026
 - Semifinals: March 1, 2026
 - State Final (Tentative): March 6, 2026 at Allstate Arena
 - Goalie Clinic: August 26–27
 - Coaches Meeting: August 24
 - Pre-Scheduling: August 18
 - Scheduling Opens: August 25
 - Home Schedules Due: August 31
 - Managers Meeting: September 10
 - Season Kickoff Meeting: August 17 @ 5:00 PM – Hinsdale Community House
 - All-Star and All-Conference Dates: TBD

Conditioning & Tryouts are confirmed:

Conditioning Skates (1 hour):

- Monday, August 18 @ 6:20 PM
- Wednesday, August 20 @ 6:45 PM
- Thursday, August 21 @ 6:50 PM

Tryouts (1.5 hours):

- Wednesday, August 27 @ 8:00 PM
- Thursday, August 28 @ 7:40 PM

***A proposal was made to revise the Policies & Procedures to allow more flexibility for players trying out with the club. Jim made a motion to change P&P and it was seconded by Julie. Jay will draft and circulate the proposed revision.**

Hockey Director's Update

Coach Brooks reported:

- He is working with Chris Waters on the Goalie Pool and confirmed we will receive a JV goalie. He is actively recruiting additional goalies for both teams.
- Tim Laskowski, brother of Zach, will join as Assistant Coach for JV.
- Summer Camp is running smoothly.
- 2025–2026 Practice Schedule:
 - Monday: 5:20 PM & 7:20 PM (skills & 3v3 with alternating off-ice training)
 - Tuesday: 8:20 PM – 10:10 PM (tentative off-ice prior)
 - Wednesday: Goalies @ 7:20 PM
 - Thursday: 7:00–8:30 PM & 8:40–10:10 PM

Varsity Team Manager's Update (Bob McPhearson)

Bob confirmed the following tournaments:

- **Warrior Tournament**
 - Varsity: September 4–7 @ Seven Bridges
 - JV: September 11–14 @ All Seasons
- **Tampa Tournament:** Varsity & JV October 11–13
 - Hotel info to follow in September
- **Culver Academy (Varsity):** November 8–9 (away)
- Reached out to **Gilmore Academy** (Cleveland) regarding potential JV matchups.

Registrar's Update

Jim will set up registration for conditioning, tryouts, and fall season.

Reminders:

- 2007 & 2008 players must update SafeSport.
- Some board members must update USA Hockey numbers and SafeSport status.

Treasurer's Update

In Don's absence, Jay presented the 2025–2026 budget, which is based on 34 players (noting the departure of 15 seniors).

Key Takeaways:

- Recruiting is critical to maintaining the club as a standalone entity.
- Consider targeting 4th–6th graders to plant early interest in HCHC.

HUDL Investment Discussion:

- Estimated cost: \$9,000
- Pros: Quick, accurate analytics, strong recruiting tool
- Cons: ROI on player development uncertain
- Board agreed to explore a demo before making a final decision.

Apparel Update

- Final white jersey designs approved.

- Orders to be placed after teams are announced on August 30 (ETA: 4–6 weeks).
- Julie will also coordinate orders for coach jackets, pants, and bags.
- Gloves: minimum order is 12—Julie will email club and consider ordering extras for stock.
- Julie & Rick to explore white baseball hats branded “DEVILS” or “RED DEVILS” (inspired by Golf Team hats).

Secretary’s Update

Louise will work with Coach Brooks to post the finalized schedule on the website.

Social Media & Recruitment

Kelly met with Ashani Gupta, who will return as photographer and assist with social media.

- Ashani will upload all photos to a shared drive. She asked that all of her photos used on our social media be marked with her personalized tag Compensation: \$500/season
- Kelly will initiate another social media campaign to recruit marketing interns and grow followers. Players will be asked to share posts.
- Intern interviews ongoing, with the goal of securing the “social media team” by early September.
- Media Day will be planned for fall (after uniforms arrive), with an early shoot for seniors to build hype.
- Kelly suggested HCHC participate in the HCHS Activities Fair. She will follow up with Sally Phillips.

Events Update

Jen confirmed the Kickoff Meeting will be held Sunday, August 17 at 5:00 PM at the Hinsdale Community House. All other seasonal events have been scheduled.

Fundraising Update

Rick discussed the Vertical Raise Fundraiser:

- Goal: \$500 per player
- Matt from Vertical Raise will attend the Kickoff Meeting (8/17)
 - Players must bring 10 emails + 10 phone numbers for setup

- Fundraiser goes live August 18 and ends August 30
- Prizes may be awarded to top fundraisers
- Rick emphasized the importance of clarifying what funds are being raised for (e.g., HUDL, white jerseys, gloves).
- Suggested a club-wide email blast to expand reach beyond player contacts.

Additional Fundraisers Planned:

- Gift Card Sales
- Parking Spot Raffle
- Super Bowl Squares

Next Board Meeting

Monday, August 18 @ 6:30 PM – Willowbrook Ice Arena