

# HINSDALE CENTRAL HOCKEY CLUB

## BOARD MEETING (Via Microsoft Teams)

August 18th, 2025

### MINUTES

#### **In Attendance:**

Jay Scharkey, Don Draudt, Julie Rzeppa, Jennifer Tallard, Kelly Staver, Louise Crabb, Garrett Ryan, Rick Joutras, Bob MacPherson

#### **President's Update**

Jay opened the meeting with highlights from the recent Illinois West session. No major changes were reported. Upcoming events include a Presidents' Meeting, a Team Manager Meeting at NIU in Naperville (Jay has shared details with Bob and Garrett), and ongoing scheduling discussions.

The coaching staff for the upcoming season is finalized. Jay will circulate contracts to the new hires by the end of the month.

Jay also amended the Policies & Procedures (P&P) to provide the Hockey Director with greater discretion regarding roster requirements (e.g., players must attend at least one tryout). The Board voted to approve the amendment unanimously. Don suggested wording to also cover goalies from outside the Hinsdale Central district and homeschooled players living within the district.

- Motion to approve the revised P&P made by Don, seconded by Jay. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Varsity added a goalie, Eli Mattieu, from the goalie pool.

A dress code matter (players wearing suits) was raised following Sunday's Community House meeting. Jay will meet with James before the season to clarify expectations.

#### **Hockey Director's Update**

- Confirmed: Derek Daze is returning this season.
- Danny D'Aprile and Hussein Ads will be trying out for our club.
- Eli Mattieu from the goalie pool will join Varsity.

- Grant Mansell will not be participating this season.

## **Registrar's Update**

- Current registration: 34 skaters (including goalies) for conditioning and tryouts; potential increase to 36–38 pending late registrations.
- Additional JV goalie needed from the IL West pool.
- All 2007 & 2008 skaters, along with a few Board members, must complete SafeSport training.
- Final Fall Registration deadline: **Friday, August 29th.**
  - Fees: \$6,950 (skaters), \$3,800 (goalies).
- Board approved a 10% markup on player packs to cover additional costs.
- Reminder: USA Hockey now requires all Board Members to complete background checks and SafeSport training before team rosters can be finalized.

## **Social Media & Recruitment Update**

- Kelly spoke with HCHS Activities Director, Sally Phillips, who confirmed the club cannot participate in the Activities Fair since it is limited to school-sponsored activities. However, games can be posted on the PTO website.
- Kelly met with photographer Aishani Gupta, who expressed concerns regarding her role given the addition of interns. Kelly reassured her she remains the lead photographer and will be credited in all posts. Aishani requested increased compensation (\$1,000, citing other clubs) despite a reduced workload this season. Kelly informed her this would need Board approval but offered no guarantees. Board NOT in favor of pay increase for Aishani.
- Kelly extended an intern offer to senior Mia Wheeler, who accepted. Additional candidates have been interviewed, though less favorable. Kelly will continue the search for a few weeks before reassessing or potentially expanding Mia's responsibilities.

## **Apparel Update**

- Pending resolution of the dress code issue, garment bags may be eliminated. If so, Julie will substitute with winter beanies.

- Jay suggested adding skate guards and branded hockey pucks as additional club merchandise. Julie noted possible cost savings on coaches' apparel that could offset these extras.
- Rick is exploring baseball hat options through a Butterfield Country Club contact who works with Imperial Hat. He will gather more details.

## Events Update

- First home doubleheader (JV/Varsity) is scheduled for **Saturday, September 27th at 5:30 p.m. vs. the Warriors**. Plans include a potential tailgate, food truck, and coordination with Kenny for Airstream access. High school students may sing the National Anthem prior to puck drop. A Sunday, September 21st home slot is also available, though no game is yet scheduled.
- Once rosters are finalized, Jen will organize team brunches, aiming for late September.

## Fundraising Update

- Vertical Raise participation has been low in the campaign's first day. Rick emphasized the importance of reminding parents and players to participate.
- Jen flagged the automatic 15% "tip" default on donations. The Board agreed to notify families they can opt out.
- Incentives: \$250 Total Hockey gift card will be awarded to both the JV and Varsity players with the highest fundraising totals.

Additional fundraising discussion:

- Bob shared that Jackie's coworker out East overseas fundraising for football club and they use HUDL Bronze package (\$3,200) for six football teams. While effective, they delete the AI features, which remain unreliable.
- Don presented a comparison of HUDL packages:
  - **Instat Package:** 60 tracked stats, \$3,500/team. \*This is the package board really like after the demonstration\*
  - **Bronze Package:** 30 tracked stats, 30 hours of video, \$2,000/team.
- The Board favored the Instat Package after review. Decision required soon due to a three-week camera lead time.

**Decision:** Proceed with the Instat Package.

## **Next Board Meeting**

**Monday, September 15, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.**  
Willowbrook Ice Arena