

CCJHA Board of Directors August 2025 Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

Joe Zerbst, President
Jeff Peltier, Vice President

Dustin Armbruster, Treasurer
JoLynn Pietila, Secretary

Call to order: 6:31 pm

Present: Joe Zerbst, JoLynn Pietila, Dustin Armbruster, Ryan Bennett, Calvin Larson, Amy Blake, Jeff Peltier, Jeff Baril, Jennifer Capello, Mark Hendrickson and Colleen Mayra (via phone)

Absent: Jason Swain, Ryan Galerneau, Rudy Gemignani and Stacy Bussiere

Guests and Public Comments

- Geoff Cutsy—present to voice comments and concerns regarding the potential agreement with Michigan Tech/Junior Huskies

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve last month's meeting minutes was made by Dusty Armbruster, seconded by Jeff Peltier; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Balances:

Board Balance: \$114,771.80; QB: \$114,975.80

Referee Balance: \$2603.31

Markham/Kero Savings: \$5,056.51

Bills Paid:

- None

Bills Outstanding:

- None

Donations / Payments:

- None

To-Do:

- 1099
- Unemployment (MIWAM)
- Insurance

Notes:

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Jeff Peltier; Colleen Mayra seconded; the motion carried.

Program Director Report

- The requirement to have a minimum of 2 house teams for each age group was not found in the handbook.
- Amy has started the process of scheduling game dates and times and practices. The hope this season will be to do block scheduling to create consistency for as many teams/age groups as possible. 8U will get earlier time slots and older kids will get the later ones. This should help accommodate for other school sports as well as job schedules, etc.
- Practicing on Saturdays and Sundays consistently this season may need to happen to fill those blocks.
- The association desires to schedule a checking/competitive contact clinic for CCJHA players
 - Older coaches will be asked to help out in running this

- Amy is proposing opening up and encouraging early registration for multiple reasons, one of which being to allow for more payments, lowering the burden for families. It also helps the association with planning for the season.
 - Crossbar has more flexibility for payment plans
 - A code of conduct including the locker room policy and a sportsmanship agreement will be needed to sign before registering
 - If players register before September 1, they will be eligible to be in a drawing for prizes: gift certificates to Center Ice, blanket, mug, etc.

- An Earn Your Stripes North Event will be on September 13th at the SDC
 - There will be games throughout the day and any registered 10U skaters can play
 - All referees, new and old, are encouraged to come as there will be instruction for all
 - There should be money from the grant that we received to pay for the clinic, making it free for participants
 - They will need their USA Hockey number to participate

A motion to approve checking (up to 3 hours of ice time) paid for by the CCJHA (a permit is needed), was made by Jenn Capello; seconded by Dusty Armbruster. The motion passed.

An oral VOTE was cast to approve the association paying for the checking clinic. All present voted in favor of the CCJHA paying for it so that it can be free to registered players.

A motion to purchase (2) \$200 and (1) \$100 Center Ice gift cards was made by Ryan Bennett; seconded by Calvin Larson. The motion passed.

A VOTE was cast to approve the purchase of these incentives to encourage early registration. All present voted in favor of purchasing the Center Ice gift cards.

Coaching Director Report

- The CCJHA would like to encourage any and all coaches to get registered and ready for the season as early as possible

- A motion to approve Patrick Aldrich as an 18U split season coach was made by Colleen Mayra; seconded by Jeff Peltier. The motion passed.

Equipment Manager Report

- There are a few community members wanting to donate money towards Goalie equipment and new 8U nets; with Rudy out of town, Colleen will be the contact for them to move forward with helping to make this happen

Officials Report

- Nothing to report

Registrar/Safe Sport Report

- There are changes this year made by USA Hockey so coaches need to be aware of them
 - All new coaches will need an intro class
 - Everything has to be done by December 15th (not December 31st like in the past)

Booster Club Report

- An awards night is planned for September 17th at 6pm at the High School. This will also be used as a kickoff for the new season and a chance for information to be relayed to parents for the year
- Colleen is proposing that the Booster Club no longer be required to meet monthly and instead meet on an as-needed basis now that there won't be concession stand/DIBS requirements

Finance Committee Report

- Attached is a letter of agreement with Michigan Tech University regarding a partnership/sponsorship

- In addition to these terms, MTU is asking for some help with ushering when students are on break (23 people/night for November 28, 29th and February 27th). This would be an opportunity to earn extra money.
- MTU wants all travel teams, not just the 3 new added ones this season, to have the new proposed Copper Country Junior Huskies jerseys and will advance next year's \$5,000 to help aid in purchasing them.

After a long discussion about this new partnership, a motion to move forward pending a review of the agreement by a lawyer, with the MTU athletic agreement was made by Colleen Mayra; seconded by Dusty Armbruster. The motion carried.

An open verbal VOTE was conducted to approve this letter of agreement: All present voted yay except for Calvin Larson, who abstained due to his close connection with MTU. The motion passed.

- Work is being done on the concept paper for the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation grant for on and off-ice equipment
- Registration will be open by the end of the week of August 11th
- The CCJHA is thankful to accept \$2500 earned from the Thatcher Markham run during Bridgefest
- The deadline for applying for scholarships from the CCJHA for the season will tentatively be in the middle of October
 - A motion to approve \$2500 to be used for these scholarships was made by Calvin Larson; seconded by Jenn Capello. The motion passed.
 - A VOTE was cast to approve using \$2500 for the financial aid to those in need. All present voted YAY.
- 3-4 new sponsors are still needed for teams this season

Tournament Director Report

- No teams have registered for the November Gale tournament that we had hoped to host the weekend of October 31–November 2nd
 - This is in part due to the Marquette association hosting their Iron Sticks tournament for all age groups
 - It will be looked into if we can find a different weekend that works for MTU or possibly change it to a house tournament like it was last year

Travel Committee Report

- There is a request to move up (2) 8U players to play on the 10UA team
 - The 2 players that were requested to move up by the 8U coordinator are Freddy Kangas and Brock LaTendresse
 - A motion to approve this request was made by Jeff Peltier; seconded by Dusty Armbruster. The motion carried.
 - An oral VOTE was made to approve this player move-up: 8 voted YAY; 1 NAY and 1 abstained from voting

Webmaster Report

- Nothing to report.

Sportsmanship & Behavior

- Nothing to report.

Coaching Committee

- Nothing to report

Fundraising Committee

- Jenn Capello needs a date, time and location for the drawing to be able to proceed with organizing the raffle fundraiser

- Will have to work on a plan to present at the September Board meeting

Old Business

- MAHA Revisions to CCJHA Bylaws Revised Draft
 - The latest version was sent to MAHA with the affiliation agreement for 24/25; Al Wakeham said they would be reviewed this winter by the MAHA bylaws committee.
- Team CC/16U split season tryout took place on 8/7, with play starting on 8/13
- 18U communication has started but nothing has moved forward yet
- Two proposals were presented for Goalie coaching for CCJHA goalies, one from the Central Wisconsin Goal Academy and one from BR.ice Hockey Development
 - A motion to approve using BR.ice for goalie development was made by Jeff Peltier; seconded by Colleen Mayra. The motion passed.
 - An oral VOTE was cast to approve the use of BR.ice for goalie development. All present voted YAY; zero nays.

New Business

- The next CCJHA BOD monthly meeting is scheduled for **September 10th, 2025** at 6:30 pm in the Dave Wiitanen room at the HoCo.

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Peltier, seconded by Ryan Bennett. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by J. Pietila, Secretary (1 Attachment–See below)

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

This Letter of Agreement (the “LOA”) is entered into as of this [16] day of July 2025, by and between:

Michigan Technological University, a public institution of higher education located in Houghton, Michigan (hereinafter “University” or “Michigan Tech”),

AND

Copper Country Junior Hockey Association (CCJHA), a non-profit organization located in Hancock, Michigan (hereinafter “CCJHA” or “Program”).

I. Purpose and Scope

This LOA outlines a collaborative partnership between the University and CCJHA to foster youth hockey development and community engagement.

II. Term of Agreement

This LOA shall commence on July 16, 2025 and continue for a period of two (2) years, concluding on June 30, 2027, unless terminated earlier as provided herein. This LOA may be extended in writing by the parties in periods of 1-2 years.

III. Financial and Brand Usage Terms

- A. Rebranding:** CCJHA agrees to rebrand all aspects of its organization to “Copper Country Junior Huskies.” This rebranding includes, but is not limited to, the official name, website, advertising materials, and all player jerseys and apparel for both home and away teams, including travel teams. House 8U teams will retain their current jerseys with current sponsorship and add Junior Husky logos on the shoulders. All other player jerseys will have the Copper Country Junior Huskies as the primary sponsor in the middle, front of the jersey and the changeover of these jerseys will occur progressively over a two-year period from the effective date of this LOA, with the travel teams being included in the first year.

- B. Financial Contribution:** The University will provide a financial contribution to CCJHA in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per year, payable annually on or before August 1 of each year of this LOA. The changeover of player jerseys will be funded through this contribution.
- C. Merchandise Sales:** CCJHA is authorized to design, produce, and sell merchandise bearing the “Copper Country Junior Huskies” logo, provided the logo usage adheres to the University’s brand guidelines (to be provided separately). CCJHA retains all proceeds from such merchandise sales.

IV. Other Engagements

- A. In-Kind Ice Time:** The University will provide in-kind ice time, not to exceed a value of \$5,000, at the John MacInnes Student Ice Arena (SDC) for CCJHA activities when available and mutually agreeable, subject to the University’s scheduling priorities.
- B. Fundraising Opportunities:** The University will offer fundraising opportunities to CCJHA, such as ushering at University events, when such opportunities become available. The specifics of these opportunities will be communicated as they arise.
- C. Junior Hockey Night at the MAC:** During the designated Tech hockey season, the University will host “Junior Hockey Night at the MAC” at two (2) designated Michigan Tech hockey games. This will include recognition and promotional opportunities for CCJHA.
- D. 8U Intermission Games:** CCJHA’s 8U teams will have the opportunity to play intermission games during two (2) designated Michigan Tech hockey games per season.
- E. Michigan Tech Hockey Camp Scholarship:** Michigan Tech will provide up to two scholarships per year to its summer hockey camp. The scholarship will be provided to eligible CCJHA members living in the Houghton area. Details regarding the scholarship criteria and application process will be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

V. Revocation of Brand Usage

- A. Conduct:** CCJHA, its leadership, coaches, staff, and players, shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values and reputation of the University. Any conduct, action, or communication by CCJHA or its representatives that is widely regarded as immoral, unethical, unlawful, or brings the University’s brand into disrepute

(including, but not limited to, actions involving illegal activities, discrimination, harassment, abuse, or gross misconduct) shall constitute a breach of this LOA.

- B. Revocation of Brand Usage:** The University reserves the right to immediately revoke CCJHA's permission to use the "Copper Country Junior Huskies" brand and logo if CCJHA breaches any term of this LOA, including but not limited to Section V(A).
- C. Notice Period for Revocation:** In the event of a breach of this LOA by CCJHA, the University will provide thirty (30) days' written notice of its intent to revoke brand usage, outlining the nature of the breach and an opportunity to cure, if the University chooses to provide one. However, for breaches of Section V(A) that are deemed by the University, in its sole discretion, to be severe or pose an immediate threat to the University's reputation, the University may revoke brand usage with immediate effect upon written notification to CCJHA, with no prior notice period required.

VI. Intellectual Property

The "Copper Country Junior Huskies" logo and any associated branding elements provided by the University remain the exclusive intellectual property of the University. CCJHA's use of these elements is strictly limited to the terms outlined in this LOA. Upon termination of this LOA, CCJHA shall immediately cease all use of the "Copper Country Junior Huskies" brand and logo.

VII. General Provisions

- A. Non-Exclusivity:** This LOA does not create an exclusive partnership between the parties.
- B. Amendments:** Any amendments or modifications to this LOA must be made in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both parties.
- C. Governing Law:** This LOA shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.
- D. Entire Agreement:** This LOA constitutes the entire understanding between the parties and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, and agreements, whether oral or written.

E. Counterparts: This LOA may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date first written above.

FOR Michigan Technological University:

Joel Isaacson, Senior Associate Athletic Director

Date:

FOR COPPER COUNTRY JUNIOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION:

Joe Zerbst, President

Date: