

Minnesota Hockey – District 8

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date: September 24, 2025
Meeting Time: 7:00
Meeting Location: Moose Lodge, Inver Grove Heights

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

D8 Board Members:

Present: Rak, Dave, Paul, Kate, Mickey, Elliot, Chris, Kent, Bill

Absent: Jeff, Julie, Jamie, Andy

Association Representation:

Present: Apple Valley/ Burnsville, Cottage Grove, Eagan, Hastings, IGH, Lakeville, SSP, Woodbury, WSP

Absent: Farmington, Eastview, Red Wing, Rosemount

III. D8 BOARD REPORTS:

A. Director (Rak): MH Meeting Update (June 20 – 22, 2025)

i. Tag-up & Off-sides/ icing request

- The MH request for tag-up/ off-sides was denied by USA Hockey. The rule will stay as is. When asked why, USAH gave the response that if they approve MN, they will have to approve others

ii. Mite and 8U Net Size

- Minnesota Hockey has passed a rule that Mites/ 8U and younger need to use the intermediate nets or smaller
- There is a question as to what size net can be used for the 10 full-ice games; an answer will be provided soon – watch your emails

iii. Minnesota Hockey Rule Change –

- One rule change was made, the wording for the school attendance waiver rule has been changed to delete the mention of enrolling in 9th grade. The rule has not changed, just the verbiage

iv. Officials

- There are 1,951 officials in Minnesota Hockey, 285 for District 8
 - Officials cannot be turned away if they have paid the USAH registration fee

v. Girl teams are *labeled* 15U and under, they are *classified* as 14U

vi. Scorebooks are at Rak's house – if you're in need of one, let him know

B. Financial Update (Dave): n/a

C. President (Dave):

- i. As tryouts wrap up, please get any team changes to Dave, Kate, and level director as soon as you know
- ii. There have been a lot of GameSheet invite code requests, we are receiving them, but are waiting until all team changes have been made

D. Officials (Moen):

- i. Seeing lots of applications for officiating this year
- ii. If you use referees for tryouts at the Squirt level – this will count as a game towards the 35-game rule; the recommendation is to not use officials for tryouts

****NOTE:** *On the officiating application, there is a question “Do you have an officiating experience?” There have been several officials who have noted they have experience coaching scrimmages. You cannot use officials for non-game ice events. A coach’s scrimmage should not have any sort of official on the ice. If you are unclear about the rules, it is suggested that you review the Official USA Hockey rules (rulebook can be found on the D8 website under Handbook)*

- iii. Avario has sent out contact information to all ice schedulers to start scheduling games – make sure that your ice scheduler knows that the “review” period is the only chance to make changes to the schedule. Once the schedule has been posted publicly, any game change requests will need to go through the regular game change process, including paying the game change fee.

E. Girls Program (Jeff): n/a

F. Coach in Chief (Bill) –

- i. Clinic dates have been posted through the end of October
- ii. On Oct 1, November clinics will be posted
- iii. Keep watching websites as these clinics will go fast, there are some wait lists
- iv. Encourage your coaching staff to get these done sooner rather than later
- v. TCS can count towards level 4 or 5 CE as 3 credits.
 - Coaching Symposium at Xcel Energy Center this weekend (Sept 26 to 28)

G. Tournaments (Zac):

- i. If you have an invitational tournament that needs to be sanctioned yet, you will need to go to the Minnesota Hockey website and get that done asap.
 - If you wait until 21 days before, there will be late fees assessed
- ii. Playoff Hosts are looking great – thank you to those associations who have stepped up
 - Every Association should be hosting at least one

H. Director of Coaching (Elliot):

- i. Fall Tier teams are wrapping up
 - Girls & 15 boys start league games this weekend (Sept 27)
 - 13 and 14 Prospect season is over - They remained undefeated during league play and lost in overtime in playoffs
 - Tier 1 14 Boys advanced and play their first game on Oct 4 against Shattuck – St. Mary

I. Bantams (Mickey): n/a

J. Peewees (Chris):

- i. Body contact clinic on Sept 29 in Woodbury
 - Held by Minnesota Hockey, hosted by Woodbury
 - Sept 29th from 7:15 to 9:15

➤ Registration on Minnesota Hockey website

K. Squirts (Julie): n/a

L. Goalie Director (Andy):

- i. Sept 8th Train the Goalie clinic in Woodbury went very well, approximately 20-25 in attendance
- ii. There was a lot of great feedback from these trainings
- iii. Around 45 attendees for both sessions – big increase over last year’s attendance numbers
- iv. Currently working with Woodbury to record some of the drills that were demonstrated so coaches can refer back through the season
- v. Any coaches wishing to further their education should register for “Bronze Goaltending Clinic”
 - The clinics can be found on the Minnesota Hockey website under continuing education

M. Junior Gold (Kent):

- i. Make sure Kent has the proper contact information for Junior Gold
- ii. Watch emails for information regarding coaching clinics and new credentialing requirements
 - If you do not have a JG Coordinator, this information will be sent to the Vice President
 - If you are expecting a parent coach, do not wait to look into new credentialing requirements
- iii. If you need players or have too many, reach out to Kent or Bill to find placement. They do not want to have any teams fold due to player numbers

IV. New Business

- A. Jamie Shepard has been approved to replace Jeff Daggit as Girls Director of District 8 for the remainder of the term
- B. Requests by Rochester for their 15U B and two 12U B2 teams have been approved to play in District 8 this season; Cannon River request for 15U A has also been approved
- C. Minnesota Hockey will still have to approve the girls’ leagues

****Note:** *Any outside team that is playing in a District 8 league, must follow District 8 league rules for league games. League rules are available on the District 8 Website in the handbook.*

- D. Discussion regarding skaters that want to skate up – A conversation was had regarding each association’s rules regarding player’s skating up and what happens if the skater in question does not meet the requirements after tryouts.
 - i. There are two distinct options for a skater – “Peer up” and “Play up”
 - ii. Associations cannot turn down a peer up player; a play up player request can be turned down
 - iii. If a player elects to “peer” up, such an election shall be made prior to participation or tryouts for the current season. Once the decision has been made, it shall apply to the entire season.

- This also applies to any girl skater who elects to try out with Youth hockey instead of Girls hockey. Once the decision has been made to try out with Youth, they must stay in the Youth program for that season
- iv. Minnesota Hockey strongly advises against players moving up to due to developmental concerns
- E. Bantam A teams have been accepted by District 2 to play for the 2025-26 season
 - i. However, WSP needs to decide where they want their Bantam team to play
 - ii. If they host Bantam A, there will be enough teams for District 8 to host a league
 - iii. If they host Bantam AA, then the remaining teams will play in District 2
- F. If a family owes an association money or is in otherwise not good standing, please reach out to Rak – especially if you know they have moved to another association. If they own money to one association – they are not in good standing with USAH and therefore unable to be rostered

V. Discussion Topics

- A. Post game prayer was discussed
 - i. District 8 will not be issuing a rule prohibiting players from congregating at the face-off circle at the completion of the game for the purposes of prayer provided the players keep their mandatory equipment on
 - ii. District 10 has banned all prayers
- B. Families knowingly misrepresenting home addresses with the intent to deceive an association – what actions can an Association take and what repercussions are there?
 - i. Minnesota Hockey has policy that determines which documents are allowed as proof of address/ legal dwelling
 - Valid driver's license, lease, voter registration card, court filed marital termination custody agreements (if applicable), school enrollment form, cover page of tax return, property tax bill, and other persuasive evidence may be allowed
 - ii. If an association suspects that a family has misrepresented their home address, bring the concern to Rak and he will do what he can to address the situation
 - It is a tricky situation as the District's hands are tied as to how much can be done
 - iii. The District is aware that there are families who will lie – however, there is only so much “detecting” that can be done
 - iv. If an association would like to hire a private investigator or play detective themselves, if something is uncovered District 8 will look into it
 - v. If a player is found to be playing for an association not aligned with their home zip code, they will be considered an ineligible player.

VI. Close

Next D8 Board Meeting: October XX, 7:00pm @ TBD