

Minnesota Hockey – District 8

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 25, 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, Andy, Kent, Bill

Absent: Jeff, Zac, Julie

Association Representation:

Present: Apple Valley/ Burnsville, Cottage Grove, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, Hastings, IGH, Lakeville, Red Wing, Rosemount, SSP, Woodbury, WSP

Absent: n/a

III. D8 BOARD REPORTS:

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

i. GameSheet costs have been finalized

- Cost will be \$8/ game, charged to the team hosting (home team)
- Initial costs will be passed on the team's game total from last year. Any additional games over the initial invoice will be billed at the end of the season.
- Not sure what happens for associations that do not play the minimum number of games paid for.
- No charge for regional/state games. District games will be built into the tournament fee.
- GameSheet will bill MH. MH will then send bills to the districts who will send out to the associations.
- There is not a due date set at this time

ii. School Attendance Waivers

- MH has put out information that any player born 06/01/2015 to 05/31/2016 are eligible for school attendance waivers. Any other waivers requested will need to be discretionary.
- School waivers cannot be denied
- Denied discretionary waivers can appeal to the District Director

iii. Tag-up & Off-sides/ icing

- MH request for tag-up/ off-sides was just sent to USAH this past weekend. It had been thought it had been requested at an earlier date, but that was not done.
- This would affect Bantams/ 14U

iv. Girls Hockey Updates

- Girls Try Hockey free day is set for Dec 13 by the USAH girls committee.
- Associations can run the clinic any date that they would like to
- If you are hosting, you will need to register with USAH, the same as any other try hockey for free day.

- Discussions have started about adding checking to girls 14U hockey. This conversation is in the early stages, and nothing has been decided on. Two countries in Europe have added this in recent years.
- Minnesota Hockey is HIRING –
 - MH is revamping their front office. The following FULL-TIME positions will be posted soon
 1. Executive Director
 2. Finance Director
 3. Hockey Program Director
- GUARDIAN CAPS or other non-HEC approved safety devices is not approved by USAH or HEC. If there is any alteration/ addition done to the helmets, they are no longer certified. (Q collars were brought up, but need to get an answer on this)
- Locker Room Monitors – Associations need to ensure they are IN the locker room and monitoring appropriately.
 - LRM needs to be stricter with kids who are not doing what they are supposed to be doing.
- Net Size for Mites/ 8U and younger
 - Any games played by Mites, 8U, Mini-Mites and 6U must use intermediate size or smaller nets specifically in cross ice games.
 - For Mites/ 8U playing full ice games, full size nets can be used but these games must be approved by the District Director.
- MH Rulebook change – Equipment (Neck guards/ Mouth guards) violations are 10-minute misconducts and *will count towards* the Fair Play point number. The player will be given one warning, and the next step will be a misconduct penalty.

B. Financial Update (Dave): n/a

C. President (Dave): n/a

D. Officials (Moen):

- i. USAH and MH are at odds regarding coaching seminars. Paul Moen would like to have his own clinics, but USAH says no to in-person, zoom only.
- ii. USAH has agreed to allow level 1 some on-ice seminars and which will be listed on the USAH website.
 - Will be open to anyone, but first come, first serve.
 - Limit of 50 participants per clinic.
- iii. USAH has a calendar with a set number of seminars per week
- iv. Avario is asking associations to be mindful of scheduling league games if your association is hosting a tournament.
 - Exception would be Bantam level games and Squirt tournament or vice versa

E. Girls Program (Jeff): n/a

F. Coach in Chief (Bill) –

- i. 2025/26 Season clinics are posted now.
 - Additional clinics will be posted as they start to fill out.

- There are still seats available for the Level 5 coaching clinic in Columbus, OH. Dates are August 14 to 17, 2025.
- Encourage your coaches to have their clinics done sooner rather than later. Dec 15 is the suggested due date.
- Dec 30 is the final due date, but options are very limited the longer that you wait.
- ii. No further information is available about the mite coaching level certificate. Encourage your coaches to take level 1 if they plan on coaching beyond mites.

G. Tournaments (Zac):

- i. Playoffs for state advancing teams begin Feb 15
- ii. League dates for state advancing teams are Nov 8 to Feb 8
- iii. Playoffs for non-advancing teams begin March 2
- iv. League games for non-advancing teams can begin as early as November 8. You can block off an additional week or two if your tryouts are held late
- v. All league games for non-advancing teams must be done by Feb 27. After that point, Avario will push playoff dates to your ice schedulers
- vi. Some district playoff sites have already been spoken for. Look for what you want and get your request to Zac. (Open tournaments are on the D8 website)
- vii. There are still a handful of state and regional tournament hosts needed. Rak will assign if need be, but the preference is that the associations step up.
- viii. Get your invitational tournament requests in – Paul needs to approve and assign refs, and Zac will need to create the proper paper trail for MH/ USAH

H. Director of Coaching (Elliot): n/a

I. Bantams (Mickey): n/a

J. Peewees (Chris):

- i. Reminder that while bodychecking is illegal at the PW level, coaching/ training bodychecking is not. Please ensure that your PW coaches are working with 2nd year PWs in the back half of the season on drills

K. Squirts (Julie): n/a

L. Goalie Director (Andy):

- i. Lakeville, Farmington, and Woodbury have offered to host the “Train the Goalie Coach” sessions
 - Farmington is planning an August session at Burnsville Arena
 - Woodbury and Lakeville are TBD

M. Junior Gold (Kent): n/a

IV. New Business

- A. District 9 has requested Mankato’s BAA play in District 8. The vote was held and the motion passed.
 - i. Discussion topics included –
 - Why? There are only two BAA teams in District 9

- Why not go with D6, they want to play D8
- Woodbury noted that a 90-minute drive would make weekday games very tough.

V. Key takeaways & Action Items

- A. District Tournament Hosts – ****Do not wait until the last minute – any tournaments not picked up will be automatically assigned to the associations that have not signed up for anything.**
- B. The 35-game limit at Squirts does NOT include end of season tournament.
- C. As of today, **Cottage Grove and WSP are the only associations who have not filled out the spreadsheet indicating what you are planning for your teams this upcoming season. Please do so ASAP.**
 - i. The question was asked, why hasn't this been done yet?
 - ii. This is an important task to complete as it helps D8 determine if they will need to send any of our teams to different districts.
- D. Associations must work with their coaches & managers to ensure that GameSheet information is correct every game.
 - i. Any players/ coaches that are inactive for any reason (injured, inactive, suspended, etc) need to be accounted for. This must be accurate.
 - Ultimately, this is the responsibility of the head coach and the manager.
 - It is recommended that the head coach double check's everything before the game is uploaded.
- E. Lakeville is in dire need of 10U goalies – they have 4 teams and 1 goalie. If you can help – reach out to Katie Neu!
- F. The World Tournament scheduled for winter break has been cancelled.

VI. Close.

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