



Great Falls Amateur Hockey Association Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Date: 10 February 2026

Time: 6:33PM

Location: Great Falls Ice Plex, 4001 29th Street SW, Great Falls, MT 59404

1. Call to Order

- By: Mike Pancich
- Time: 6:36 PM

2. Executive Board / Voting Members Attendance

- **Board Members Present:**
 - President – Mike Pancich
 - Vice President – Mike Zook
 - Treasurer – Jennifer Chambers
 - Secretary – Corey Smith
- **Division Representatives Present:**
 - High School – Jeff Winkler / Erik Stober
 - 14U – Becky Kujava / Charlie Hibl
 - 12U – Neal Popichak / Meghan Haynes
 - 10U – Matt Baker / Scott Bambenek
 - 6U / 8U – Sott Moodie / Katie Biggs
 - House League – Cody Lee
 - 19U Girls Hockey – Becky Kujava
- **Board Members Absent:** N/A
- **Division Representatives Absent:**
 - House League - Amber Heck
- **Guests/Observers:** Ryan Smith (Ice Plex President)

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Date: 13 January 2026
- Motion to Approve: Erik Stober
- Second by: Becky Kujava
- Vote: Unanimous (Motion Approved)

4. Approval of Treasurer Report

- Motion to Approve: Jeff Winkler
- Second by: Katie Biggs
- Vote: Unanimous (Motion Approved)

5. Executive Board & Committee Member Reports

- President – Mike Pancich
 - The following Executive Board and Division Representative positions will be up for election at the May 2026 Annual Meeting:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - 1 – High School Representative
 - 1 – 14U Representative
 - 1 – 12U Representative





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- 1 – 10U Representative
- 1 – 6U/8U Representative
- 2 – Girls Hockey Representatives
- 1 – House League Representative
- 1 – Tournament Director
- **Election Process & Timeline**
 - Nominations will open prior to the May meeting.
 - Candidates must be members in good standing with GFAHA.
 - Nominations may be submitted in advance or taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting (per bylaws).
 - Voting will occur during the May 2026 Annual meeting.
 - Term ends May 31, 2026, for outgoing members and starts June 1, 2026, for incoming members so that there is adequate time to transition.
- **Girls Locker Room Issue:**

During the Casey Cup tournament, an unforeseen space constraint required temporary reassignment of locker room usage. Referees utilized the girls' locker room due to limited available space. At the time, no established contingency plan was in place to address this type of situation.

The decision was made within the time constraints presented and was determined to be the most practical solution under the circumstances. Moving forward, the Board will work to develop a clear backup plan to better manage locker room logistics during high-capacity events. In similar situations, affected parties will be encouraged to communicate and reach a cooperative agreement that addresses immediate needs while ensuring fairness and safety for all participants.
- Vice President – Mike Zook
 - **Technology Platform Transition**
 - A motion was made by Jeff Winkler and seconded by Becky Kujava to transition GFAHA's organizational management platform from SportsEngine to Crossbar's All-in-One system. motion carried and was approved.
 - The Board discussed cost efficiency, operational streamlining, and long-term scalability as primary drivers for this decision.
 - **Rationale for Transition**
 - Crossbar offers a comprehensive, integrated system.
 - Lower overall administrative costs compared to SportsEngine.
 - Improved user experience for families, coaches, and administrators.
 - Platform widely adopted by other Montana hockey associations.
 - Simplified administrative oversight and reporting capabilities.
 - **Key Platform Capabilities**
 - Crossbar will support:
 - Online Registration & Payment Processing
 - Equipment Rental Tracking & Management
 - Live Game Scoring
 - Jersey Assignment & Inventory Management
 - Team & Division Schedule Integration
 - Mobile App Access
 - Enhanced website functionality and customization





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- **Financial & Contract Details**
 - Implementation begins immediately.
 - Promotional agreement includes no cost through June 1, 2026.
 - Billing will commence June 1, 2026.
 - Board directed that formal cancellation notice be provided to SportsEngine in accordance with contractual requirements to prevent renewal overlap or additional fees.
- **Implementation Plan**
 - System sign-on scheduled immediately following approval.
 - Data migration and website transition to occur prior to next season registration launch.
 - Communication plans to families will be developed once setup is finalized.
 - Training sessions may be scheduled for division representatives and administrators.
- **Additional Action Items**
 - Mike Zook will review Crossbar's officiating module integration, including game assignments per Ken Speidel's request.
 - Confirm reporting functionality aligns with Treasurer and Registrar needs.
 - The Board noted that this transition positions GFAHA for improved operational efficiency, stronger financial oversight, and a better overall member experience heading into the 2026–2027 season.
- Confirmation of End-of-Year Parties/Gift allowance: \$75.00 per player
- **Treasurer – Jennifer Chambers**
 - The Board reviewed a reimbursement request submitted by Erik Stober in the amount of \$400 for expenses incurred on behalf of GFAHA. The expenses were discussed and determined to be appropriate and aligned with association-related activities.
 - After reviewing and clarification of the purpose of the expenditure, the following motion was made; Motion was made by Katie Biggs and seconded by Becky Kujava to approve reimbursement to Erik Stober in the amount of \$400 for authorized GFAHA-related expenses; motion carried and was approved.
 - **Equipment Donation – Policy Inconsistency**
 - The Board reviewed two recent equipment donations that were processed in a manner inconsistent with established GFAHA policy. Upon review, the association's accountant determined that there had not been formal Board oversight or approval at the time of acceptance and recommended retroactive approval to properly document the transactions. Motion was made by Katie Biggs and seconded by Becky Kujava, That the Board formally acknowledge the identified inconsistency with policy regarding the two recent equipment donations and approve them on a one-time retroactive basis, without establishing precedent, in accordance with the accountant's recommendation, motion carried and was approved.





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- Secretary – Corey Smith
 - No new updates reported.
- Division Representatives
 - High School – Jeff Winkler / Erik Stober
 - The Casey Cup Tournament was reported as successful overall, with strong participation and positive feedback.
 - Scholarship recipient information will be forwarded to Jennifer Chambers; Blake Hurda was identified as a scholarship winner.
 - 14U – Becky Kujava / Charlie Hibl
 - Good Overall
 - 12U – Neal Popichak / Meghan Haynes
 - The team will compete in the State Tournament next weekend.
 - Team Manager stepped down for duties
 - Meghan Haynes will serve as Acting Team Manager for the remainder of the season.
 - 10U – Matt Baker / Scott Bambenek
 - The three (3) teams will compete in the State Tournament this weekend.
 - 6U / 8U – Scott Moodie / Katie Biggs
 - The Board reviewed an overage in the amount of \$118.76 related to 6U/8U tournament expenses that were paid out-of-pocket by Scott Moodie and Derek Merchant.
 - Motion was made by Becky Kujava and seconded by Katie Biggs, to approve reimbursement in the amount of \$118.76 to Scott Moodie and Derek Merchant for 6U/8U tournament overage expenses, with funds to be paid from Mighty Mites profits; motion carried and was approved.
 - A reimbursement request was submitted for end-of-season player gifts and presented to the Board.
 - Katie shared her perspective regarding her suggestion of Policy J changes related to fundraising and expressed the need for further evaluation of the current process. The Board agreed that additional discussion is warranted to ensure fundraising efforts remain equitable, transparent, and aligned with association policy.
 - A committee will be formed to evaluate potential improvements and provide recommendations moving forward. Proposed members include Katie Biggs, Scott Moodie, Jennifer Chambers, and Randy Gilbertson (if available).
 - Board members or association members interested in participating on the committee are encouraged to contact Katie Biggs directly.
 - A motion was made by Scott Moodie and seconded by Becky Kujava, to allow the division to host a second tournament on March 8, 2026, motion carried and was approved.
 - Ice time has already been secured.
 - The possibility of hosting an additional tournament was discussed during the earlier budgeting meeting this season.
 - All player registration costs associated with the tournament will be covered by participating players.
 - House League – Cody Lee
 - No new updates reported.





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- 19U – Becky Kujava
 - It was reported that five girls are anticipated to participate next season.
 - Players are expected to compete in Havre or Helena for game play opportunities.
 - A request was discussed to allow girls to participate in a “practice-only” capacity with their respective age groups two to three times per week.
 - Mike Pancich provided clarification regarding registration requirements, noting that players must be properly registered with GFAHA in order to participate in any on-ice activities at the Great Falls Ice Plex.
 - The Board discussed the following framework:
 - If GFAHA is unable to field a girls’ team at a specific age level, practice-only participation may be permitted.
 - If GFAHA is able to field a girls’ team and a player chooses not to roster on that team, practice-only participation would not be allowed.
 - The possibility of limiting practice-only participation to once per week was also discussed as a potential compromise, with further review to occur if needed.
- Committee Members:
 - Registrar – Sarah Carper
 - Motion was made by Corey Smith and seconded by Katie Biggs, to reimburse Marcus Ivey in the amount of \$150 for the additional USA Hockey fee incurred due to duplicate account issues; motion carried and was approved.
 - Equipment Manager – Ty Hoffman
 - No new updates reported.
 - Referee – Ken Speidel
 - Motion was made by Becky Kujava and seconded by Katie Biggs, to approve the proposed Officiating Fee Schedule for the 2026–2027 season as presented, aligning referee compensation with state averages and supporting recruitment and retention efforts; motion carried and was approved.
 - Actively recruiting potential high school candidates to support officiating needs for the upcoming season, with a focus on building depth and long-term retention within the referee program.
 - Elections will be conducted in April to select a new Head Official.
 - At this time, two individuals have expressed interest in the position; however, neither has formally committed.
 - Ice Foundation – Vacant
 - Alex and Sam will be stepping down from their rink staff positions at the end of March. The Board acknowledged their service and contributions to Ice Plex operations.
 - Discussions are underway regarding potential candidates to assume rink management responsibilities. Leadership transition planning is in progress to ensure continuity of daily operations, scheduling coordination, and facility oversight.
 - Ice Foundation leadership positions, including President and Vice President, will be up for election in May 2026. Interested individuals must follow the nomination process in accordance with Foundation bylaws.
 - The rink is scheduled to shut down beginning May 14, 2026, for approximately one month to complete annual maintenance and facility work. Additional details





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- regarding volunteer support and reopening timelines will be communicated as available.
- Web / PR – Amber Heck / Mike Zook
 - No new updates reported
 - Concession – Jordan Keller / Chelsea Keller
 - A proposal was presented to purchase a new cash drawer in the amount of \$229, compatible with the Square point-of-sale system, to improve concession transaction efficiency and accountability.
 - Motion was made by Becky Kujava and seconded by Jeff Winkler, to approve the purchase of a Square-compatible cash drawer in the amount of \$229 to support concession operations; motion carried and was approved.
 - With the season coming to an end, concession inventory will be reduced to minimize excess stock and reconcile remaining items.
 - Tournament Director – Vacant
 - The Board discussed the potential formation of a standing Tournament Committee to oversee planning, coordination, and execution of all association-hosted tournaments. The purpose of the committee would be to standardize processes, improve communication across divisions, strengthen financial oversight, and create continuity from season to season.
 - Additionally, the Board will explore Square’s fundraising and donation capabilities to determine whether integrated digital donation options can be utilized during tournaments and events to enhance revenue tracking, reporting and accuracy.
 - Goalie Development Coordinator – Amber Heck
 - It was confirmed that ice time has not yet been scheduled for the two Goalie Games. Zook will coordinate with the Silver Foxes to determine availability and secure appropriate ice time.
 - Ice Scheduler – Sarah Carper
 - No new updates reported.
 - Coach-In-Chief – Matt Leaf
 - Matt Leaf will meet with all head and assistant coaches at the conclusion of the season to conduct a comprehensive end-of-year review, including program strengths, development opportunities, and areas for improvement heading into next season.
 - A parental survey will be distributed to gather feedback regarding coaching performance, communication, and overall player experience. Survey timing to be determined.
 - New program ideas and structural recommendations for the 2026–2027 season will be developed and presented in the coming months.
 - The annual April scheduling meeting may require an additional 6–8 hours to accommodate projected ice needs.
 - Figure Skating has also expressed interest in increased ice time allocation for next season.
 - A six-week Pond Hockey program is proposed for April–May to extend player development opportunities in the offseason.
 - Mike Pancich and Matt Leaf will coordinate end-of-season coach appreciation gifts.





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- Safe Sport Coordinator – Charlie Hibl
 - The previously referenced email to the Board is currently being reviewed and addressed, with follow-up communication to be provided as needed.
- Discipline/Grievance – Scott Moodie
 - The Board reviewed the need to formally establish and approve members for both the Discipline and Grievance Committees, with the structure consisting of three members assigned to discipline matters and three members assigned to grievance matters, in accordance with association governance guidelines.
 - The following individuals were presented for appointment:
 - Randy Gilbertson
 - Matt Leaf
 - Mike Zook
 - Neil Popicheck
 - Charlie Hibl

6. Open Forum / Public Comment

7. Next Meeting

- Date: 10 March 2026
- Time: 6:30PM
- Location: Great Falls Ice Plex. 4001 29th Street SW, Great Falls, MT 59404

8. Adjournment

- Motion by: Erik Stober
- Seconded by: Neal Popichak
- Time: 8:52PM

