



**August 21, 2024**

## **CYHA Board Meeting**

**Board Members Present:** Dustin Hapka, Phil Passarelli, Chris DaBaldo, Casey Marshall, Angela Brady, Ryan Blair, JC Gaskins, Justin Pence

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Brandon Schultz

**Call to Order:** Dustin Hapka called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

**Secretary Report:** Chris reported that he is working to put together an email that can be sent out to the membership about on-line voting through Simply Voting. The plan is for this to be sent to members along with voting buttons in outlook for approval. He also updated the group that moving forward only the meeting minutes for the past 12 months will be published to the website. This will be a rolling 12-month period as we move through the year. All members will still have access to meeting minutes not published on our website by request to the board.

**Treasurer Report:** Casey presented an overview of accounts to the board.

Taxes for our organization are due on 9/15/24. Casey has been working with our accounting firm in preparation for this deadline. We are currently on track to have these submitted on time.

There was a general discussion by the group regarding score keeper costs for the organization. CYHA currently pays score keepers for both Travel and House Leagues. In other organizations this responsibility is delegated to parents for house league. CYHA has had parent score keepers in past seasons but moved to paid score keeping due to lack of parent involvement. Additionally, the referees prefer to work with trained score keepers as they know the rules and expectations. The group determined that we would plan to introduce parent volunteers to run the time clock and score board for house league this season.

**Registrar Report:** Angela provided an update on our current member numbers. We currently have 349 members claimed through the USA Hockey portal for this season. Additionally, we have had 8 new travel players join our organization in the past few weeks.

### **Committee Reports**

**Travel Commissioner Report:** JC confirmed that Queen city is confirmed for our season kick-off weekend. We will have games at every age group. He is in the process of finalizing the home schedules for this season.

**House Commissioner Report:** Justin reported that we currently have 145 players registered for House League this season. The season start date is set for 9/16/24. He is working to finalize the schedules for this season. We will have four teams at the 8U division, four teams at the combined 10U/12U division, and two teams at the combined 14U/16U division. We currently have enough goalies registered for at least one per team. The jerseys have been ordered and are on track for delivery for the start of the season. The first games are scheduled to be held on 10/5/24. Schedules and score keeping will be managed through Sports Engine this season.

**Hockey Director Report:** Ryan provided an update on the pre-season training camps for our travel teams. This season is the first year the CYHA has included these in the travel program. Overall, this was a successful weekend for our teams. Ryan also reported that the USA Hockey Bronze Goalie Clinic that was held on August 17 -18, went well. We had a great representation with at least one coach in attendance from each team except for the 16U AA team. After discussion with JC during the board meeting, he has committed to having at least one coach from his team attend a virtual Bronze Goalie Clinic before 12/31/2024.

During the pre-season camp it was identified that the skills sessions on Wednesdays will be a challenge for the 10U division this season with 3 teams (AA, A, and B) on the ice at the same time. This is due to the reconfiguration of ice times this season to accommodate an additional team this season. The group had a general discussion regarding the logistics of scheduling vs the need to team practices and ice time outside of skills sessions. The coaches have agreed to work together to allow as much time for team practices as possible. We will monitor this throughout the season and re-evaluate our needs prior to next season.

**Player Development:** Nothing to report.

**Growth:** Try Hockey for Free will be held in November this year. Angela and Ryan have been in contact with the Community Relations Manager for the SC Stingrays. They will be meeting to identify ways that the CYHA can better partner with the Stingrays to promote our organization. We are exploring opportunities to help support the CAPS program again this season. Additionally, we will be focusing on growing our Girls program and will pursue grant opportunities again this season.

Phil proposed to the group that we explore growth programs made available through the NHL for Learn to Play programs, such as the Hurricanes 1<sup>st</sup> Goal program. These programs make funding available to organizations to provide equipment to new players in the learn to play or 6U/8U programs. The group was in support of this proposal and would like to explore this option further.

**Grievance/Disciplinary:** It was reported to the board that the 16U A team was on ice during practice without neck guards. It has been the CYHA policy that all players wear neck guards for both practice and games for several years and is USA Hockey requirement starting this season. Ryan and JC will send an email to the coaches reminding them of the policy. The board also received a report that the 16U AA team was improperly dressed outside of the locker room in the Ice Palace lobby during the kickoff weekend. Additionally, players from our 12U and 14U teams are dressing in the back hallway outside of the locker rooms. Both items are in contrast to the USA Hockey Locker Room Policy, CYHA Locker Room Policy, and the player contract signed at the beginning of the season. An email communication will be sent to the parents and coaches to remind everyone of the CYHA Locker Room

policy.

### **Fundraising/Scholarship:**

Dustin introduced the group to a fundraising company, TeamUP, which he has used in the past with another organization. TeamUp provides virtual fundraising events for organizations which is focused on schools and teams. Fundraising is conducted through an app which empowers the kids to utilize their friends in their contacts list. Donors have the option to donate at various levels can elect to receive savings coupons/offers in return for their donation. The group was interested in learning more about this platform. Dustin will arrange a Webex with TeamUp for a demo and discovery session.

Dustin asked about the possibility of selling dasher board spaces to sponsors. He asked if we could partner with the Ice Palace for a 50/50 split of the cost of sponsorship. Brandon shared the Ice Palace was unable to do this at this time due to the current contract for marketing that is in place. However, he would review the contract language to determine what options were available for this. He also shared that sponsorship space may be available on the digital signage in the future as the Ice Palace work to implement this throughout the facility.

### **Coordinator Updates**

- **Marketing/Outreach:** Nothing to report
- **Safety Coordinator:** Nothing to report
- **Safe Sport Coordinator:** Angela has sent out the job description to our members. Unfortunately, we did not have any interest from our parents at this time.

### **Old Business:**

**Ice Palace Branding:** Brandon presented the plans for phase 1 of the new branding scheme that will be implemented at the Ice Place. This will include new skins with Stingrays logos and colors for the front doors, Pro-shop, and doors to the locker room hallway. The pillars in the lobby will also be wrapped in Stingrays colors and Stingrays alumni who played in the NHL. The board had previously agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost for phase 1 as this will benefit our organization and include the Jr. Stingrays/CYHA brands.

A motion was made by Phil to appropriate \$2500.00 from our current budget to cover the CYHA portion of the first phase of the Ice Palace branding initiative. This was seconded by Rayn and approved unanimously.

Brandon also provided an overview of the next two phases in the branding project. Phase 2 will include updates around the rink, lobby and other common areas of the Ice Palace the cost of this will be covered by the Ice Palace. Phase 3 will include updates to the rink areas to include Stingrays / Jr. Rays branding along the rink walls and other updates in the rink areas. The board was in general agreement that the CYHA will provide a portion of the funding for phase 3. We will

determine the scope and exact amount as Brandon firms up proposals and budgets over the next several months.

**Coaches Locker Room:** Phil reviewed the proposed guidelines for the CYHA Coaches Locker Room rental agreement. This includes updated language that defines the timeline and procedure should the Ice Palace need to use the locker room space for tournaments. A digital lock will be placed on the door with each coach receiving a unique code allowing us to track the usage by each coach.

**Bronze Clinic Update:** The CYHA hosted a USA Hockey Bronze Goalie Clinic on 8/17 – 8/18 this season. We had 15 coaches attend with 3 coaches from House League. Casey has received the receipts from all coaches who attended. The total cost of the clinic to CYHA was \$825 which will be covered by our grant from CAHA for goalie development. Overall, it was felt this clinic will provide long term benefit to our organization.

**House League Updates:** Justin reviewed the updated budget for the 2024-25 House League season. This season we will include a power skating coach for house league once a month. Ryan will also provide skills sessions once a month for House League. Justin would also like to purchase two 54-inch intermediate nets to be used at the 10U/12U level this season. The group had a general discussion around ways to incentivize the development and continued training of our House coaches.

A motion was made by Casey to add Power Skating to the House League program for the 2024 – 25 season at a cost of \$1200 for the season. This was seconded by Ryan and was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Casey to approve the 2024 – 25 House League budget submitted to the group by Justin. This was seconded by Chris and was approved unanimously.

We have received four applications for the House Coordinator positions this season. Each candidate was reviewed by the group and due consideration was given to each. After deliberation it was determined that Gina Thompson was the best candidate for this season.

A motion was made by Chris to approve Gina Thompson as the House Coordinator for the 2024 – 25 season. The motion was seconded by Ryan and approved unanimously.

**8U Mighty Mites:** Justin requested that the Mites team be allowed to participate in the TCS Tournament being held at the Ice Palace in September. He has secured a discounted price to bring one team to the tournament. The consensus of the group was that it would be better if we could field two teams so that all Mites players would be able to participate. Additionally, should only one team participate the player slots would need to be offered to all mite players to ensure fair and equal access.

A motion was made by Phil to allow two Mighty Mite teams to participate in the tournament being held at the Ice Palace in September. In the absence of the availability for two teams to participate than one team may be formed providing the player slots were open to all player on a first come basis to form the team. The motion was seconded by Casey and was approved unanimously.

## **New Business**

**Coaching Development Program Budget:** Ryan proposed a budget of \$500 be allocated this season to fund a coaching development program. This would encompass monthly webinars, workshops, or other activities focused on furthering the development of the CYHA coaching staff.

A motion was made by Justin to allocate \$500 from the Player Development account to fund the Coaching Development Program. The motion was seconded by Chris and was approved unanimously.

**Naming Ideas for CYHA/CIP shooting cage:** Ryan asked the group to help identify a name for the new shooting cage. He felt this area could be co-branded by the Ice Palace and CYHA to bring visibility to this part of the facility.

**Website Updates:** Casey provided a summary of the recent updates to the CYHA website which include:

- Updates to the jr. Stingrays tournament teams to include a/aa team designations
- The inclusion of our specialty coaches on our site

**House Scholarship Application Review:** The board entered Executive Session at 10:29pm to review scholarship applications for the 2023 – 24 House League.

**Adjournment:** The board exited Executive Session at 10:44pm and the meeting was immediately adjourned.