

# Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association

## Board Meeting

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

7:00pm VIA Mezzanine



Board members in attendance: Jason Mattila, Justin Temple, Mike Bakalars, Karin Shippar, Kyle Dzuibla, Earl Tollefson, Angela Hunt, Todd Carlson, Erin Ludmer, Lauren Koehler, Amanda Ferwerda, Bill Snow, Joe Beyler, Lesley Steffin, Mark Markham

1. **Call to order** – Jason Mattila called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Approve Minutes from the March 2023 Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes by Jason, second by Lesley Steffin. Motion passed.
3. **Ice Inc. Report** (Justin Temple) – Making major progress on the rink. Still looking for additional funds. Need to think about how we are going to plan for the new ice, both from a budget and scheduling perspective. Will circle back at the end of the meeting to brainstorm if time.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Erin Ludmer) – We received a commission check from state sweatshirt sales (\$1041). If anyone has any straggling items from this year, please get those to Erin ASAP. She is looking to get the year closed out. Transition from Travis to Erin went well and is complete.
5. **President's Report/Region 4** (Jason Mattila) – Region 4 meeting last week focused on rule proposals from various WAHA regions. Nothing significant proposed for this year, mainly little things. Timeline proposed for challenges out of district, a few Tier 1 rule changes, state tournament weekends proposed to be modified (last weekend in February – 14U, 14U girls), first weekend of March (10U, 12U girls), second weekend of March (12U, 10U girls), third weekend in March (18U). State tournament fees will go up \$100, need to account for that in the budget. The current rule for State tournament eligibility related to co-op teams is if skaters are proposed of more than 3 regions they can't participate. We proposed that the rule gets changed to no more than 6 regions. Not being able to play in State is a big deal for our families. It will be an uphill battle. There are a few other teams impacted (Janesville Fury, two teams in Fond du Lac).

Thank you for your participation on the board, some of these summer meetings may be longer and not the normal 45 minutes. There may be times during the year that we need to do an email vote, those who are voting members will be in the To: line, non-voting members will be in the CC: line. Reminder that you need to represent Verona Youth Hockey as a whole and not necessarily what is best for your family.

### 6. Committee Reports and Updates

- a. **Fundraising** (Mindy O'Brien) – Lesley gave PNO update, overall profit was \$2,050. Suggestions for next year, organize a committee, charge \$30 a ticket, find a way to engage more parents to come, do both raffle and silent auction items. The date could have been an issue, a lot of schools could have been on Spring Break.
- b. **Equipment** (Mark Markham) – WAHA released the grant applications for this year, one for youth hockey gear, another one for specific equipment (goalie, off-ice gear, cross net gear). Could possibly use the 2<sup>nd</sup> rink for the Mite tournament next year but need to think about what we want to do with this \$1000.

- c. **Coaches Committee** (Joe Beyler) – No report.
- d. **Ice Scheduler** (Earl Tollefson) – Started conversations with Joel about how scheduling the second sheet of ice will work. There will be dedicated time for both Verona High School and Edgewood, Verona is planning to go back to the normal high school schedule. October and November will be tight. Edgewood is trying to find temporary ice until the second rink is ready. Shouldn't plan on doing anything until the second week of December.
- e. **Website Update** (Karin Shippar) – SportsEngine came up with a new Sports Management part of the website that should help Earl and team managers with drag and drop scheduling. This might be a good time to add a coaching manual to the website or just clean up the website and add some information for new coaches. It can be a lot for first time Squirt coaches, including some ideas for how to run a practice plan. Appropriate for the Coaches Committee to take this. Still need photos for the Website, putting together a financial form, will start working on the coach's application next.
- f. **Concessions** (Lesley Steffin) – No report.
- g. **DIBS** (Desiree Bates) – No report.
- h. **Registrar's Report** (Mike Bakalars) – No report.
- i. **Legal Counsel** (Brian Severson) – No report.
- j. **Recruitment** (Angela Hunt) – Hometown Day parade on June 4 at noon, would love coaches to walk again! Line-up will start around 10:30am, just ordered t-shirts. Have several foam pucks that the kids all love.
- k. **Communications** (Kristen Manning) – Reached out to Dick's Sporting Goods to confirm a shop event weekend, will start promoting the Brewdown Event as soon as registration is up.
- l. **Apparel** (TBD) – No report.
- m. **Jersey Coordinator** (Karin Shippar) – All but 1 set it back, but PJ has it so they just need to coordinate. Planning to place an order for socks, will order what we always have. Should order additional larger size jerseys to accommodate the Bantams numbers now. Karin to come up with a recommendation for how many jerseys to order and then we can factor it in to the budget.
- n. **Photography Coordinator** (TBD) – No report.
- o. **Tournament Director** (TBD) – No report.
- p. **Girl's Hockey Committee** (Angela Hunt) – 68 people replied to the survey, 42 were from the Mavericks. Most co-ed U10. Most girls are interested in the supplemental team. Main feedback is around not being in the State Tournament and wanting to feel more like a part of Verona Youth Hockey. Would like to offer a girls 'Try Hockey Free' night, last year it was help on Sunday evenings in August. Last year it was funded with leftover money, but this year it would need to come out of the budget. Insurance came through the rink, should be roughly \$600 for the cost of ice. Last year it was only 20 people, but we didn't advertise it early enough so would like to start earlier. Need to think about equipment so we don't run out. Motion to approve \$600 for ice team by Lesley, seconded by Bill, motion passed. We can do a Peach Jar advertisement since school is still in session.

PJ and Angela are meeting with the Polar Caps next week to see if we can include them with the Mavericks. We would recruit from Middleton and Dodgeville so that those that will play on the Lynx can come together earlier. We should look to add a recreational U10 and U12 all-girls teams for an emphasis on fun. Several other organizations have or are adding all girls' teams for next season, which is what we wanted to happen. Justin talked to WAHA and there shouldn't be issues with doing a cross-roster team at the U10 and U12 levels. We are currently trending down in registration numbers, whereas most organizations are trending up. This would only be approval for the cross-roster recreational teams in concept before we are able to do due diligence to build this into the budget. Need to discuss evaluation process for the Mavericks this summer. Motion to

support the concept of the U10 and U12 supplemental cross-roster team by Justin Temple, seconded by Lesley Steffin, motion passed. Need some generic bullet points to add to the website so people can read about what we are planning to do.

q. **Update from ALD's**

- LTP (Danielle Pellitteri) – No report.
- U6 (Wayne Pfahler) – No report.
- RWB (Amanda Ferwerda) – No report.
- Squirt (Kyle Dzuibla) – Planning on 48-50 kids based on returning numbers. No bigger than 15 skaters, would ideally have 12 skaters.
- Peewee (Todd Carlson) – Projecting 65-66 kids again, should have at least 4 goalies.
- Bantam (Bill Snow) – Projecting around 40 skaters, could lose 5 or so to High School. Should have 3 goalies.
- Mavericks (PJ Gregoire) – Looking for board support and approval that the U14 A and B team play in the NIHL. Need to have rosters in by September 15 and do tryouts early. League was good, competition was strong, feedback from B parents about why they weren't in that league. The NIHL has an A and B division, so competition would be good. Motion to approve the U14A and B teams can play in the NIHL by Justin Temple, seconded by Angela Hunt, motion passed.
- Midget (Janis Strutt) – No report.

**7. Old Business**

**8. New Business**

- a. **State Tournaments** – Polar Caps are currently hosting PeeWee C1, but asked if we were interested. We did submit to host another state tournament in 2025, but won't hear for a few months.
- b. **Reminder for ALDs** – Need to finalize projected number of skaters in June so that we can finalize the budget in July. Mike to send the end of year Registrations to the ALDs. ALDs to come to the June board meeting with proposed numbers.
- c. **Donation for Reedsburg Skater** – Would like to do a donation to the memorial fund on behalf of Verona Youth Hockey. Motion to approve \$242 by Amanda, seconded by Lesley, motion passed.
- d. **Donation for U8 Family (Michael Klein)** – Would like to do a donation to the memorial fund on behalf of Verona Youth Hockey. Motion to approve \$250 from Amanda, seconded by Joe, motion passed. Erin to submit the deposit, Amanda to circulate a card from the board.

**e. Board Appointed Positions**

▪ **Newly Appointed Positions**

- a. Photography Coordinator (Non-voting, 2-year term): Mark nominates Jill Scheibel, second by Lesley, motion passed.
- b. Apparel Coordinator (Non-voting, 1-year term): Lesley nominates Kaiti Bohacek, second by Todd, motion passed.

▪ **Re-appointment of Current Positions.**

- a. Director of Hockey/Coaches Committee (Voting, 2-year term): Joe Beyler
- b. Fundraising Coordinator (Voting, 2-year term): Mindy O'Brien
- c. Recruitment (Non-voting, 2-year term): Angela Hunt
- d. Concessions Schedule Coordinator (Non-voting, 1-year term): Desiree Bates
- e. Concessions Deposit Coordinator (Non-voting, 1-year term): Lesley Steffin
- f. Concessions Inventory Coordinator (Non-voting, 1-year term): Brian Lindow
- g. Communications Director (Non-voting, 1-year term): Kristen Manning
- h. Jersey Coordinator (Non-voting, 1-year term): Karin Shippar
- i. Erin nominated all current members, seconded by Mike Bakalars, motion passed.

**9. Motion to Adjourn** – Motion to readjourn by Mike Bakalars, seconded by Bill Snow, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.