

CAHA 6 October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Daniel, Graham Bundy, Robert Engler, Matt Hurley, Michele Krisa, Brendan Logan, Chris Jimenez - Ron Schwartz joined at 8:39

Members Absent: Paul Fidishun, Kevin Universal and Eric Kenney

Staff Present: Brad Hoffman

Staff Absent: Terri Mills

Meeting Called to Order by Rick at 8:02pm

September Meeting Minutes Motion to Approve by Robert - Seconded by Michele Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Officiating Grant Update - The need for the grant for the Raleigh Ref Association remains undetermined per the need for more information. Kevin was/is following up and will inform board regarding further information.

Team 1 Subcommittee - Individuals with significant knowledge of Tier 1 will make up the committee. These individuals are members of USA Hockey and local board members who do not have a significant conflict; ie, no immediate family members playing in associations or vested relationships with associations having or seeking Tier 1 teams.

Green Armband Initiative Roll Out has commenced, New Discipline Procedures have been sent out to the affiliates and Updates Policies and Bylaws were distributed. Review of these items was covered by Executive Director Brad Hoffman on the above and Brad also facilitated discussion on the Women's Coaching Seminar in Buffalo in November plus Tier 1 which is covered in New Business below. (See below in Italics)

New Business:

Tier 1 - A broad and lengthy discussion was had regarding the lack of information pertaining to the USA Hockey Developmental League (DL.) Further information on this league is due to be released in the first half of November and additional information will be released in January at the USAH Winter Meeting. Discussion followed regarding a longer tenure for Tier 1 approvals in

light of reported difficulties in long range planning and coaching/player development. Additional discussion regarding percentages of out of affiliate players was had but no action taken pending further information from USAH. As discussed, the DL will significantly alter the current Tier 1 landscape nationwide and as such any new rules CAHA implements may later be determined to conflict with the DL. Robert made a motion to implement a one (1) year moratorium on new Tier 1 applications and Graham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

New format for agenda. The various subcommittees will submit to the chair their materials for inclusion into the meeting minutes moving forward prior to the monthly meeting for ease of use and dissemination of information. Example reports include Financial reports, Discipline and President's Report.

Hockey Fund - Kick Off with Giving Day on Thursday. Social media blasts throughout the affiliate.

Hockey Governance - Discussion on how to best work with associations on board governance to protect them, assure compliance with USAH and CAHA bylaws and any relative NC/SC statutes. Example given and discussion was had regarding Concussion Return to Play protocols that are not being followed but are mandated by state law.

Player Registration - How we measure player registration with regards to players in multiple associations during the year. Example given, playing for a travel program during the regular season and playing house league spring hockey. Need measurable solution so that all players are properly claimed and registered.

Finance Audit - Committee of Rick and Graham will conduct a random audit of bills and accounts paid/received by November meeting in accordance with best principles of accounting.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Robert and seconded by Chris. Meeting adjourned at 9:49pm

Next CAHA Monthly Meeting will be the 10th of November subject to change due to the Veterans Day Holiday on November 11th.

Association Guide to Discipline - please see this document to help you navigate Discipline and ensure that you are implementing the rules and policies correctly. This is attached and can also be found at: www.carolinahockey.org/discipline

Fighting Majors - CAHA want to eliminate any fighting from our Youth/Girls and Adult Recreational games. We have increased all suspensions for any fighting major effective September 1, 2025. Fighting majors in Youth and Girls now carry an automatic 2-game suspension for first offense and a 6-game suspension for 2nd offense in the same season. Fighting majors in Adult hockey now carry an automatic 5-game suspension for first offense and 6-game suspension for second offense in the same season. A third offense in Youth or Adult is an automatic suspension from all USA Hockey activities until a hearing is conducted. More details below and at: www.carolinahockey.org/discipline

8.5 Progressive Suspensions for Fighting (Rule 615) - Whereas a player is assessed a major and game misconduct penalty under Rule 615 (Fighting), they are subject to the following progressive discipline:

(a) **Youth Hockey Programs** - for the purposes of this rule, the USA Hockey season is from September 1 to August 31.

- First Offense - Player will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional one (1) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 2 game suspension).
- Second Offense - Player will serve the three (3) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional three (3) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 6 game suspension).
- Subsequent Offenses - Player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

(b) **Adult Hockey Programs** – for the purposes of this rule, the USA Hockey season is from September 1 to August 31. These suspensions are the minimum that Adult leagues may impose. Adult leagues may add game suspensions at their discretion.

- First Offense - Player will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional four (4) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 5 game suspension).
- Second Offense - Player will serve the three (3) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional three (3) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 6 game suspension).
- Subsequent Offenses - Player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

Knoxville Beast Youth Hockey Organization - please note that this organization is not a USA Hockey Association and CAHA teams cannot play them as the games are not sanctioned. This means that injuries are not covered by USA Hockey insurance and games do not count towards any game counts (if you are national bound). If you have scheduled games, our recommendation is to cancel those games. If you must play, you

need to change your team name, wear different uniforms, and USA Hockey scoresheets cannot be used. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Coach's Helmets and Chin Straps - please note that all coaches must wear a helmet and chinstrap when coaching on the ice - failure to do so is a 30-day suspension from all USA Hockey activities - coaching, adult league play, etc. This is for the safety of our coaches and they should be role models for our kids and lead in the area of safety in our game.

Green Armband Initiative - this initiative has gone very smoothly thanks to the leaders in our Officials Associations. Please note that all underage officials will be wearing a green armband which means that all suspensions are doubled for abuse of officials when a minor official is on the ice.

Out-of-Affiliate Players - beginning in 2026-27, in the Travel/Rec category there will be a limit of 2 out-of-affiliate players that will be allowed to be rostered. These players may only come from states next to CAHA - GA, TN, VA.

Tier I Programs - effective with the 2026-27 season, new Tier I programs in Youth must field a minimum of 3 teams and in year 2 must field a minimum of 4 teams. Teams included are 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U, 19U.

Important Dates & Deadlines

10/15 - registration for all National Bound tournaments (SE District and CAHA) opens.

Closes 11/5

11/1 - application window for new Associations opens (closes 11/30)

11/1 - new and renewal applications for Tier I programs opens (closes 11/30)

12/5 - last day to pay for CAHA Tournament or withdraw without penalty