

## Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association

### Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2025 6:30pm

Sanford Conference Room – SCHEELS IcePlex

President Chun Chan called the Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Jenn Warren (Vice-President), Adam Gorra (Secretary), Leah May (Travel League Director), Amanda Smith (Director of Tournaments) and Derek Berg (Development Director). Quorum was present. Cherry Hunter (Director of Operations), Dan Houck (Director of Hockey), Matt Bacoulis, Lindsay Fenton and Kat Anderson were also in attendance. Cody Alderman (Director of City League) joined the meeting via Zoom. Sam Everson (Past President) and Elliot Hitt (Treasurer) were absent.

Open Forum – Matt Bacoulis, Lindsay Fenton and Kat Anderson inquired -

- Is the SDAHA fiasco going to continue? Top skilled players need to play outside of SDAHA.
- Where does SFYHA go from here? SDAHA Squirt games 25-0 and then tournament play, kids are overwhelmed by competition, is not good for player development.
- When will there be a solution instead of continuing work on the situation?
- Holding back on opportunities for our kids
- Has SDAHA done classification study – Birth year vs grade level? July 1 birth cutoff vs Jan 1 creates 6 months difference with MN Hockey
- Partner with ND Hockey more?
- Cannot complain unless we are part of the solution
- Assistant for Coach Houck?
- Coach Evaluations – is there a process? Suggested player & parent evaluation of coaches.

Responses

- SDAHA League Level Play Committee is working on a plan to reformulate leagues. Current focus is PeeWee level.
- On going work & task – no lack of desire to work a solution
- SFYHA has been very direct with SDAHA. Out of program trends will continue.
- The goal is to have top skilled teams not playing SDAHA.
- Evidence is lopsided Squirt games this season.
- SDAHA has noticed players who are playing elsewhere.
- Jamborees with North Dakota have been discussed. They are not interested.
- Assistant for Coach Houck – tough job to fill but should be filled.
- Coach Evaluations – Paid coaches are evaluated. Volunteer coach evals are based on history, who they work under & with, and balance of volunteer coach aspects.
- SFYHA has done parental evaluations on coaches in the past. It is hard to determine consensus from the minimal survey returns.

Secretary's Report – Adam Gorra made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Elliot Hitt reported status quo for financials.

## Director of Hockey – Dan Houck

- Attended and watched all Flyers teams play at PW Home Tourney
- Reviewed video w/ HS West coach to provide feedback after Mitchell/Yankton Varsity games
- Met w/ Varsity East coaching staff regarding feedback after the Brookings game
- Helped Raegan at Mini-Atoms
- Covered a few Atom Short Session skates for coach lead missing
- Had ACL coaches meeting to examine team Northwest's competitive ability
- Had HS Coaches (Boys and LF) meeting to discuss any needs/issues
- Attended Mites Falls Freeze to see all Mite Travel Teams play
- Handled ACL discipline issue w/ Nate/coaches with one team
- Handled two player behavior issues at Mite Tier 3 w/ parent/s and Tier lead
- Met w/ all travel teams PW-HS, Lady Flyers, and ACL teams regarding discriminatory language week of 2/2. All teams completed
- Handled parent issue w/ ICL against a coach that occurred week of 2/2
- Planned final coaching meeting for mid-March w/ all Flyers coaches in preparation for 2025/26 season
- Worked w/ Amanda on Mites Fall Freeze Schedule
- Started some planning stuff w/ Leah on travel program for 2025
- Continued skills w/ Squirts, PeeWees, LF 12U/14U, and Bantam Orange/LF Varsity
- 4v4 league has worked well on Tuesdays w/ respect to attendance and fluidity compared to the last few years when we had it on Fridays
- Player coverage for Mite Tier 3/4 has continued to be excellent and helpful
- Working on coaching staff for JV East for SDAHA Tournament. Assistant Coach unable to attend.

## Admin Update – Cherry Hunter

- Preparing Varsity credentials binder for possible High School National Tournament participation.
- Completed and submitted all 1099's and w2's for contractors and employees – over 50 forms.
- Secured confirmation for All State Academic Awards for SFYHA senior players. SFYHA has 7 All State Academic Award recipients. Down by 50% & the rest of state ranks the same.
- Fundraiser Fees – Down to the last 20 players for payment. Notification to coaches/parents that players are no longer eligible to participate. Some families are making payments.....and some have returned checks 😞
- DIBS & Volunteer Hours – Notifying families who have not completed requirements or have zero hours to get their hours completed. Several families need to mark DIBS complete while others simply have not done their hours. Currently over 60 open DIBS tasks with City Playoff DIBS & SDAHA Varsity Tournament DIBS have yet to be posted. Assigned Board Members, Coaches, City League Referees, Team Coordinators, Support Personnel, Advisory Council, Discipline Committee, Game Sheets, Tournament Coordinators their assigned number of volunteer hours.
- Spring 3 V 3 starts March 23 through April 13. Registration to open soon
- Requested Lady Flyers and ICL provide “extra” supervision in the main locker room hallway on Tuesday nights. ICL is 5:30-6:30pm and Lady Flyers are 6:30-7:30pm. Lots of traffic on Tuesday nights and too many unsupervised players and too many adults hanging in the hallway.
- Spent many hours on Grievances, Appeals, hearings, and questions for the process.
- SFYHA and IcePlex were not awarded a USA Hockey National Tournament for 2026. Concern – number of showers available.

## Director Reports

- ✓ Director of Travel League – Leah May: All Travel League Managers will submit Nominations to continue during the 25-26 season.
- ✓ Director of City League – Cody Alderman: ICL & ACL playoffs are starting. ACL Community Service for Feeding SD was remarkably successful.
- ✓ Director of Tournaments – Amanda Smith: Mite Falls Freeze was this past weekend (Feb 8=9). Finishing the report with Event Connect. Room rebates are paid 60 days from the event. Suggested same dates for next season, ads to Let's Try Hockey, assign game officials in a timely manner, continue with M Felty for photos and On the Spot for apparel, and working on transition planning.
- ✓ Director of Development – Derek Berg: Sponsorships even this season & focus has been on the MW Expansion project. Couple of new croxice divider sponsors.

## Presidents Report – Chun Chan - Racial Slur and Discriminatory Language Plan:

- Reports have increased nationwide
- Information & education for our families, coaches, and players
- If referee hears racial slur, player is assessed a Match Penalty
- SFYHA has posted updates on our website, Coach Houck and Chun spoke to all teams Squirt and older regarding the issue, eblast to membership completed and follow up prior to SDAHA Tournaments, and topic on agenda for Fall League meetings.

## Agenda Items:

SDAHA Girls Varsity Tournament – March 6-8, 2025 (Thurs-Sat) Committee established and planning with Kelly Gorra as Chair.

Flyers Expansion Project – Currently approximately \$300K to go on fundraising efforts for the Expansion Project. Stan Houston is offering to match funds from hockey stick sales Feb 17-22. The plan is to hopefully break ground in March. Sanford training program discussed.

- Will need 14 hours of programing
- Need an energetic person to lead the program
- One program – same instructor

Varsity West Helmet Decal – Amanda Smith made a motion to approve helmet decals as presented for JV West and Varsity West. Motion seconded and carried. Noted Coach DeBates supports the decals, and East prefers not to utilize the striped decal.

Elections – Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Tournaments, Director of Development, League Supervisors & League Managers – Eblast will be sent to SFYHA membership. Candidate Open Forum and electronic voting is planned.

*Sioux Falls Youth Hockey Association Mission:*

*To Motivate, Inspire and Encourage Athletic Participation and Good Health through Ice Sports*

Meeting adjourned at 10:04pm

NEXT MEETING  
March 12, 2025 6:30 pm  
Sanford Conference Room at the IcePlex

Respectfully submitted,  
Cherry Hunter  
SFYHA Director of Operations

Adopted March 12, 2025 by oral resolution at meeting / written correspondence  
(Date) (Circle one)