



Minutes From
August 1st, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2024-2025 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2024			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Huntsville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Huntsville	Ward Hillegas
September 2024			
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2024			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2024			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2024			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
1 st	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
30 th	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
January 2025			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
15 th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b

16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2025			
22nd	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
22 nd -23 rd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
28 th - 3/2	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2025			
Moved to 5/1	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1 st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1 st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1 st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3 rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3 rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
6 th -9 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
7 th -9 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	SAHOF	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22 nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26 th -30 th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	Irvine, CA	
31 st	Deadline for SAHA to receive Associations Registered Members List		
April 2025			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		SAHA 14.1
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-13/U-14	Plymouth, MI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15/U-16	Madison, WI	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-18	Cranberry Township, PA	
1 st -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Marlborough, MA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Kalamazoo, MI	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Wayne, NJ	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Utica, NY	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Coral Springs, FL	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Leesburg/Springfield, VA	
2 nd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Cleveland, OH	
3 rd -6 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
8 th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10 th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
12 th -13 th	2024-2025 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
10 th -13 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
27 th	Tier II tryouts may be held		

May 2025			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
1 st -4 th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Coral Springs, FL	
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
9 th -11 th	Southeastern District Development Camp-FIC	Bellevue	
16 th -19 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2025			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
4 th -7 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2025			
10th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – August 1st, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on August 1st, 2025 beginning at 5:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

As Secretary, Ward seated the new board members for the 2024-25 season. Mike Fairbanks made a motion to seat the new board members and Don Stone 2nd the motion. The motion was voted on and approved. Those seated were: Paul Dixon(GA), Rob Link(TN), Ward Hillegas(AR), Tory Tellefson(AL) and Martin Kubaliak(AL).

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Samantha Menton	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	Yes
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Will Review in Annual Meeting. Was asked about National Development League. There is a possibility of having 32 teams. This league will be higher league then Tier I and when a NDL plays a Tier I team the NDL will play up in age group (U16 NDTL would play a U18 Tier I Team)

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Present 2025-26 Financials Don went over the 2024-25 end of year budget and then went over the proposed 2025-26 budget. After discussion, Kevin made a motion to approve the 2025-26 budget and Mike 2nd the motion. There was no further discussion. Budget was voted on and approved. Also, the Tax & Audit for 2025 is completed. The next will be in 2 years.

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the minutes from the July SAHA board meeting. Mike 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Associations that attended the board meeting were: Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines, Emily Tiger-TN Wolverines, Ryan Ellis-TN Marauders, Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates, Allie LaCombe-Nashville Warriors & Caleb Toone-Jr Preds

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Southeastern District was 2nd only to the Central District in the number of player participants. The portal is now open-still waiting on some associations to get in all of their agreements.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Annual Congress met recently. All legal proposals to be voted on next year in January. Chris will get us a list of what those are. Both the District Player Development Camp and the District Tournament held within SAHA broke even. Other districts camps held outside of SAHA haven’t broken even and will ask for help with those outstanding expenses. Chris does not want to pay someone else’s expenses when SAHA doesn’t ask them for money.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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New Business

August 1 st	Committee Chair Assignments	Jack Flynn	With the start of the 2025-26 season, we need to assign people to each committee. As decided upon at the 2024 June Board meeting, the Goaltending, Coaching, DDR and College Committees will provide reports on a monthly bases while all other committees will provide reports quarterly unless an update is needed before that.
August 1 st		Jack Flynn	Committee Chairperson's were assigned for the 2025-26 season. A list of these committees and those chairing those committees can be found on the SAHA Website under the Director's tab. Also, officers needed to be elected for the 2025-26 season. President is a 2yr position and Jack Flynn was elected to that position last year. All the other officer positions are yearly. Rob Link was nominated for VP1 and was approved, Paul Dixon was nominated for VP2 and was approved, Ward Hillegas was nominated for Secretary and was approved and Don Stone was nominated for Treasurer and was approved.
August 1 st	2025-26 SAHA Calendar Update	Ward Hillegas	Need to update the SAHA Calendar to reflect the correct dates, locations, etc. for the 2025-26 season. I believe the people involved in this process include Jack, Kevin, Chris, Don and Ward. This needs to be completed prior to our September board meeting.
August 1 st		Ward Hillegas	Ward will be sending out a copy of the 2024-25 SAHA Calendar for Jack, Kevin, Chris, Don and Ward to work off of. We will set this up as a working document in order to make it easier. This calendar needs to be updated before the September board meeting.
August 1 st	Officiating Grant	Jack Flynn	Grants through USA Hockey available for Officials Mentoring Program in 2025-26 Season.
August 1 st		Jack Flynn	This oppportunity just was announces so Jack wanted to make everyone aware of this grant.

New Business

August 1st

ADM

Isaac Lee

Isaac is interested in putting together a Mite Jamboree Tournament to start in 2026-27 that SAHA would help pay for. Jack requested Isaac to put together a proposal for this event and present it to the board when it is completed.

Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting since there was no additional "New Business". Mike Fairbanks 2nd the motion and the board meeting was adjourned.

1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minute From

September 11th, 2025

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

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Date	2025-2026 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2025			
1 st	Youth Tier I Application Due (for the season beginning 9/1 the following year)		
1 st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1 st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1 st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
1 st	SAHA Board Meeting	Franklin, TN	Ward Hillegas
2 nd	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Franklin, TN	
31 st	Deadline for Review of Tier I application/notification of final decision		
September 2025			
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2025			
1 st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2025			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
13 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2025			
1 st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting		Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier II Youth Teams to declare National bound	Zoom	
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
31 st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4

January 2026			
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
15th-18th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2026			
12th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
?	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2026			
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
5th-8th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
18th-22nd	USA Hockey Nationals - High School	Plymouth, MN	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 13U & 14U	Plymouth, MI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 15U & 16U	Green Bay, WI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	St. Louis, MO	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Rockland, MA	
?	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
31st	Associations Directors contact list for April-July due to SAHA		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Tier I Tryouts (48 hours after last Nationals game)		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Girls Tryouts		

April 2026			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats with the SAHA Board		
?	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
11 th -12 th	2025-2026 Player Development Camp		Jack Flynn
9 th -12 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
19 th	Tier II Tryouts may be held		
24 th -26 th	SE District Girls Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
4/30-5/3	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled Hockey	Dallas, TX	
May 2026			
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8 th -10 th	Southeast District Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th -18 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2026			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
3 rd -6 th	2026 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2026			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – September 11th 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on September 11th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	No
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Vacant	(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No
President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Open Georgia Directors position. Don Stone made a motion to have Paul Esdale fill this position. Mike Fairbanks 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion and the board vote in favor for Paul to fill the position. In the last presidents meeting discussions resumed on the Development league. In January congress will vote on implementing the league.					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Present 2025-26 Financials The 2025-26 Grants came in from USA Hockey					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the August minutes. Mike Fairbanks 2 nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Associations that had representatives attending the meeting were: Bryan Hince-ProVision, Paul Esdale-Jr. Ghost Pirates, James Perkins-Nashville Youth, Tim Sinnasac-KAHA, Brad Schell-IceForum, April Beshires-GNASH, Summer Walls-NWAHA, Reney McAtee-Nashville Warriors, Beth Anne Wagner-TN. Wolverines, Allie LaCombe-Nashville Warriors, Caleb Toone-Nashville Elite, Teddy Rotenberger-Nashville Elite, Jennifer Boniecki-Nashville Amateur and Amanda Rumancik-NWAHA					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) 174 teams have been registered and approved					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia With the loss of the Fire program those players have been able to find other programs to play for. Madhatters Jr. team has disbanded.

Alabama Talking about an outdoor game at North Carolina State. Pelham, Alabama and Auburn talk of starting a Jr Tier 3 programs but struggling for players.

Tennessee Travel & Rec have both started and fall leagues have started. Talk of GNASH starting a spring schedule is at a standstill right now.

Mississippi All programs are underway

Arkansas All age levels are underway in LR and NWAHA will begin league games next month

Louisiana Had a record number of participants in their "Learn To Skate" program this year

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	Clinics have started-8 so far. Nashville and the Jr. Preds hosted a symposium last week. Continued Education Credits were given to those who attended
DDR	Rob Link	2 match penalties have been dealt with so far. Both involved adults
College	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Goalie	Rick Murray	1 st Bronze Clinic was held and a Silver Clinic will be held this fall. Research will begin the weekend of 9/15 in Pelham where games will be videotaped using the Int. Nets
Tier I	Kevin Cook	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Grants	Kevin Cook	Grant application deadline is 10/1

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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August 1st	ADM	Isaac Lee	Isaac is interested in putting together a Mite Jamboree Tournament to start in 2026-27 that SAHA would help pay for. Jack requested Isaac to put together a proposal for this event and present it to the board when it is completed.
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September 11 th			Paul, Bryan, Beth Anne and Shelby have been working with Isaac have been working on this project. It was suggested that a committee be created to nail down the rules for the tournament a long with determining if all the ADM funds (\$7000.00) should just be used for the Mite Jamboree or just a portion of it so the balance could be used for other levels. Also, should this committee be ongoing each year. This proposal should be sent out to all board members to review when it is completed. Paul Esdale shared his thoughts on what this jamboree tournament could grow into year after year. Don, Kevin and Chris agreed to get with Isaac and the committee members to discuss this opportunity in more detail.
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New Business

September 11th	Survey	Isaac Lee	Isaac informed the board that he has only received 7 responses from the Summer Meeting survey that was sent out back in August. Isaac will send Ward the link to the survey again for Ward to send out to all the attendees again.
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10:00	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
10:15	BREAK	
10:30	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
10:45	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
11:15	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
11:45	1616.org	Jack Flynn
12:00	SYTHL	Chris Powers
12:15	Adjourn for Association	
12:30	LUNCH	

1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
October 9th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
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SAHA Board Secretary

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24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
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Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Paul Esdale	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Vacant	(MS)	

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Next Affiliate Presidents meeting is 11/7. Will continue discussing the Development League. Right now the thought is having 32 teams (U15-U17), 22 player roster, total of 704 players, open residency and teams choose their schedules. Voting will occur at the January Winter Meeting in Nashville. Jack asked to remove the Tier I Committee Report from our monthly meetings. This report will now be an “as needed” report.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the September minutes, Paul Dixon 2nd the motion, there was no discussion and the minutes were voted on and approved. The remaining dates and October and all of November was reviewed on the calendar so everyone was reminded what is coming up.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) 221 Teams rostered. There are 5 Tier I and 24 Tier II teams National Bound. Need House League Rosters. Make sure everyone required is has their SafeSport Training. There are 224 coaches that still need to be current on their CEP

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A

Associations Attending: Summer Walls-NWAHA, Bryan Hince-Jr Ice Bears, Amanda Rumancik-NWAHA, Joe Crump=Jr. Ice Bears, Kevin Muller-Jr Preds, April Beshires-GNASH, Caleb Toone-Jr Preds, Tim Sinasac-KAHA, Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines, Michelle-NYHL (sorry Michelle I did not get your last name)

State Director Updates

Georgia HS League is about to start up. Savannah lost their practice facility. Will be shifting to another facility.

Alabama House League just started in Huntsville. Pelham starting House League. Kip Cole is no longer President for NAHA. The new president is Brandon Skinner who was their SafeSport Coordinator.

Tennessee House League started in East TN. It was pointed out that 66% of East TN associations were in attendance for the meeting

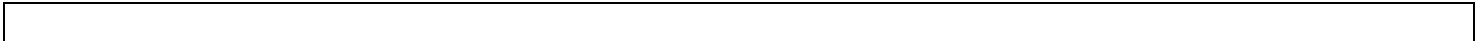
Mississippi Isaac has stepped down as the MS Hockey Director.

Arkansas Aces have 90 kids registered in their program this year. That is the highest # in 10 years. NWAHA has 179 players registered this year. The 10U team is going to declare.

Louisiana N/A

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	Averaging 2 clinics/wk. Small problem with software regarding attendance. Rick has been as to travel to Taiwan to give a coaches clinic
DDR	Rob Link	All quiet so far. Just a reminder... do not forget to offer a hearing whenever a disciplinary issue comes up
College	Mike Fairbanks	UAH, UAB and Auburn all starting their seasons. Meeting coming up to discuss Georgia, SC and TN joining the league
Goalie	Rick Murray	Have held a couple of Bronze Clinics already. Next Silver Clinic will be in St. Louis and the 2 nd Gold Clinic applications are going out soon
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Held 5 Festivals last weekend with 76 teams and 1000 games
Grants	Kevin Cook	15 Grant Applications received
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Girls Hockey		Beth Anne Wagner will be attending a Leadership Summit in Buffalo Nov. 7 th & 8 th
Int. Net Research	Rick Murray	Held in Pelham over 8 hours-8 games-4 teams-4 different formats—full ice with reg size nets/Int. Nets and ½ ice with reg size nets/Int. Nets. Also did 2D video on Goalie Bio Mechanics analysis. Working on compiling all the data



Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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August 1st	ADM	Isaac Lee	Isaac is interested in putting together a Mite Jamboree Tournament to start in 2026-27 that SAHA would help pay for. Jack requested Isaac to put together a proposal for this event and present it to the board when it is completed.
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September 11 th			Paul, Bryan, Beth Anne and Shelby have been working with Isaac have been working on this project. It was suggested that a committee be created to nail down the rules for the tournament along with determining if all the ADM funds (\$7000.00) should just be used for the Mite Jamboree or just a portion of it so the balance could be used for other levels. Also, should this committee be ongoing each year. This proposal should be sent out to all board members to review when it is completed. Paul Esdale shared his thoughts on what this jamboree tournament could grow into year after year. Don, Kevin and Chris agreed to get with Isaac and the committee members to discuss this opportunity in more detail.
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October 9th			<p>With Isaac no longer on the board, Paul Esdale will be taking over this committee. Paul discussed a possible 2 options: 1). SAHA would fund this Mite Jamboree Tournament or; 2). It becomes an Independent League. Players would still play House League but also play in tournaments. It would be a "No Scoreboard" League.</p> <p>It was decided that a survey should go out to all of the associations to find out: What other associations have 8U teams, how many associations would commit, is there interest in just a 4-weekend jamboree or interest in creating a league.</p> <p>Once the survey is created and send out the results will be presented to the board to determine next steps.</p>
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September 11th Survey Isaac Lee

Isaac informed the board that he has only received 7 responses from the Summer Meeting survey that was sent out back in August. Isaac will send Ward the link to the survey again for Ward to send out to all the attendees again.

October 9th

It was decided that we would not send the survey link out again.

New
Business

No New Business

Paul Dixon made a motion to adjourn. Mike Fairbanks 2nd the motion.

Meeting was adjourned.

1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
November 13th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2025-2026 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2025			
1 st	Youth Tier I Application Due (for the season beginning 9/1 the following year)		
1 st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1 st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1 st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
1 st	SAHA Board Meeting	Franklin, TN	Ward Hillegas
2 nd	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Franklin, TN	
31 st	Deadline for Review of Tier I application/notification of final decision		
September 2025			
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2025			
1 st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2025			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
13 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2025			
1 st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting		Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier II Youth Teams to declare National bound	Zoom	
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
31 st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4

January 2026			
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
15th-18th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2026			
12th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
?	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2026			
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
5th-8th	Tier I SE District Tournament	PVAHA	Chris Powers
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
18th-22nd	USA Hockey Nationals - High School	Plymouth, MN	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 13U & 14U	Plymouth, MI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 15U & 16U	Green Bay, WI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	St. Louis, MO	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Rockland, MA	
?	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
31st	Associations Directors contact list for April-July due to SAHA		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Tier I Tryouts (48 hours after last Nationals game)		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Girls Tryouts		

April 2026			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats with the SAHA Board		
?	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
11 th -12 th	2025-2026 Player Development Camp		Jack Flynn
9 th -12 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
19 th	Tier II Tryouts may be held		
24 th -26 th	SE District Girls Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
4/30-5/3	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled Hockey	Dallas, TX	
May 2026			
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8 th -10 th	Southeast District Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
14 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th -18 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2026			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
3 rd -6 th	2026 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2026			
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – November 13th 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on November 13th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Paul Esdale	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Vacant	(MS)	N/A

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Just returned from Affiliates President meeting in Buffalo, NY. The topics of discussion were: establishing protocol regarding reporting residency of players, scheduling split teams, medical support at rinks, 601(e) match penalties, Inter-state players between affiliates, National game sheets and Development League. Right now, the proposal on the table to be voted on Jan.18th is having both a 15U & 17U League with a total 32 teams with 22 players/team. No residence restrictions. An Affiliate President will be on the selection board. Goal is the season will start August 1st, 2027.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the October minutes. Paul Dixon 2nd the motion. There were no discussions and the minutes were approved. The items listed on the November and December Calendar were highlighted.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Still a number of coaches that need their CEP. A lot of red-lines still for the month. This year we have seen more of a pattern with 1st year 9 yr old players playing up on 12U teams and 1st year 11 yr old players playing up on 14U teams. Feel this is something that needs to be addressed.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A

<p>Associations Attending: Bryan Hince-Knoxville, Kat Webb-NEGA, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Amanda Rumancik-NWAHA, April Beshires-GNASH, Allie LaCombe-Warriors, Todd Bisson-NYHL, Mark Layne-GNASH, Kevin Muller-Jr Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr Preds, Jennifer Boniecki- Nash Preds Amateur Hockey, Caleb Toone-Jr Preds</p>

State Director Updates

Georgia Local rink issues regarding SafeSport reporting to be discussed in Committee Chair Reports. NEGA having some learning curve issues accessing portal. Cyber concerns with sending birth cert. by email. USA Hockey now aware of concern.

Alabama Huntsville’s House League is growing at the older age groups. Almost 500 players in House league. Just held a Veterans Day Tournament-very successful.

Tennessee All going well

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas AHA has started their 12U & 14U season. Over 100 kids in the program. Highest numbers ever. NWAHA have 3 teams playing at the “A” level. First time ever. Travel games start this weekend. The Jones Center just approved a 2nd sheet of ice.

Louisiana N/A

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	Halfway through this year’s coaching seminars. Southeast will offer 2 more seminars at each level.
DDR	Rob Link	Rash of Match Penalties – 4-601(e) so far based on the use of slurred language
College	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Goalie	Rick Murray	4 clinics have been completed. Silver clinic will be held January in St. Louis. 2 nd Gold clinic will be held. 40 applicants received-only 10 will be accepted.
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Grants	Kevin Cook	N/A—per Jack this monthly committee report will be removed and brought back only when needed
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Girls Hockey	Beth Anne Wagner	Attended the Women’s Leadership Conference in Buffalo. Beth Anne will be sending Ward the summary report so it can be uploaded on SAHA Website.
Int. Net Research	Rick Murray	3 lab groups working on data-video from Pelham(1/2 ice and full ice), goalie movement & motion sensor movement.
SafeSport	Paul Dixon	2 issues-1 st -more people thinking calls on ice should be called and reporting these as SafeSport violations. These are not. 2 nd -not following “Code of Conduct” policies. Are all associations having parents, players and coaches sign these?



Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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August 1st	ADM	Isaac Lee	Isaac is interested in putting together a Mite Jamboree Tournament to start in 2026-27 that SAHA would help pay for. Jack requested Isaac to put together a proposal for this event and present it to the board when it is completed.
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September 11 th			Paul, Bryan, Beth Anne and Shelby have been working with Isaac have been working on this project. It was suggested that a committee be created to nail down the rules for the tournament along with determining if all the ADM funds (\$7000.00) should just be used for the Mite Jamboree or just a portion of it so the balance could be used for other levels. Also, should this committee be ongoing each year. This proposal should be sent out to all board members to review when it is completed. Paul Esdale shared his thoughts on what this jamboree tournament could grow into year after year. Don, Kevin and Chris agreed to get with Isaac and the committee members to discuss this opportunity in more detail.
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October 9th			<p>With Isaac no longer on the board, Paul Esdale will be taking over this committee. Paul discussed a possible 2 options: 1). SAHA would fund this Mite Jamboree Tournament or; 2). It becomes an Independent League. Players would still play House League but also play in tournaments. It would be a "No Scoreboard" League.</p> <p>It was decided that a survey should go out to all of the associations to find out: What other associations have 8U teams, how many associations would commit, is there interest in just a 4-weekend jamboree or interest in creating a league.</p> <p>Once the survey is created and send out the results will be presented to the board to determine next steps.</p>
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November 13th			Paul Esdale informed the board that Zawyer Sports & Entertainment Company based out of Jacksonville, FL that own a number of pro hockey teams, including the Savannah Ghost Pirates will supporting the 8U Southern Hockey Series. This was created off of the original idea to develop a Mite Jamboree Tournament. Now that it has been created the committee is no longer requesting any funding from SAHA. This topic can now be removed from "Old Business". Below is the link describing the program.
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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f2PmpWYuyXDNm1z65FlhcLZoQHt7dTjUeDi9xNjTlyw/edit?usp=sharing>

September 11th Survey Isaac Lee Isaac informed the board that he has only received 7 responses from the Summer Meeting survey that was sent out back in August. Isaac will send Ward the link to the survey again for Ward to send out to all the attendees again.

October 9th It was decided that we would not send the survey link out again.

November 13th Remove

New
Business

November 13th Jack Flynn MS Director We need to find a replacement for Isaac Lee, the previous MS State Hockey Director.

November 13th This director's position is still open. If anyone knows someone from MS that could fill this position please let us know.

November 13th Jack Flynn U8 Jamboree Officially appointing Paul Esdale as the Chairperson for this committee.

November 13th This was discussed earlier and can be removed.

November 13th Jack Flynn Attorney Fees The need to amend Bylaws to include recovering attorney fees.

November 13th Based on a recent arbitration (which SAHA was successful), that was expensive, SAHA has to protect ourselves from these further expenses. SAHA will create language into our Bylaws that will protect us moving forward.

Paul Dixon made a motion to adjourn meeting. Rob Link 2nd the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

1 0 : 0 0	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	

1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
December 11th, 2025
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
(minutes by Paul Esdale)
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2025-2026 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2025			
1 st	Youth Tier I Application Due (for the season beginning 9/1 the following year)		
1 st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1 st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1 st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
1 st	SAHA Board Meeting	Franklin, TN	Ward Hillegas
2 nd	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Franklin, TN	
31 st	Deadline for Review of Tier I application/notification of final decision		
September 2025			
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2025			
1 st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2025			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
13 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2025			
1 st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting		Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier II Youth Teams to declare National bound	Zoom	
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
31 st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4

January 2026			
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
15th-18th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2026			
12th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
?	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2026			
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
5th-8th	Tier I SE District Tournament – Nashville	SAHA	Chris Powers
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
18th-22nd	USA Hockey Nationals - High School	Plymouth, MN	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 13U & 14U	Plymouth, MI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 15U & 16U	Green Bay, WI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	St. Louis, MO	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Rockland, MA	
?	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
31st	Associations Directors contact list for April-July due to SAHA		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Tier I Tryouts (48 hours after last Nationals game)		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Girls Tryouts		

April 2026			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats with the SAHA Board		
?	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
11 th -12 th	2025-2026 Player Development Camp-Ford Ice Center-Bellevue	Nashville, TN	Jack Flynn
9 th -12 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
19 th	Tier II Tryouts may be held		
24 th -26 th	SE District Girls Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
4/30-5/3	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled Hockey	Dallas, TX	
May 2026			
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8 th -10 th	Southeast District Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th -18 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2026			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
3 rd -6 th	2026 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2026			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Agenda – December 11th 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on December 11th, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	No	Paul Esdale	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	No
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Vacant	(MS)	N/A

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	No	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	No

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Continued to work on Developmental League. Vote is scheduled for next month at the Winter Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Jack made a motion to approve the November minutes, Rob Link 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) N/A

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) SAHA will host the District Tournament for Boys in Nashville, March 5th-8th. Ice schedules are finalized. Jack Flynn will be attending the event.

Associations Attending: Beth Anne Wagner-TN Wolverines, Bryan Hince-Knoxville, James Perkins-NYHL, Jennifer Boniecki-NPAH, Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Summer Walls-NWAHA, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr. Preds, Tim Sinasac-NAHA, Allie Lacombe-Warriors.

State Director Updates

Georgia N/A

Alabama College updates expected next month

Tennessee N/A

Mississippi Position Empty

Arkansas N/A

Louisiana Kevin following up with Debbie regarding change to Registrar and their approval

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	N/A
DDR	Rob Link	Nothing to report. Jack noted a variance report on the women's side. Rob and Debbie to discuss offline.
College	Mike Fairbanks	Some league realignment occurred, ACC transitioning to ACC/SCC. More to come next week
Goalie	Rick Murray	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	500 games into the season. Operations are running smoothly
Grants	Kevin Cook	Behind schedule on notifications (target was 12/1). Record year for grant requests. Working on allocation process with Don, goal to finalize before Christmas so checks can be issued. Coordinating goalie development with Rick.
Membership	Kevin Cook	A few new applications were submitted. Many applications are for single-team associations; SAHA's intent is for associations to field more than one team. Applicants will be evaluated to see if they fit into an existing association. Bboard members should not encourage one-team groups to apply as standalone associations. Two of the three current applicants are single-team groups; the third is a re-application. A committee will be formed; Jack will coordinate with counsel. Application deadline was 12/1. Responses due to applicants by 3/1

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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October 9 th	MS Director	Jack Flynn	We need to find a replacement for Isaac Lee, the previous MS State Hockey Director.
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November 13 th			This director’s position is still open. If anyone knows someone from MS that could fill this position please let us know.
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December 11th			Jack asked for recommendations. Russ was asked to provide suggestions. Kevin encouraged selecting someone from the northern part of the state.
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November 13 th	Attorney Fees	Jack Flynn	The need to amend Bylaws to include recovering attorney fees.
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November 13 th			Based on a recent arbitration (which SAHA was successful), that was expensive, SAHA has to protect ourselves from these further expenses. SAHA will create language into our Bylaws that will protect us moving forward.
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December 11th			Kevin is working on a proposal to update SAHA rules to allow the recovery of reasonable attorney fees. The goal is to present update before the next meeting. One arbitration case can consume up to 25% of SAHA’s operating budget.
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New Business

December 11th	Player Up Document	Paul Esdale	Paul has provided Jack with an overview document outlining a proposal dealing with players “Playing Up” within SAHA. Jack will share this document with the full board for their review.
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Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rob 2nd the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

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1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 :	SAHA Board Meeting	

1 5		
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
January 8th, 2026
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2025-2026 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2025			
1 st	Youth Tier I Application Due (for the season beginning 9/1 the following year)		
1 st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1 st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1 st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
1 st	SAHA Board Meeting	Franklin, TN	Ward Hillegas
2 nd	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Franklin, TN	
31 st	Deadline for Review of Tier I application/notification of final decision		
September 2025			
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2025			
1 st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
9 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2025			
1 st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
In 2028	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
13 th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2025			
1 st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1 st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
11 th	SAHA Board Meeting		Ward Hillegas
15 th	Tier II Youth Teams to declare National bound	Zoom	
15 th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
31 st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31 st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
31 st	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4

January 2026			
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
15th-18th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2026			
12th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
3/27-4/1	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
March 2026			
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
5th-8th	Tier I SE District Tournament – Nashville	SAHA	Chris Powers
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
18th-22nd	USA Hockey Nationals - High School	Plymouth, MN	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 13U & 14U	Plymouth, MI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 15U & 16U	Green Bay, WI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	St. Louis, MO	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Rockland, MA	
?	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
31st	Associations Directors contact list for April-July due to SAHA		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Tier I Tryouts (48 hours after last Nationals game)		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Girls Tryouts		

April 2026			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats with the SAHA Board		
?	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
11 th -12 th	2025-2026 Player Development Camp-Ford Ice Center-Bellevue	Nashville, TN	Jack Flynn
9 th -12 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
19 th	Tier II Tryouts may be held		
24 th -26 th	SE District Girls Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
4/30-5/3	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled Hockey	Dallas, TX	
May 2026			
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8 th -10 th	Southeast District Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th -18 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2026			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
3 rd -6 th	2026 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2026			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – January 8th 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on January 8th, 2026 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	No
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Paul Esdale	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Vacant	(MS)	N/A

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	No
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Had an affiliate Presidents meeting on 1/7. Possible legislation to move 601 E(1) to National Council for review. Affiliate Presidents not in favor of this. This will be discussed at Winter Meeting. Tier II discussion that if a player leaves one state to play in another state both associations have to agree to it. There was further discussion on the Development League as well.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) N/A

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the December minutes. Rob Link 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Ward reviewed the upcoming events listed on the calendar for the remainder of January and upcoming in February.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) 66 coaches have expired CEP. 35 of these are Level 4&5 coaches. Higher this year because they are operating with their own portal. Redlining will start next week. Associations are not keeping up with coaches that have been redlined. 8 SafeSport have expired. Temporary Cards will show they took the course. National Tournament Booklets going on next week.

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) District meeting next week. Hosting Tier I Tournament in Nashville, March 5th-8th

Associations Attending: Reney McAtee-Warriors, Allie LaCombe-Warriors, Bryan Hince-Jr. Ice Bears, Tim Sinasac-KAHA, April Beshires, GNASH, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Caleb Toone-Jr. Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr. Preds, Amanda Lupo-Jr. Preds, Jennifer Boniecki-NPAHA and Craig Jones-NYHL.

State Director Updates

Georgia State Playdowns 2/27-3/1. 2 Teams at 14U, 3 teams at 16U and 1 team at 18U.

Alabama N/A

Tennessee KAHA – working on Spring/Summer programs already. Nashville has 3 teams at 14U and 4 teams each at 16/18U for playdowns. From Andy; operations back in full swing after holiday break. House/Recreational and Travel leagues resumed last week and playdowns have been finalized.

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Registration #'s are highest in a long time at 106. 21 at 8U, 34 at 10/12U, 18 at 14U and 33 at JV. 14U plays in the MO league and are currently 11-4-4.

Louisiana No rosters from Lafayette yet. Number of Adult teams have rostered this year.

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	N/A-Not present
DDR	Rob Link	All is good
College	Mike Fairbanks	Currently finalizing teams that will be joining the league next season. Should have report next month
Goalie	Rick Murray	N/A-not present
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A-not present
Grants	Kevin Cook	Everyone receiving a grant this year has been notified. Checks should be going out very soon
Membership	Kevin Cook	Membership Directors have been having weekly calls with USA Hockey. Currently only offering the same programs to increase membership. Membership numbers have been down from previous years.
SafeSport	Paul Dixon	USA Hockey sent out an email stating that there are changes to SafeSport but the document doesn't state what those changes are. Hopefully n=more info at Winter Meeting
Player Development	Jack Flynn	Weekend of 4/11 & 12. Open registration will start the week of 1/20. Jack will be sending out an email for folks to sign up to help if they can.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
October 9 th	MS Director	Jack Flynn	We need to find a replacement for Isaac Lee, the previous MS State Hockey Director.
November 13 th			This director's position is still open. If anyone knows someone from MS that could fill this position please let us know.
December 11 th			Jack asked for recommendations. Russ was asked to provide suggestions. Kevin encouraged selecting someone from the northern part of the state.
January 8 th			Russ was asked to work on this but not on the call. Jack asked Ward to contact Albert Austin, owner of Mid-South rink to discuss situation.
November 13 th	Attorney Fees	Jack Flynn	The need to amend Bylaws to include recovering attorney fees.
November 13 th			Based on a recent arbitration (which SAHA was successful), that was expensive, SAHA has to protect ourselves from these further expenses. SAHA will create language into our Bylaws that will protect us moving forward.
December 11 th			Kevin is working on a proposal to update SAHA rules to allow the recovery of reasonable attorney fees. The goal is to present update before the next meeting. One arbitration case can consume up to 25% of SAHA's operating budget.
January 8 th			Kevin is working on language to add to our bylaws to allow SAHA to collect attorney fees. Should have this by our next meeting.

December 11th

Player Up
Document

Paul Esdale

Paul has provided Jack with an overview document outlining a proposal dealing with players "Playing Up" within SAHA. Jack will share this document with the full board for their review.

January 8th

Document was sent out to all the board members. Feedback from board is that they support the proposal. Next step is it will be sent out to all the associations. Board is looking for associations input if something has been missed. Next steps will be determined after board receives feedback. It was suggested by Kevin that when this goes out to all associations that each State Director contact their state associations to make sure they are aware of the document/proposal and provide their thoughts.

New Business

There was no new business so Ward asked for a motion to adjourn. Paul Dixon made a motion and Kevin Cook 2nd the motion. At 7:45pm the meeting was adjourned.

9 : 1 5	Coaching/CEP Update	Rick Murray
9 : 3 0	Intermediate Net Presentation	Rick Murray
1 0 : 0 0	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
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1 2	Adjourn for Association	

1 : 5		
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Agenda For

February 12th, 2026

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

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1 st	Youth Tier I Application Due (for the season beginning 9/1 the following year)		
1 st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1 st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1 st	2023-2024 Committee Reports Due		
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2 nd	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Franklin, TN	
31 st	Deadline for Review of Tier I application/notification of final decision		
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October 2025			
1 st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
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1 st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
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21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
3/27-4/1	Tier II Georgia “Bob McCaig Cup” playdown tournament		
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24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
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25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
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Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Agenda – February 12th 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) will be held on February 12th, 2026 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
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Mike Fairbanks	(AL)		Tory Tellefson	(AL)	
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP		Paul Esdale	(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer		Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	
Jack Flynn	(TN) President		Kevin Cook	(LA)	
Andy Franklin	(TN)		Vacant	(MS)	
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL		Chris Powers	SE Director	
Debbie Polk	Registrar		David Polk	Registrar - SE	
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief		Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	
Kahlie Singletary	Girls		Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	
President’s Report (Jack Flynn)					
Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone)					
Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas)					
Registrar Report (Debbie Polk)					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers)					

Associations Attending:

State Director Updates

Georgia

Alabama

Tennessee

Mississippi

Arkansas

Louisiana

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	
DDR	Rob Link	
College	Mike Fairbanks	
Goalie	Rick Murray	
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	
Grants	Kevin Cook	
Membership	Kevin Cook	
SafeSport	Paul Dixon	
Player Development	Jack Flynn	

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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**New
Business**

February 12th

Application
Language

Jack Flynn

Jack will be presenting language to prevent associations from reapplying within a waiting period if their application has been declined.

3 0		
1 0 : 0 0	Registrar's Update	Debbie Polk
1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 :	LUNCH	

3 0		
1 : 1 5	SAHA Board Meeting	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	



Minutes From
March 12th, 2026
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

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January 2026			
8th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
15th-18th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings-Renaissance Hotel	Nashville	
February 2026			
12th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
21st-22nd	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
2/27-3/1	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament		
March 2026			
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
5th-8th	Tier I SE District Tournament – Nashville	SAHA	Chris Powers
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
18th-22nd	USA Hockey Nationals - High School	Plymouth, MN	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 13U & 14U	Plymouth, MI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 15U & 16U	Green Bay, WI	
24th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I 18U	Las Vegas, NV	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II 14U	Dallas, TX	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Irvine, CA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	West Chester, PA	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier I U-14/U-16/U-19	Amherst, NY	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Rochester, MI	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	St. Louis, MO	
25th-29th	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-19	Rockland, MA	
?	Ballots distributed for annual election of District Director		
31st	Associations Directors contact list for April-July due to SAHA		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Tier I Tryouts (48 hours after last Nationals game)		
31st	Earliest allowable date for Girls Tryouts		

April 2026			
1 st	Nominations open for vacant seats with the SAHA Board		
?	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
11 th -12 th	2025-2026 Player Development Camp-Ford Ice Center-Bellevue	Nashville, TN	Jack Flynn
9 th -12 th	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
16 th -19 th	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	Wesley Chapel, FL	
19 th	Tier II Tryouts may be held		
24 th -26 th	SE District Girls Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
4/30-5/3	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled Hockey	Dallas, TX	
May 2026			
1 st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report due		
1 st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
8 th -10 th	Southeast District Player Development Camp	Nashville, TN	
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15 th -18 th	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2026			
1 st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
3 rd -6 th	2026 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30 th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2026			
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31 st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – March 12th 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on March 12th, 2026 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Meeting was called to order. Roll Call

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN) 1 st VP	Yes	Martin Kubaliak	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Tory Tellefson	(AL)	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA) 2 nd VP	Yes	Paul Esdale	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	John Bowling	(MS)	No

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Paul Dixon	Safe Sport	Yes

President’s Report (Jack Flynn) Registration for the USA Hockey Summer meeting in Colorado is open. It would be nice to have a few folks from SAHA attend if possible. Affiliate Presidents are now meeting each month by Zoom/Phone. Jack is on the committee writing the bylaws for the Development League.

Treasurer’s Report (Don Stone) Attended the USA Hockey meeting recently regarding Investments. Nothing at this time to really invest in.

Secretary Report (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the February minutes. Mike Fairbanks 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Ward reviewed upcoming events for the remainder of March and up to April’s Board meeting from the calendar.

Registrar Report (Debbie Polk) Everything from teams going to State Playdowns and Nationals have been turned in

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Hosted Tier I SE District Tournament in Nashville last weekend. Big Thanks to Nashville Jr. Preds for all their help in putting things together.

Associations Attending: Amanda Rumancik-NWAHA, Bryan Hinse-Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears, Summer Walls-NWAHA, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines, Dominick Cure-Jr Preds, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr. Preds, David Cole-Jr. Preds, John Theil-Frostletics, Todd Bisson-NYHA, Jennifer Boniecki-NPAHA, Tim Sinasac-KAHA, Reney McAtee-Warriors and Kat Webb-NEGA

State Director Updates

Georgia State Playdowns went very well. 1-OT game and 1-Shootout game. Madhatters and Atl. Phoenix have teams going to Nationals. Debbie Polk was a great help in answering questions.

Alabama Tryouts are set for May. Pelham and Huntsville are trying to bring teams together at certain age groups to make the numbers work.

Tennessee Spring League has started in Knoxville. Tryouts are set for May. Warriors U14 team going to Nationals and a lot of Tier II teams from the Jr. Preds going to Nationals.

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Everything is wrapping up for the season and spring hockey will start after Spring Break. NWAHA's HS team is going to Nationals. Learn To Play numbers are at 45 and Try Hockey for Free numbers are at 55

Louisiana Everything has wrapped up for the season

Committee Chair Reports

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Coaching	Rick Murray	A couple of training sessions for Instructors are coming up. Clinics will start up in the Fall.
DDR	Rob Link	12 Match Penalties since January 2 nd . Two spitting matches. Plan to review how associations are handling these internally. Are they following the USA Hockey guidelines?
College	Mike Fairbanks	League playoffs are over with
Goalie	Rick Murray	The Gold course is happening. The National Goalie Symposium is August 6 th -8 th in Boston. It is like a Level 5 training course. Research group is going to MN next week.
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Grants	Kevin Cook	Final year end reports will be going out soon.
Membership	Kevin Cook	Membership Growth Team conduct monthly meetings. Very modest growth at all levels except U8's are down and female is up.
SafeSport	Paul Dixon	A few cases in the last few weeks. Working on getting them closed out.
Player Development	Jack Flynn	Player Development Camp is April 11 th -12 th for the 2009-2011 birth years. Registration was 90% full after the first week registration opened.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
December 11 th	Play up Document	Paul Esdale	Paul has provided Jack with an overview document outlining a proposal dealing with players "Playing Up" within SAHA. Jack will share this document with the full board for their review.
January 8 th			Document was sent out to all the board members. Feedback from board is that they support the proposal. Next step is it will be sent out to all the associations. Board is looking for associations input if something has been missed. Next steps will be determined after board receives feedback. It was suggested by Kevin that when this goes out to all associations that each State Director contact their state associations to make sure they are aware of the document/proposal and provide their thoughts.
February 12 th			Paul stated that we received feedback from questionnaire that went out and wishes to move forward with the next steps. Paul made a motion to move forward and Don 2 nd the motion. Discussion consisted of needing to put some guidelines in place and present them to the board. A working committee was formed consisting of Paul Esdale, Don Sone and Tory Tellefson. This motion was voted on and approved.
March 12 th			Subcommittee met after last board meeting. Only looking at U8's playing up to U10 age group. All other age groups were left only so will continue to follow the guidelines currently set up. Some of the suggestions discussed are: only applies to Traveling Teams, the U8 must be in their final year as a U8, they have to be within the association, can only move up on birth year, the association decides if they want to move a U8 player(s) up or not. Also discussed that within the first year of this program being implemented, only 2-U8 players can be moved up. In the 2 nd year 3-U8 players will be allowed to move up. This information is being sent out to all the associations for their feedback.

February 12th Application Jack Flynn Jack will be presenting language to prevent associations from reapplying within a waiting period if their application has been declined.

February 12th Jack will provide language at the March Board meeting.

March 12th Looked at language from other affiliates. Maybe there is another way to approach this. Will report back again at our April meeting.

**New
Business**

March 12th New Paul Dixon A Men’s League out of Macon, GA., called the Central Georgia Hockey Association, with 200 adults, have submitted a sanction request to register under USA Hockey. The 3 Georgia Directors have discussed this and are in favor of moving forward with the request. They presented it to the SAHA Membership Committee and the Committee agrees with the request as well. The Membership Committee will meet and formally vote on the request in the next few days. The Committee will then inform the SAHA Secretary at which time all of the necessary documents will be sent to the Association.

Ward Hillegas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Dixon 2nd the motion. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18.

1 0 : 1 5	BREAK	
1 0 : 3 0	Officiating & Neck laceration Protection Update	Paul Dixon
1 0 : 4 5	DDR-601(e) & Bylaw 10 Update	Rob Link /Jack Flynn
1 1 : 1 5	USA Hockey Presentation	Tina
1 1 : 4 5	1616.org	Jack Flynn
1 2 : 0 0	SYTHL	Chris Powers
1 2 : 1 5	Adjourn for Association	
1 2 : 3 0	LUNCH	
2 : 4 5	Adjourn	

