

South Dakota Hockey Association

Fall Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Location: Elks Lodge, Watertown, SD

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

Sign-In: 8:45 a.m.

Opening & Operations

Welcome and Introduction of Voting Delegates

Meeting convened at 8:57 a.m. Voting delegates introduced and sign-in confirmed.

Quorum

Quorum was confirmed present.

Adoption of Agenda

- Motion to amend the agenda (Huron); seconded by Kotilnek. Motion carried.
- Motion to adopt amended agenda (Secretary); seconded by Aberdeen. Motion carried.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes with noted changes; motion by Secretary, seconded by Yankton.
 - Motion passed.
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Financial Report

Presenter: Randy Honkomp, Treasurer

- Reviewed year-end financials as of August 31, 2025.
 - All budgets reconciled.
 - Outstanding invoices exceed \$3,000 from local associations; follow-up emails sent.
 - General fund reported a \$20,000 loss that will be explained in the budget review.

- Financial trends otherwise consistent with prior years.

Motion: Approve financial report

- Moved by Huron; seconded by Mitchell.
 - Motion carried.
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Budget Review (FY Ending August 31, 2026)

Presenter: Randy Honkomp, Treasurer

- Proposed budget for the upcoming year vs. the actual budget year:
 - In the general fund player assessment 51,000 – should actually be 31,000 range – that is why you are seeing a 20,000 reduction.
 - Treasurer explained how we get money from TSD for \$15,000 for Executive Director support.
 - Instead of billing TSD separately for Executive Director support it will be cut from their base budget and instead included in the overall Executive Director salary.
 - Player assessment revenue adjusted from \$51,000 to approximately \$31,000.
 - State Tournament budget remains separate and consistent with prior years.
 - Northern Plains budget item requires correction to reflect actual costs.
 - Player registration fee confirmed at \$13 (\$11 General Fund, \$1 Referee Fund, \$1 Coaches Fund).
 - Team assessment increase of \$550 per team discussed.
 - Player Development Fund (\$39,000) discussed; consensus to develop clearer spending plans.
 - Discussion included grants, development initiatives, and targeted use of surplus funds.
 - Vice President suggested at least \$1,000 available to any association that wished to request funds to hold player development camps/opportunities.
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Proposal #2 (Aberdeen - Duke Witte):

- Proposal would reallocate \$1.75 from the general fund to the player development fund and another \$1.00 from the general fund to the player growth fund.
- However this proposal would leave a gap in our general fund equating to a team assessment increase of \$625 per team to fill the general fund gap.
- Extensive discussion regarding lack of a statewide development plan.

Motion: Table Proposal #2 and adopt the budget

- Moved by Sanderson; seconded by Rushmore.
 - Motion carried.
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Executive Committee Motion

Motion: Motion by Watertown and seconded by Mitchell

- Motion failed, 8–7.
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Discussion Topics

SD Hockey Promotion & Marketing

Presenter: Nathan Sanderson

- Proposal to rebrand from “SDAHA” to “South Dakota Hockey.”
- Emphasis on improved marketing, communications, media coordination, and website presence.
- Committee to be formed for branding and media strategy.

Team South Dakota

Presenters: Justin Kirchhevel & Duke Witte

- New policy implementation successful.
- Improved player outreach and retention.
- Camp timing to be moved earlier in future years.
- Exploration of younger age group engagement underway.

Growth & Retention

Presenter: Duke Witte

- USA Hockey growth target of 2.5% met.
- New district coordinator assigned.
- Statewide growth strategy to be coordinated with local associations.

Policy Proposal Process

Presenter: Nathan Sanderson

- Recommendation to improve drafting, historical review, and vetting of proposals.
- Discussion of forming a policy review committee.

Varsity Tournament Bidding

- Girls Varsity Tournament would like to have similar bidding process for State Tournament that Boys have.
 - Discussion on adding monetary bidding.
 - No action taken; monetary options may be added to future bids.
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BREAK: 11:30

RECONVENE: 11:45

Reports

Executive Director's Report

Presenter: Jenni Wirkus

- Board rosters required for SafeSport tracking by September 20.
- Total registrations to date: 2,963.
- League start November 21; rosters due November 14.
- High School Nationals in Minnesota; interest due October 15.
- Game Sheets training to continue.
- Hall of Fame nominations due December 15; banquet April 17 in Sioux Falls.

Officials Report

Presenter: Jenni Wirkus (on behalf of Jared Ahlberg)

- Growth in officials noted, but demand increasing.
- October 31 deadline for USA Hockey registration.
- Emphasis on recruiting and supporting young officials.

Discipline Report

Presenter: Nathan Sanderson

- Two carryover cases; no new matters reported.

SafeSport Report

Presenter: Jon Lord

- All SafeSport participants are mandatory reporters.
- Emphasis on early reporting and issue resolution to avoid litigation.

Risk Management Report

Presenter: Cherry Hunter

- Background screenings conducted biennially.
- Return-to-ice concussion reports required.
- Travel teams must compete only against USA Hockey-sanctioned teams.

Coaching & Northern Plains Report

Presenter: Rob Kittay

- New 6U/8U coaching clinic introduced.
- Northern Plains Development Camp moved to Fargo.
- District governance updates discussed.

SD Hockey Development Report

Presenters: Rob Kittay (Boys), Mark Bukovich (Girls)

- April development camp reached record attendance.
- Camp scheduled April 24–26 in Sioux Falls.

Local Association Reports

- Updates provided by all associations, including facility improvements, recruitment efforts, and participation trends.
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Old Business

Varsity State Tournament Format & Awards

- Adjusted game times approved.
 - Girls awards ceremony reinstated for Friday morning.
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New Business

Playdown Requests

- Bantam:
 - Brandon Valley: Motion to allow playdown (Brandon), seconded by Mitchell
 - Voice Vote: Motion Carries.
 - Sioux Center: Motion to allow playdown (Sioux Center), Seconded by Brandon
 - Voice Vote: Motion Carries.
 - Sioux Falls: Motion to allow 1 A team and 3 B teams (Sioux Falls), seconded by Secretary
 - Voice Vote: Motion Fails
 - Yankton: Motion to playdown (Yankton), Seconded by Rushmore
 - Motion Fails 9-6.
 - Play in State Tournament for Play-Down Teams: Motion to allow (Sioux Falls), Seconded by Brandon Valley
 - Motion Fails 7-8.
- Squirt:
 - Sioux Center: Motion to allow playdown (Sioux Center), seconded by Huron.
 - Motion Carries 10-5

Freeze 10 Request

- Brandon Valley Requesting to Freeze 5: Motion (Brandon Valley), seconded by Norther Hills
 - Voice Vote: Motion Carries.
- Huron Requesting to Freeze 5: Motion (Huron), seconded by Brandon Valley
 - Voice Vote: Motion Carries.

2026 State Tournament

- Boy's Varsity State will be held in Sioux Falls and the rest of the tournaments have been assigned to respective associations so that no one association is hosting more than one state tournament.

Carolina Team

- President provided update to board members.
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Executive Session

- Entered at 3:28 p.m.
 - Adjourned Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.
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Adjournment

Spring Meeting: April 18, 2026

Location: Sioux Falls Convention Center

Motion to Adjourn:

- Moved by Sanderson; seconded by Kotilnek.
- Motion carried.