



## South Carolina Scholastic Hockey Association

May 17th, 9:30am (In Person)  
The Residence Inn  
944 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo, SC 29063

### Executive:

**President:** Kirby Brownfield

**Treasurer:** Beth Davis

**Secretary:** Desiree LaBranche - *absent*

**Vice President:** Ginnette Romkey

**Registrar:** Tirissa Johnson

**Coaching Coordinator:** Pete Just - *absent*

### Members:

**SafeSport Coordinator:** *vacant*

**CAHA HS Chair:** Robert Engler - *absent*

**CAHA Ex. Director:** Brad Hoffman - *absent*

#### Columbia:

Barbara Clark, National TM

David Reppucci, National Coach

Alyssa Mehlretter, Palmetto TM

Laurie Gammons, *incoming* National TM

#### Fort Mill:

Karen Barber, National TM

#### Greenville:

Jessica Bagley, National TM

Leslie Craddock, High School Chair

Brian Gombash, Palmetto TM

#### Charleston:

Aiko Thompson, National Mariners TM

Vandy Inman, *TBD* Rebels TM - *absent*

Starr Jordan, Palmetto Raiders TM

## I. Call to Order

The End of Season meeting of the SC Scholastic High School Hockey Association (SCSHA) was called to order at 9:35 AM by Kirby Brownfield, in accordance with the bylaws of the organization.

## II. Roll Call / Introductions

A quorum was declared present.

Above members in attendance unless otherwise stated.

New introductions included:

- Leslie Craddock (Greenville) attending as Greenville High School Coordinator.
- Coach David Reppucci replacing Coach George Kiernan on the Columbia National team.

- Laurie Gammons replacing Barbara as TM for the Columbia National team.

Starr Jordan will record minutes in Desiree Labranche's absence.

### III. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the February 2025 meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting.
  - Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Kirby Brownfield, seconded, and passed unanimously without amendment.

### IV. Treasurer's Report

- Current Balance: \$5,446.13 (includes \$2,500 grant for Jamboree)
- Outstanding Grant: \$1,120 pending for end-of-season tournament
- Proposed allocation of \$2,500 as credits toward upcoming Back-to-School Jamboree. National teams to receive \$416.70 credit; Palmetto teams (except Raiders) to receive \$277.80 credit.
  - Motion to apply the Jamboree grant as team credits toward the upcoming Back-to-School Jamboree made by Kirby Brownfield, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Financial reports are due May 30; teams should submit spreadsheets provided.

### V. Registrar's Update

- Rosters must be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the jamboree.
- Registrar position remains open; efforts to recruit have been unsuccessful thus far.
- Registrar and Vice President offered to train a new registrar.

### VI. Secretary's Report

- President reported no new business from the Secretary.

### VII. Vice President's Report

- Discipline
  - Discipline issues were reduced compared to last year.
  - Better communication with referees.
  - TMs to email Vice President if there is a match penalty.
  - Coaches are allowed to review Gamesheets after game before scorekeepers lock it.
- Scholarships
  - Discussion held on formalizing scholarship policy
  - Maximum scholarship of \$500 per player, not to exceed 50% of team dues.
  - Item to be added to August Declaration Meeting agenda for vote.
  - Applications should be directed to the Secretary.
- Social Media Advertising
  - Concern raised over non-hockey-related advertisers using league platforms.
  - Suggestion made to limit approval of content to South Carolina-based or affiliated organizations.
- Request that teams submit tryout lists (names and ages) to assess league growth and assist with planning.

### VIII. Team Census for 2025-26

Teams provided preliminary estimates for upcoming season:

Charleston:

- 12 players leaving Mariners
- Expect 1 National, 2 Palmetto
- Tryouts: June 7 and June 21

Columbia:

- Expect 1 National, 1 Palmetto
- Tryouts: June 18

Greenville:

- Losing between one third to one half of team
- Expect 1 National, 1 Palmetto
- Tryouts: TBA

Fort Mill:

- Uncertain, currently lacks a coach and team manager
- Marketing efforts will be launched.

## IX. Unfinished Business

- End-of-Season Feedback
  - Positive feedback received regarding the smooth operation of the 2025 season.
- State Tournament Feedback
  - Improved branding
  - Hydration/snack station provided by Columbia
  - CAHA confirmed SCSHA will continue hosting its own National Bound tournament.
  - Issues discussed:
    - Lack of skate sharpening options at Flight (Columbia team has Sparks machine that can be made available)
    - TMs responsibilities for correct rosters in Gamesheets
      - League to publish player eligibility next year prior to EOS tournament
    - Raffle Baskets & Fundraising
      - 2025 raffle basket proceeds totaled \$1,655 (lower than previous years).
      - TMs shared concerns over the effort required to coordinate baskets.
      - Suggestions:
        - Dissolve baskets entirely and raise gate fees to fund national tournament entry.
        - Host monthly online raffles with each team responsible for one.
        - Use local restaurant fundraiser nights during events.
    - Referee Coverage
      - Proposal made to use a 3-official system for Palmetto State Championship games to improve officiating quality.
      - Issue to be voted on at the August Declaration Meeting.
    - Scorekeeping Consistency
      - Scorekeepers are extensions of the officials and must remain neutral.

- Discussion on paying for scorekeepers at all league-hosted games to reduce volunteer fatigue.
- Will be added to the August agenda for consideration.

## X. New Business

- 2025-26 Schedule
  - Suggestion to start season in August.
  - Back-to-School Jamboree: proposed August 16-18, 2025 in Charleton
    - President to secure ice time
  - Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> jamboree due to shorten season
  - EOS tournament: proposed February 6-8, 2026
    - National tournament must be held by February 14, 2026
    - Required round-robin play for Nationals
    - Palmetto may remain single elimination
    - Greenville to host (unless ice not available)
  - TMs to submit blackout dates as soon as possible.
  - Discussion around flexibility to change venues (e.g., Pavilion vs. Ice Station in Greenville) for better ice times.
    - General consensus: if time/date remains the same, minor venue changes are acceptable with proper referee notification (24–48 hours suggested).
    - No objection from schedulers, provided referee logistics are accounted for.
- Tuition and Contracts
  - Discussion of what each team charges and the number of practices included
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Roll out and qualifications
  - Qualifications:
    - Must be 13 years of age to participate CAHA Policies/Rule 17.4 (b)
    - Must provide SCSHA Registrar valid USA Hockey Number and copy of Birth Certificate
    - Must comply with all SCSHA Playing Rules B. Player Eligibility (1&2)
    - Must try out and be evaluated by primary coaching staff. If Head Coach feels player(s) aren't ready, then they cannot participate.
    - Pool applications will not be accepted for 8th graders.
    - Can only be rostered on a Palmetto team (non-national bound).
    - Must not take a roster spot from any player in grades 9-12.
    - Must be rostered within the boundaries as described in SCSHA Playing Rules B.
    - Player Eligibility (7.c)
    - Must have a completed School Enrollment Eligibility Palmetto Division on file with League Registrar
    - Palmetto rosters will be internal and uploaded into Gamesheets
    - Palmetto division will remain non-checking during competition play
    - Player eligibility for State Tournament will comply with SCSHA Playing Rule J. (6)
    - SafeSport certified locker-room attendant will be strictly enforced in accordance with CAHA Policy 8.0 Discipline 8.11

- Motion to evoke the adoption of the new Palmetto rollout to start the 2025-26 trial season made by Kirby Brownfield, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Projected Costs Considerations
  - Ice costs likely to go up.
  - Increased cost if we move to 3-man officiating for Palmetto
- Grant Submissions
  - Plan to submit increased proposal to CAHA due to round robin requirements and increased ice time.
- SCSHA Elections and Nominations
  - President: Motion to nominate Kirby Brownfield as President made by Ginette Romkey, seconded, and passed unanimously.
  - Registrar: Needs candidate
  - Secretary: Motion to nominate Desiree Labranche as Secretary made by Kirby Brownfield, seconded, and pass unanimously.
- Declaration Meeting
  - Declaration meeting will be held in Columbia on Sunday, July 20, 2025.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 11:38 AM was made by Kirby Brownfield, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Starr Jordan (substitute for Secretary)