

PRINCETON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

“Team First – Integrity – Grit – Engaged – Respectful”

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda / Minutes

Feb 26th, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER: - 6:31 pm

2. ATTENDANCE

Jeremy Uhrich, Missy McAlpine, Brittany Stearns, Becky Krueger, Chad Ruzek, Corey Murphy, Eric Englund, Andy Fondrick, Amber Wilkinson, Joe Hostrawser, Chris Gadacz, Ben Heath

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GAMBLING REPORTS (*Amber Wilkinson, Gambling Manager*)

VM to accountant to double check he has everything needed. Finish Line meat raffles Sunday will be at 1pm now. Brittany Stearns motions to approve LG1004, Corey Murphy seconds. All in favor, motion passes. Chad Ruzek motions to Transfer \$20k for bills, Eric Englund seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (*Ben Heath, Secretary*)

Becky Krueger motions to approve January’s meeting minutes, Brittany Stearns seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORT (*Joe Hostrawser, Treasurer*)

We are at our limit for spending this summer. Corey Murphy motions to approve Treasurer Report, Eric Englund seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (*Jeremy Uhrich*)

Nothing new to report.

7. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT (*Eric Englund*)

TAF doing Kentucky Derby and reached out to partner up again like last year - approved to do again.

8. ARENA/ADVERTISING MANAGER REPORT (*Missy McAlpine*)

- Buildings needs list for the summer
- West heater needs to be replaced - soot build up
- Zam west is leaking some fluids
- Blower wheel in condensor was finished Feb. 6th
- Dept of Health stopped in - couple of simple fixes in concession but no fines- all is well
- Breakaway scheduling was Tuesday the 21st.
- Playoffs were great, staff did great
- Tom Nerrgard will be on site for Regions
- \$15,313 over \$9k last year in concession sales
- Aug-Feb last year \$80k and this year is at \$103,700
- Staff party March 20th at Finish Line

9. DISTRICT 10 REPORT (*Jeremy Uhrich*)

- Presidents meeting was about parents and fines and removals. It’s getting out of hand. If refs removes a parent, it’s a three game suspension.
- D10 Leadership Conference - May 3 and 4. Will be fined if we don’t have reps who attend.
- Inter-level play is prohibited per D10 handbook.
- Issues with intermediate nets not being used for Mite games in the district
- Mite coaches not understanding rules or confusion within the league.
- All neck guards are mandatory Aug. 1st and will be enforced by refs.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- **Away Tournament Coordinator**, *Joe Hostrawser* – All tournaments completed.

- **Communications Coordinator, Becky Krueger** – Will get letters of intent posted to website. Been heavily promoting summer skills clinic in surrounding areas to draw in more kids.
 - **Equipment Manager, Eric Englund / Chad Ruzek** - Collected 30+ bags of gear. About 12 families left.
 - **Fundraising Coordinator, Corey Murphy** – Heggies finished. \$1,290. Mrs. Fields cookies ends in 4 days. \$1,754 made so far. Nelson’s Nursery gift cards started this week and will be final fundraiser for the season.
 - **Game Sheet Coordinator, Brittany Stearns** - Nothing new besides emails.
 - **Girls Program Coordinator, Becky Krueger** - 12U and 10U both went W,L,W,L in the district playoff brackets. Still nothing official on 13U. 8U girls doing spring league through MASH.
 - **Hockey Director, Ben Heath** –
 - I. HDC Update –
 - a) Meeting on Feb. 5 with one of our coaches asking about our strategy for developing mixed talent bottom teams. Some of the suggestions from HDC were to: 1) Make practices competitive, 2) Split players into 2-3 groups by skill level for practices, 3) Push player roles, 4) Consider doing some station practices with the top-level team so players get a variety of input and training from different coaches.
 - b) Meeting on Feb. 21 to discuss a plan for conducting exit interviews with head coaches and continued discussing potential tryout improvements for the 2024-2025 season to be presented to the board.
 - c) HDC wants to know if there is anything the PYHA Board currently wants them to work on.
 - II. Going to begin working on a second “Coaches Corner Newsletter” as sort of a season wrap-up.
 - III. D10 is now doing monthly Hockey Director’s meetings via Zoom for all association hockey directors. The last one was on Feb. 20th. Some of the major topics of discussion were 1) Player Development, 2) Practice Format, 3) Practice Planning, and 4) Skill Acquisition.
 - IV. The Hockey Director from BBL asked if we would rent the new dryland facility to their teams. If we were to consider this, we should ensure that all Princeton teams get first choice on making reservations. We don’t want to run into a scenario where our teams can’t get the time slots they need that work with their team’s schedules.
 - **Mite/8U Coordinator (On-Ice), Ben Heath** –
 - I. ADM practices are going well for each level. For the Mite A/B group, we recently did a 3v3 Half-Ice In House Jamboree (Tiger Cup) where we split the players into 4 teams of 5-6 players: Orange, Black, Blue, and White. 3v3 games are a great way to develop skills while players are competing and having fun. Everyone is active, and there are a ton of puck touches. We have two more of these scheduled at the close of the season.
 - II. Spring Breakaway Super Mites got canceled due to a low number of teams. So Ben Heath partnered up with Zach Welding to create a Spring Skills / 3v3 In-House League instead, designed primarily for upper-level mites or mites who will be squirts next year. This will consist of 20 hours of ice time (12 skills practices and 8 game days) running from the end of March through mid-May. 18-20 Princeton players are currently committed.
 - **Mite Jamboree Coordinator, Danielle Murphy** –
 - **Mite/8U Coordinator (Off-Ice), Zach Welding** – Kids were pumped to get into the dryland facility. Slide boards continue to be the most popular station. Kids are starting to get the hang of it. We have been doing wall sit challenges at the end of some drylands with the winners making it to the 3 minute mark.
- Extra Comment**
Dryland Facility - Might want to think of making some "kick plates" out of 12" high plywood or something to prevent puck holes in the wall. Could paint them orange or something to color the place up.
- **Outdoor Ice Manager, Jon Stenslie** – Did not attend.
 - **Recruitment Coordinator, Becky Krueger** – Ordered shut out pins for goalies for next season. Promoting summer skills clinic in other associations. Prepping for early childhood fair at the end of April.

- **Referee Coordinator**, *Joe Hostrawser* - No more Mite league games. Will get paid soon. Good year for youth refs.
 - **Registration/Team Manager Coordinator**, *Brittney Stearns* –Need team folders back.
 - **Scheduling Coordinator (Practice)**, *Jeremy Uhrich* – All teams have met their hours.
 - **Scheduling Coordinator (Games)**, *Missy McAlpine* – Next year, nothing will be scheduled after the banquet so ice can come out in a timely manner. Utilization of hours for teams who are still playing in their season. Officers need to be able to communicate with arena manager.
 - **Tiny Tigers Director**, *Zach Welding* – Received lots of positive feedback from kids and parents. Also had a few parents reach out about next year because they heard from other kids who did it this year and loved it. There are 2 outstanding equipment returns. Holm's said she would work with Eric to return it. I reached out twice to Roman Whiting's mom with no response.
 - **Volunteer Coordinator**, *Corey Murphy* - 5 open slots for regions. Filled a lot of open district slots with board members and paid workers.
 - **Website Coordinator**, *Becky Krueger* - Registrations for spring/summer on top of the homepage of the website. Tiny Tiger photos posted to a new album.
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11. NEW ITEMS

- **HDC Tryout Changes Recommendations (Andy Fondrick HS Boys Coach)** - Andy provided suggested dates for tryouts and suggestions to better the evaluation process. HDC will fine tune the process over the spring/early summer. Gave board members a proposal for a possible process. (See attachment below)
- **Coach of the Year Nominations** – Joe Hostrawser was selected as coach of the year.
- **Character Nominations** – The following were selected:
 BOY CHARACTER OF THE YEAR: ZACH STEPHENS
 GIRL CHARACTER OF THE YEAR: EMMA JEURISSEN
- **Letters of Intent** – Letters of intent were received by the following candidates: Joe Hostrawser, Matthew McLaughlin, Tom Bodnar, Jenn Super, Dylan Sweeney, Nick Schuett
- **Team Fund Allocations (Becky)** – Clear up instructions for coaches and managers on what team funds can be used for. Clarification: No outside skills instructors will be paid for with PYHA funds - need to use slush fund because we have an in-house skills coordinator. PYHA team funds are for tournaments and team building.

12. **ADJOURN:** - 8:56pm Corey Murphy, Joe Hostrawser seconds.

HDC Proposal for Tryout Process

This proposal presented to the board includes recommendations from the HDC committee based on previous experience in tryouts across a number of different associations and levels. The hope here is to help take some of the pressure off of the board members and tryout committees during an already chaotic time, while still providing a proper tryout for our program.

Tryout sessions could be set for the whole block (for example 5 – 9pm) until numbers are confirmed. We would recommend splitting any age group into 2 groups for the first two days of tryouts if they have 28-30 or more skaters in a session to help evaluators have sufficient time to evaluate each player.

Identifying 3 or 4 evaluators for each level that can be consistent and breaking up the tryout days for evaluators could also help to keep things moving along smoothly. Some evaluators may want to be involved with all levels, but breaking into smaller groups of evaluators makes this less daunting.

The recommendation would allow for three weeks of pre-camps and then the 4th week could be used as pre-camps for any level requiring a tryout process. During the tryout process, all tryouts should be held at PIA where LiveBarn can be turned off and there are no PYHA parents watching.

Recommended Dates:

- Sun. Sept 22 – Skills
- Mon. Sept 23 – Skills and small games
- Wed. Sept 25 – Internal scrimmage
- Sun. Sep. 29 – External scrimmage
 - o Non-tryout teams start practice week of Sep. 30
 - o Non-parent coaches can start with clinics at beginning of year
- Mon. Sept. 30 - Potential 4th week of pre-camps if needed depending on level
- Wed. Oct. 2 – External scrimmage if needed (or use as a possible scrimmage with set rosters)
- Fri. Oct. 4 – Posting of tryout teams

Other additional recommendations to be discussed:

- Ask a non-board member data entry – or a person not involved in the tryout process to help with the entry
- Potential for coaches selections/input – maybe it's a 3 player bubble or a bottom 20%
- Potentially the time to develop player evaluation profile from previous years
- Use coaches/assistants as potential on-ice both during tryout and pre-camps
- Need to pay help on ice in money or gift cards for the hours worked