

PAHL Membership Meeting – February 2025

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Meeting Location: virtual meeting
Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

The President called to order the February 2025 Membership Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 7:04 PM. The Secretary is recording the minutes of the meeting.

Roll call of members present (22):

- Allegheny Badgers: Josh Fajt, Mindy Ulyas
- Altoona Trackers: Aaron Makowlecki
- Arctic Foxes: Alicia Genco, Jen Mosesso
- Armstrong Arrows: Jim Rearic
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz
- Erie Junior Otters: Scott Dudkiewicz
- Indiana Chiefs: Leanne Smith
- Johnstown Warriors: Jody Gustkey
- Lawrence County Lightning: Brent Fisher
- Mon Valley Thunder: Frank Lopresti
- Mt Lebanon Hornets: Kari King
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tim Adamosky
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Jeremy Parker
- Pittsburgh Huskies: Collin Cyprowski
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: John Kohler, Michele Graham
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion: Matt Harmon
- State College Icers: Pete Brumberg
- Wheeling Nailers: Caitlin Rodocker
- Youngstown Phantoms: Brad Patterson

Roll call of members absent (3):

- Crawford County Flames
- Morgantown Blades
- Westmoreland Eagles

Roll call of others present:

- Officers: Glen Scholze, Ron Michalak, Courtney Iaccio, Crystal Ochwat
- Staff: Dave Fryer
- Guests: none

Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the January 2025 PAHL Membership Meeting were presented by the Executive Administrator.

Motion by Armstrong Arrows, seconded by Allegheny Badgers:

Approve the January 2025 minutes, as presented.

Motion passes via unanimous consent.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Report from the First Vice President

- Fighting infractions continue to climb, but suspensions for 4 penalties in a game have gone down.
- Requests are being sent for supplemental discipline through improper channels, such as parents sending emails and videos to the league. Associations are asked to remind their membership that those requests must only come through the association presidents, who are asked to look at the request and filter through only those that rise to the level of truly needing some consideration for supplemental discipline. Some of the videos being sent now are not even penalties.

Report from the Second Vice President

- All 8U players have been uploaded into MAPS, which will assist greatly in upcoming seasons when those players enter the 10U age divisions and need to be reviewed for placement.
- We will be transitioning quickly into next season by getting 2025-26 rosters uploaded into MAPS shortly after tryouts. Information will be sent to the registrars to collect that information.
- Registrar training will be conducted in May, done virtually. All registrars should have the ability to view their rosters in MAPS by that time, as we are currently testing that function.

Report from the Treasurer

- There is \$139,606.67 in our checking account and \$100,082.14 in our savings account.
- Reconciliations on league dues will be adjusted as we enter the 8U player counts.

Report from the Secretary

- The Academic All-Star application is available through the PAHL website. Please emphasize to your members that instructions need to be followed. A few people complained last season that they did not get their award or the player's name on the award was spelled incorrectly. All of those issues were a result of the applicant not following the instructions.
- The application for PAHL Scholarships is also available through the PAHL website.
- The deadline for both applications is Sunday, March 30th.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- While improving, we are still not in full compliance on scoresheet submissions. With the final games of the season upon us, we need all scoresheets submitted immediately after each game.
- The number of incidents involving abuse of officials is increasing in our league and across the MidAm district. All parties must become more active in addressing and preventing this problem.
- Spectator conduct also continues to be a problem. Spectators who are getting ejected are not leaving peacefully; they are creating a bigger scene by making gestures at referees, attempting to engage with opposing spectators, and continuing their behaviors into the lobby. Every association has a Spectator Conduct Policy that they must uphold.

- MidAm continues to receive match penalty reports regarding hateful and discriminatory language from players. The punishments for those incidents involve several games of suspension, but they continue to happen.
- Playoff hosts and schedules are posted to the PAHL website as they are finalized. Any information that is still missing is coming soon.
- Our membership voted on changes to championship banners and awards prior to this season, and that information was provided in the last PAHL Pulse. Please ensure your members know of those changes so they have the right expectations for playoffs, including the elimination of second place medals at 12U and above. Banners will be available for order after the last weekend of PAHL championship games is completed.
- Once the regular season ends and playoff teams are finalized, a notice will be sent to playoff teams to collect Player Credential forms. That form is already available to each team via the USAH portal, but the League Office cannot process those until all games have been played. A player needs to participate in at least 50% of league games to be eligible for playoffs at the 14U age groups and higher. Injury waivers are available for those who play in 25% but do not reach the 50% minimum. Documentation of the injury from a doctor's office is needed, and those will be collected with the Player Credential forms. Please do not submit an injury request prior; they need to be matched up to the credential information.
- Three divisions at 10U still do not have a host for ODSETs: A2, A4, and A6. If your association is potentially able to host, please contact the Executive Administrator immediately.
- It should be clear to all at this point that we need to consider a different format for ODSETs – it is too much of a burden to host four sessions of games across two days. We are going to need proposals for a new format, so please consider what might work to allow your association to host a 10U playoff if it is not able to do so currently.
- The opt-in form for ODSETs will be provided via the PAHL Pulse once all hosts are finalized.
- As teams finalize and publish tryout information, please be aware of the policies that apply to tryouts. For non-National Bound Teams, the PAHL policy allows tryout activities to begin no earlier than March 17, which is the day after our last championship game. For National Bound Teams, tryout activities cannot take place until 48 hours after the last day of USAH National Tournaments, which makes April 8 the first possible date. This is not just limited to your formal tryouts, “tryout activities” include anything that could be construed as evaluation, player selection, recruitment, solicitation, etc. Namely, open skates and pre-tryout clinic would be considered tryout activities.

Report from MidAm

- Teams participating in state, district, and national tournaments need to have paper copies of the USA Hockey Consent to Treat Forms for all players. There is some confusion that this form is completed online with annual registration, but that is not actually the case. The form is available to print on the USA Hockey website.
- Each player on the USAH roster of a team going to states, districts, and/or nationals needs to have a checkmark for birth certificate verification. Most players already have this. For the few that do not, Chris Skowron will be processing those in late-February and early-March. If your registrar or team manager submitted that information earlier in the season, she was not able to process them at that time since rostering takes up most of her time. So please submit (or resubmit) that information to her now for any player needing the verification.

OLD BUSINESS

PAHL Per Player Fee

- The discussion on the January membership call was to increase the annual per-player fee by \$5 to \$30 per player. That amount would cover the initial costs to implement and utilize GameSheet for next season.
- Concern was expressed by the membership of an increase of \$5 being too low and therefore necessitating that we need to increase it again soon. The sentiment was that the members will see the benefits if we implement GameSheet, so increasing by \$10 is reasonable.
- In turn, some members expressed concern that we had cited the increase of \$5 and took that back to our associations for discussion and approval, but now we are changing the amount.
- The league provided the option for us to table this matter again if enough representatives felt that we need to allow the \$10 increase to be discussed again within respective associations, but the feedback was to put the matter to a vote at this meeting.

Motion by South Pittsburgh, seconded by State College:

Raise the per-player fee for the 2025-26 season by \$10 to \$35 per player.

Motion passes, 19-1-1.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:24 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: March 18, 2025