

WHA Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 12th, 2023

Location: Studio 212

Time: 7:00pm Board Meeting



AGENDA

1. **Welcome** by President Todd Randall
2. **Introduction of Board Members, Team Coordinators, Coaching & Staff** – Running the WHA takes a village and we are grateful for your support and leadership of the WHA! Thank you to Tonya Holien who has served as Interim WHA Business Manager for the last year. Reminder: All Board Members, Team Coordinators, Coaches & Staff must have SafeSport & Background checks completed by the end of the day October 15th. If not complete, you are not permitted to be on the ice or lead our youth until completed. Please contact Registrar Jessi Eidson (lakerregistrar@gmail.com) for questions:

2023- 2024 Board Members:

President	Todd Randall	605-881-5612	trandall1104@gmail.com
Vice President	Adam Sullivan	605-520-3998	asullivan@wat.midco.net
Past President	Adam Lalim	605-868-3487	alalim_neaa@msn.com
Treasurer	Allison Mathews	507-530-3610	ramathews2010@hotmail.com
Secretary	Amber Dahl	605-520-9190	amber.r.dahl@gmail.com
League Director	Kris Dorneman	605-520-4656	krisdorneman@gmail.com
League Director	Travis Young	605-881-5952	travis.young@hotmail.com
Development Director	Matt Engen	605-520-2313	matthewengen21@gmail.com
Development Director	Nate Shuller	605-881-9102	nate2003@hotmail.com
At Large Director	Eric Skott	605-868-4036	eric@crestonebuilders.com
At Large Director	Jeremy Johnson	208-570-2626	jjohnson45@gmail.com

2023 – 2024 Team Coordinators:

Boys V/JV	Shane Wirkus	605-880-8094	wirkus9@gmail.com
Girls Varsity	Julianne Lloyd	605-880-0731	julianeilloyd@gmail.com
Bantam A/B	Melissa Meester	605-520-2349	melimeester@gmail.com
Girls U14	Jeremy Knopf	605-201-3865	jeremyknopf@yahoo.com
PeeWee	Kristy Boettcher	605-881-2281	kristyboettcher@icloud.com
Squirt	Beth Schmeling	605-261-1417	nineoscars@hotmail.com
Mite	Taylor Johnson	701-205-5888	sk8coachjohnson@yahoo.com
In House	Kristina Suttan	605-520-9888	jksuttan@gmail.com

2023 – 2024 Coaches:

BV/JV

Devon McMullen (head)
Ryan Falk
Joe Foley
Zane Scott

Bantams

Jesse VanHeel (Head)
Jay Good
Blair Boomsma
Parker Sheehan

Squirts

Jason Murray (Head)
Jeff Holgate
Max Borkhuis

GV

Curt Kranz (Head)
Tiffany Arends

Mites / IH

Lucas Deutsch

Girls U14

Brandon Henman (Head)
Kaitlyn Kunkel

PeeWee

Jared Suttan (Head)
Nate Albertson

Dryland/ Development

Ryan Linke

Dalton Krueger
Mitch Hopper

2023 – 2024 Staff

Hockey Operations Manager: Lucas Deutsch whalakerchief@gmail.com
Business Manager: Karen Gromis mo_gro@yahoo.com

2023 – 2024 Volunteers

Concessions – Jeremy & Amanda Nygaard

Risk Manager – Wendi Solheim

Registrar – Jessi Eidson

DIBS Coordinator – Sabrina Welder

Scheduler- Jenni Wirkus

SafeSport – Colette Kruger

Equipment Managers- Lindsey Stricherz & Andrew Hudson

Technology Committee – Karen Gromis, Mason Lloyd, Jeremy Johnson (Board Liaison)

Marketing Committee – Molly Randall, Jenni Wirkus, Julianne Lloyd, Trish Johnson, Feather Webb, Christy Kallenberger, Kristie Evans, Tori Simon, Nate Shuller (Board Liaison)

Nominating Committee- Kristina Suttan, Jenni Wirkus, Kris Dorneman (Board Liaison)

Growth & Development – Aaron Roberts

3. What's new & Exciting in the Association:

- a. **Maas Arena/ Rink Update:** We will start at the Maas & end at Prairie Lakes Ice Arena. Please expect some hiccups & unknowns. This is a new venture for the city & WHA.
- b. **Watertown PACH Fundraiser:** WHA was awarded the Largest Nonprofit Supporter & the largest overall supporter! Great job, Lakers! Total raised for the PACH was ~\$7,000 & 10,400 items. WHA's contributions toward that total was \$1,000 & 395 items. Thank you for your contributions & to all that helped make this a success!
- c. **United Way:** Annual Drive is happening now. The WHA receives United Way dollars annually. Overall donations have been down in the last few years due to United Way not meeting their fundraising goal. Please consider contributing or encouraging others to donate. Many employers allow for direct deposit for contributions to the United Way.
- d. **Watertown Community Foundation Grant:** WHA received a grant of \$40,000 to be received over 3 years. To be used for new dryland equipment & new nets for the new rink. We have a potential site for our athletes to use year around. More details to come soon as we are in the planning stage. This facility will be for all WHA players to use with the supervision of coaches or certified personnel.
- e. **Watertown Community Foundation Giving 365 Grant:** WHA received a grant of \$2,500 to purchase new jerseys for the Girls U14 Team. Their Giving 365 grant promotes giving \$1 per day. These are smaller grants given to Non-Profits.

4. **Watertown Laker Foundation:** Jack Rassmussen is the Point of Contact. The Mission Statement for the Laker Foundation is "to provide resources to positively support, enhance & promote the Watertown Hockey Association organization, players & coaches." The Laker Foundation is selling raffle tickets for a Gun Raffle at \$20/ticket. A portion of the proceeds will also support the SDAHA Dave Stahl Scholarship. For more information, visit www.watertownlakerfoundation.com. Tickets can be purchased by visiting any Cowboy Gas Station or sending payment directly through Venmo with your name and phone number in the description: <https://account.venmo.com/u/wtnlakerfoundation>. The Gun List is available on the Laker Foundation website.

5. **Build It Now Update:** A BIG thank you to Jodi Driscoll, Jenny Kasuske and Todd Randall for their leadership on the Build It Now Committee, representing the WHA. For any who have pledged, but haven't received invoices or made payments, we need updated pledge forms with your information. To date, BIN has raised just over \$9M. This is the largest fundraising ever accomplished through private fundraising in this history of hockey fundraising. THANK YOU!

Pledges can still be made over 5 years for any donation over \$1,000 & can be made monthly, quarterly or annually.

Donations made over \$500 will be eligible to be listed on a Donor Wall!

\$1,000 over 5 years is \$16.67 per month

\$2,500 over 5 years is \$41.67 per month

\$3,000 over 5 years is \$50 per month

\$5,000 over 5 years is \$83.33 per month

A Radio-A-Thon was held on Watertown Radio stations October 11th, raising \$39,000 on the first day. It brought positive attention to the new rink and the sport of hockey. Achieving the goal of \$10M will help ensure that the city can provide the users groups a reasonable ice time rate.

6. **Grow the Game Representative:** Aaron Roberts provided an update on efforts to bring additional ice time through new tournaments. As a result of strategic planning, new Recruitment & Development Opportunities were identified. Thank you to the volunteers who visited local elementary schools to educate potential players on skating lessons and Try Hockey for Free (THFF) event. Aaron has a goal of adding additional teams to the boys and girls levels in years to come, providing opportunities for all. We are grateful for Aaron's leadership to grow the game of hockey. If you have ideas or interest in support this initiative, please contact Aaron Roberts.
7. **Dryland & Coaching Philosophy & Expectations:** Lucas Deutsch shared that there will be one-day-a-week off ice development this year. He shared coaching philosophy and expectations (more to come in the player/league level meetings). Melissa Meester, Team Coordinator for Bantams, held a session for coaches on Mental Toughness. The coaches would like Melissa to teach a session to all league level players to engage the players in a winning attitude.
8. **Expectations of Players:** When traveling with WHA, remember you represent the association in behavior and attitude.
Behavior & Attitude: Players - when you're onsite at the rink, traveling or off the ice, you represent Watertown Laker Hockey. You are examples to younger players & your peers. Do not participate in poor decision if you are early for practice. Attitude is everything – you represent your team, your town, family & friends.
Drug & Alcohol Policy: School tracks this for 7th Grade & up. If there are Drug &/or Alcohol violations, there are serious consequences for your player. If poor choices continue, there is an escalation process & disciplinary action to follow.
Parent/ Player Development Book: Reminder that the coaching committee / Development are continuing to working applying this to all levels. If your player doesn't have one, please have them ask their coach. Coaches have developed a coaching curriculum that is designed for each level. If you need a copy of this, please contact your Team Coordinator.
Game Day Protocol: Will explained at team parent meeting.
9. **SafeSport:** Lucas Deutsch explained there is absolutely zero tolerance of hazing or harassment in our association. Strict discipline will come from any instances of hazing or harassment. Locker Room Policies will be followed.
10. **Referee Recruiting:** We are recruiting referees. There are many benefits of being a referee – seeing the game from a different perspective and on top of it, you get paid! There are Green Arm Bands for Youth Officials – Zero tolerance of youth officials being yelled at by parents or coaches across the state. We are even encouraging adults to sign up for referee training! For more information, see the attachment below on Referee Training Registration!
11. **Team Pictures:** October 23rd & 24th – envelopes were distributed at the meeting. Team Coordinators will communicate times & any additional information.
12. **Expectations of Board, Coaches, Team Coordinators & Staff:** Todd Randall reminded everyone to be leaders – you represent the association & Laker Brand. Youth look up to you.

13. **Communication Via Team Snap & Team Snap Protocol & Etiquette:** Please ensure you've downloaded the TeamSnap App on your phone as this is our primary mode of communication. TeamSnap is not a chat room. We ask that you refrain from responding to threads of communication and communicate directly with your Team Coordinator. You can direct message anyone in Team Snap without putting it on the Chat page for all to see. Please remain professional & levelheaded.

Communication will come from your League Level Team Coordinator first.

- Parent – Team Coordinator – Board Member – President

14. **Parent Expectations:** You are an example for your player and your own conduct matters. Below are reminders on the 24-Hour Rule and Handbook Code of Conduct.

24 Hour Rule: The 24-hour rule is designed to prevent families from voicing concerns or displaying anger until 24 hours after a game. Violations include approaching, calling or writing/emailing within 24 hours of the game. A violation of the 24-hour rule will result in a meeting with the WHA Disciplinary Committee and may result in suspension from games and/or practices. Please

Handbook & Parent Forms E-Signed at Registration: The Handbook Acknowledgement Parent Code of Conduct was signed electronically when you registered your player. Please note this applies to all parents of a player.

15. **DIBS:** Sabrina Welder is the WHA DIBS Coordinator. DIBS are volunteer points. You are encouraged to sign up for your own player's games first. We will not collect checks for DIBS this year. If you do not fulfill your DIBS commitment, you will be invoiced. Failure to complete your required DIBS points will result in your athlete not being eligible with the WHA and SDAHA to play.
16. **Concussion Protocol:** Wendy Solheim is the WHA Concussion Coordinator. WHA has partnered with PLHS & Michelle Leitheiser (Concussion Specialist). Our player's safety is our number one priority.
17. **Annual Raffle:** WHA will be holding annual raffle ticket sales again this year. We are increasing our fundraising efforts to bridge the gap with the increased costs of the new rink. Raffle tickets will be distributed in November. The WHA receives United Way Funds, therefore we cannot fundraise until November 1st. We are also looking into new & innovative marketing ideas to help support the fundraising needs of WHA. If anyone is interested in helping with fundraising, please reach out to Kristina Suttin with the nominating committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm