

PAHL Preseason Meeting – August 2025

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Sunday, August 17, 2025
Meeting Location: virtual meeting
Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

The PAHL President called to order the 2025 Preseason Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 7:06 PM. The PAHL Secretary is recording the minutes of the meeting.

Members present (23):

- Allegheny Badgers: Josh Fajt, Mindy Ulyas
- Altoona Trackers: Aaron Makowiecki
- Arctic Foxes: Mike Ciocca
- Armstrong Arrows: Mike Heilman
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz
- Crawford County Flames: Matt Nagel
- Indiana Chiefs: Matt Jackson
- Johnstown Warriors: Vinnie Cannizzaro, Jody Gustkey
- Lawrence County Lightning: Brent Fisher, Brandon Weimerskir, Corrie Meredith
- Mon Valley Thunder: Frank Lopresti
- Morgantown Blades: Hillarey Young
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tom Dimond, Tim Adamosky
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Anthony Quinlan
- Pittsburgh Huskies: Ryan Patrick, Collin Cyprowski, Chris Gyke
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: John Kohler, Michele Graham
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer, Brian Blakley
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion: Sean Coyle
- State College Icers: Pete Brumberg
- Westmoreland Eagles: Amy Roberts, Rachael Lute
- Wheeling Nailers: Caitlin Rodocker
- Youngstown Phantoms: Brad Patterson

Absent Members (2):

- Erie Junior Otters
- Mt Lebanon Hornets

Others present:

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the 2025 PAHL Annual Meeting were presented by the Secretary.
**Motion by Beaver, seconded by Morgantown:
Approve the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes, as presented.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.**

Report from the President

- The Executive Administrator's contract details will be sent to the association presidents tomorrow to review prior to an electronic vote being scheduled.
- The Executive Board needs club members to contact their organization with issues first. Then if issues still need answered, the association president should contact the league.

Report from the First Vice President

- Most questions surrounding discipline can be answered using the Game Discipline pages under the Games menu on the website.
- We are working on how GameSheet will assist in disciplinary reporting and tracking.

Report from the Second Vice President

- Thanks to our registrars, missing roster information has decreased significantly this season.
- Initial placements and the placement game assignments for 12U and up will be released on August 23. Teams are to begin scheduling immediately, with a deadline of August 31.
- 12G is now included in the placement process, including 2 placement games for each 12G team.
- 14U and 12U will now have 4 placement games. Placement game reports for all levels need to be turned in by both head coaches within 24 hours after each game.
- There is no longer a weekend reserved for appeal games; individual teams must plan and manage accordingly.

Report from the Treasurer

- There is \$122,691.71 in our checking account and \$100,097.03 in our savings account.
- Second installment of per player fee invoices will be sent out soon.
- The league budget is being finalized for review by association presidents.

Report from the Secretary

- None.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- Association Contact Sheets are due no later than September 1.
- PAHL Pulse has removed the need for monthly meetings, as long as it is being read and applied. Important updates and dates will be communicated via the Pulse. Our next scheduled meeting is the Midseason Meeting in January.
- GameSheet implementation is underway and will be in place for the start of the preseason games. The iPads being issued by the PAHL will be distributed next week and become the responsibility of the association. All scoring must be done using an iPad; paper scoresheets are no longer an option.
- Dates for preseason training and townhall sessions are posted on the website and have been included in the Pulse. All are virtual.

OLD BUSINESS

Game Manual Proposals

- The full wording for the approved game manual proposals is listed in Exhibit A of this document.
- The proposal for “Suspension Application” is to clarify that a team cannot manipulate its schedule via Game Change procedures to alter games served for a suspension, covered further by a new clause entitled “Suspension Adjustments.”
Motion by State College Icers, seconded by Morgantown Blades:
Approve the two proposed sections of Serving Suspensions, as presented.
Motion passes, 22-0-0.
- The proposal for “Forfeitures” is to increase the fine for a Non-Contested Forfeit to \$2,000 as a means of adding a stronger deterrent for forfeiting a game. South Hills requested a vote on just the fine portion of the rule, separating it from the vote on double forfeitures.
Motion by State College Icers, seconded by Morgantown Blades:
Approve an increase to the fine for Non-Contested Forfeitures to \$2,500.
Motion fails, 5-18-0.
- The proposal for adding a rule for “Double Forfeitures” is to address situations where both teams have forfeited a game, for which we currently do not have a rule.
Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by Youngstown Phantoms:
Approve the rule proposal on Double Forfeitures, as presented.
Motion passes, 20-1-1.
- The proposal for “Minimum Number of Officials” is intended to further avoid games that do not have adequate officiating in place.
Motion by Youngstown Phantoms, seconded by South Hills Panthers:
Approve the proposal for One-ice Officials, as presented.
Motion fails, 8-13-0.
- The proposal for “Officiating Services” requires the use of an independent Assignor of Officials, which would not go into effect until the 2026-27 season.
Motion by Allegheny Badgers, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:
Opposed proposal on Officiating Services, as presented.
Motion fails, 8-15-0.
- The proposal for “Curfew Protocol” simplifies the wording and provides some additional flexibility.
Motion by Beaver Badgers, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:
Approve the proposal on Curfew Protocol, as presented.
Motion passes, 17-2-3.
- The proposal for “League Playoff Qualifiers” reverts the standard number of teams that qualify for playoffs from each division to pre-COVID quantities, as planned, while still accounting for the overall number of teams in the respective division via a sliding scale.
Motion by Mon Valley Thunder, seconded by Lawrence County Lightning:
Approve the proposal on League Playoff Qualifiers, as presented.
Motion passes, 17-2-3.

- The proposals for “Postseason Formats” are to determine the procedures for each age classification.
 - 10U co-ed: A) keep the existing format or B) change to a single-elimination bracket
 - **Option B passes, 13-7: change 10U playoffs to a single-elimination bracket.**
 - 10U co-ed: A) take all the teams to playoffs or B) take some of the teams to playoffs
 - **Option A passes, 15-5: allow all eligible teams to opt-in to the 10U playoffs.**
 - 10U co-ed: A) randomize seeding entirely or B) use a modified seeding
 - **Option B passes, 13-7: use the proposed modified seeding format.**
 - 12U co-ed: A) implement an ODSET format or B) keep a limit on playoff qualifiers
 - **Option B passes, 17-5: keep a limit on 12U playoff qualifiers.**
 - 12U co-ed: A) 4 teams qualify or B) 6 teams qualify or C) something else; vote to eliminate one of the options
 - Option A is eliminated, 18-2-0.
 - 12U co-ed: A) 6 teams qualify or B) use a sliding scale based on size of the division
 - **Option B passes, 14-5: 12U playoff qualifiers will be based on the size of the division.**
 - 14U/16U/18U co-ed: A) the number of teams is based on a sliding scale or B) something else
 - **Option A passes, 19-1: playoff qualifiers for 18U/16U/14U are based on division size.**
- The proposals for “Postseason Dates” determine the weekend each age classification will conduct its divisional playoffs. Considerable discussion first took place surrounding all of the potential factors and considerations, including shortening the season, having a centralized championship site, accounting for potential conflicts, and ensuring that all qualifying teams participate in our playoffs.
 - 18AA/16AA/14AA: A) February 21-22 or March 7-8
 - **Option B passes, 12-8: all AA playoffs will be on March 7-8.**
 - 18A/16A/14A/14B: A) February 21-22 or B) Feb 28 – Mar 1 or C) March 7-8
 - **Option C passes, 3-5-10: 18A/16A/14A/14B playoffs will be on March 7-8.**
 - 12A: A) Feb 28 – Mar 3 or B) Mar 7-8 or C) Mar 14-15; vote to eliminate one option
 - Option A is eliminated, 11-2-6.
 - 12A: A) March 7-8 or B) March 14-15
 - **Option A passes, 11-6: 12A playoffs will be on March 7-8.**
 - 10AA/10A/10B: A) March 7-8 or B) March 14-15
 - **Option B passes, 13-6: 10AA/10A/10B playoffs will be on March 14-15.**
- Specific to the girls classifications (19G, 14G, 12G), the proposals for “Postseason Formats” and “Postseason Dates” determine how girls playoffs will be conducted. Lengthy discussion took place first to address all factors and considerations.
 - 12G playoff qualifiers: A) the number of playoff teams is based on a sliding scale or B) take a different route or C) abstain because you do not have a 12G team
 - **Option A passes, 7-4-8: 12G playoff teams will be based on the size of the division.**
 - 19G/14G/12G playoff dates: A) February 21-22 or B) March 21-22 or C) abstain
 - **Option A passes, 9-6-4: 19G/14G/12G playoffs will be on February 21-22.**
- The proposal for “Playoff Schedules” is to provide more clarity on when playoff games should be played and in what order the seeds play, ensuring that playoffs are treated with a higher priority and that higher seeds are not placed at an avoidable disadvantage. A friendly amendment was accepted to remove the start time restrictions for 10U games.

Motion by Allegheny Badgers, seconded by Youngstown Phantoms:

Approve the proposal on Playoff Schedules, as amended.

Motion passes, 15-2-2.

- The proposal for “Playoff Player Eligibility” changes the point of the season at which a player can no longer transfer from the roster of one PAHL team to the roster of another PAHL team. This proposal affects more than just playoffs but is addressed universally through this proposal.

Motion by Youngstown Phantoms, seconded by Morgantown Blades:

Approve the proposal on Playoff Player Eligibility

Motion passes, 20-1-0.

There was no new business, and the next scheduled PAHL meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2026. That meeting is also intended to be conducted virtually.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 10:50 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: January 6, 2026

EXHIBIT A: APPROVED GAME MANUAL CHANGES

SECTION 2.4 - SERVING SUSPENSIONS

Suspension Application: Unless prescribed otherwise by an applicable rule/policy, all suspensions shall be served consecutively within scheduled games for the team on which the suspension was incurred.

1. Suspensions acquired via standard USAH rules shall be served first and in consecutive games of all types (league, non-league, exhibition, tournament, etc.) on the game schedule of the team at the time in which the suspension was incurred; suspensions acquired via league-specific policies cited herein shall be served second and only in consecutive league games.
2. Games may not be added nor rescheduled for the purposes of allowing for a suspension(s) to be served differently than the team's game schedule at the time that the suspension was incurred.
3. If a suspension is properly served in a game that is later reverted to a Contested Forfeiture by cause of either team, the suspension shall be considered to have been served in the game.
4. Games missed for another team on which the individual is also rostered shall not count as games served towards the suspension.
5. No team shall use roster/participation rules to defer nor lessen the impact of any suspension.
6. The serving of a suspension(s) cannot be confirmed via video review, but a suspended individual who illegally participates in a game can be confirmed via video review.

Suspension Adjustments: Games on a team's schedule at the time a suspension is incurred which are then not played for any reason – including Non-Contested Forfeitures and Postponements – shall never count towards serving a suspension.

1. The League Office shall issue a ruling when the sequence of games designated for the serving of a suspension is henceforth changed in a manner that adds or removes a game(s) from the initial sequence.
2. A team may not cause an unwarranted change to its game schedule in a way that alters the game(s) in which a suspension is intended to be served. The League Office shall investigate any reported or suspected violation of this policy, and if found to be in violation, the suspended individual shall be issued an additional 1-game suspension and the team's head coach shall be suspended for 1 game.

SECTION 3.2 - FORFEITURES

A) Non-Contested Forfeits: Any team charged with a forfeiture for not honoring a game commitment of a scheduled game shall:

1. Be assessed a 3-0 loss to the opposition (1 goal per period)
2. Be immediately ineligible to participate in postseason league games
3. Incur all unrecoverable costs associated with the game
4. Incur a \$500 fine

B) Contested Forfeits: Any team charged with a forfeiture due to violations committed in conjunction with a game already played shall:

1. Lose credit for all goals scored by the team in the game, plus grant one additional goal in the scoring to the opponent's team bench
2. Lose credit for any points awarded towards the standings in the game
3. Incur a \$250 fine

C) Double Forfeitures: Any game in which both teams are issued a forfeiture due to a violation(s) or due to a Suspended Game shall result in loss to both teams, no points awarded to either team in the league standings, and a fine of \$250 to each team.

SECTION 5.1 ON-ICE OFFICIALS

B) Minimum Number of Officials: At no time shall play start or resume at any “body checking” level (14U, 14G, 16U, 18U, 19U) without at least 2 certified officials participating on the ice; only “body contact” games (10U, 12U, 12G) may start – or resume play of a game in-progress – with only 1 official participating on the ice.

1. An available official who meets all applicable requirements shall be eligible to enter a game at any point, as agreed upon by the On-Ice Officials, to meet the minimum requirement or to restore the original officiating system.
2. If the minimum number of officials are not present at the scheduled start of a game, the procedures for a Delayed Start shall be implemented.
3. A game in-progress that cannot resume due to the lack of the minimum number of officials shall be deemed a Suspended Game.

D) Officiating Services: Each association is required to enlist one entity as its Assignor of Officials for all home games and shall coordinate its home game schedules and officiating requirements with its Assignor.

1. This entity shall be established and identified as the association’s single point of contact for the League Office, for assigned officials, and for prospective officials.
2. The process of assigning officials shall not be influenced by the exertion of power nor financial persuasion from any team-affiliated person(s). The League Office shall investigate any suspected violations of this policy and shall schedule a disciplinary hearing if implicating evidence is found.

SECTION 7.4 CURFEW PROTOCOL

B) Curfew Application: A host venue or member association may opt to apply a curfew on hosted games, which shall be applied identically to all games hosted by the association for the duration of the current season. The designated curfew shall be whichever of the following options practically applies, shall be established prior to the start of the pregame period, shall not be modified thereafter for any reason, and shall be communicated to the head coach of each team prior to the game:

1. No curfew, as approved by the host venue and confirmed by the host team
2. A specific curfew time that is no less than the minimum length required of the game slot

SECTION 11.1 PLAYOFF BERTHS

A) League Playoff Qualifiers: For the 10U age classification, all teams shall qualify for the league playoffs but only within the divisional playoffs for which it competes during the regular season. For all age classifications above 10U, the total number of teams in each division shall determine the number of teams from the division that shall qualify for the league playoffs, as follows:

1. 11 or more divisional teams = Top 6 teams qualify for the playoffs
2. 6-10 divisional teams = Top 4 teams qualify for the playoffs
3. 5 or less divisional teams = Top 2 teams qualify for the playoffs

SECTION 11.4 PLAYOFF PROVISIONS

A) Playoff Schedules: The League Office shall secure ice slots from the host venue(s) to establish the playoff game schedules for each division.

1. Playoff games – except for the 10U age classification – shall be scheduled to start no earlier than 11:00 AM and no later than 7:00 PM.
2. The highest-seeded team shall always be scheduled for the earlier game slot for its semifinal game.
3. Games involving advancing teams that will meet in the next round shall be played simultaneously or consecutively, as best applicable.
4. Playoff game schedules shall not be arranged nor changed to meet the needs/requests of any individual team.

SECTION 11.3 PLAYOFF PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A) Playoff Player Eligibility: In addition to standard Participation Policies, players must meet the following requirements to participate in playoffs with a team:

- 1) Appeared on the team's league roster on or before October 31st or was placed on a league roster for the first time on or before December 31st
- 2) Participated in at least 50% of the team's regular-season league games for 14U and above, with exceptions approved via Playoff Injury Exemptions.

B) Playoff Injury Exemptions: A player who does not meet the minimum requirement for games played can be granted a participation waiver by the League Office at the conclusion of the regular season for proven injury situations, under all of the following requirements:

- 1) The player participated in at least 25% of league games with the team.
- 2) The player was injured for at least 25% of league games, with documented proof of injury from an independent professional medical provider.