

# Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 20, 2025 – 6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Meeting was in person at Sun Prairie Ice Arena.

## Board Members Present:

President – Mark Gernetzke

Incoming President – Ryan Dunt

Treasurer: Stephen Elmer

Secretary – Sara Pieper

Bantam Rep: Kelly Ruhland

PeeWee Rep – Casey Moen

Squirt Rep: Sarah Mahan

Mite Rep – Allison McKee

Girls' Rep – Megan Davis

Coaches Rep – Larry Clemens

**Board Members Absent:** Past President – Eric Morehouse

**Attendance:** Zak Gordon, Betsy Leonard, Megan Jordan, Scott VandeBerg, Seth Starr, Sarah Wyngaard, Ashley Scott, Jason Waldner, Krista Placencia

1. Public Comments - None
2. Affirmation of Email Votes - None
3. Appointments & Membership Changes - None

## 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Secretary – Sara Pieper
  - May Board Meeting Minutes
    - *Casey motioned to approve. Megan second, motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Treasurer – Stephen Elmer
  - Sent treasurer reports and financial reports; finished in black
  - Concession sales and fundraising were down
  - Budgeted for Mite and Mini Mite equipment replacement/additions
  - Mandatory scholarship donation will stay at \$5
  - Registration fees will go up for 2025-2026 season
  - Discussed if people want to sell additional raffle tickets, half of additional ticket sales could go towards dues reduction.
  - SP Ice/SPYHA will not be hosting state for the 2025-2026 season
  - ~\$8k in 2024-2025 DIBS collected thus far; additional DIBS funds are expected to be collected as families will need to submit payments before registering for the 2025-2026 season.
    - *Casey motioned to approve the 2025-2026 budget. Sara second, motion passed unanimously.*
- c. President Elect – Ryan Dunt - None
- d. Past President – Eric Morehouse – None
- e. President – Mark Gernetzke –
  - Requested 10 sets of equipment. A representative must be present at the WAHA meeting in Stevens Point to be eligible to receive them.
  - Dane County has raised the minimum age for referees to 14 due to child labor laws. Do not register for USA Hockey if you are under 14, as USA Hockey numbers are non-refundable. Another region that previously moved to a 14+ age requirement has seen great success with the change.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Volunteer Committee
  - All committee members will be returning.
  - The committee is working on crediting hours.
  - The committee had several issues last year with members logging the shifts they signed up for, rather than the shifts they actually worked. To avoid this, members must email within 24 hours if they volunteer for a different shift than originally scheduled.
  - The committee has not received any questions on hours served that were not credited for the 2024-2025 season.
- b. Annual Fundraising Committee
  - None

- c. Communications Committee
    - None
  - d. Registrar
    - None
  - e. Groundhog Games Tournament Committee
    - Tier One will once again be the swag vendor for home tournaments; SPYHA receives 15% of sales
    - Scott will send out early registration the first week of August to teams that have previously inquired or participated. This will go out one week before general registration to help ensure the tournament doesn't become limited to only Dane County teams.
    - We will have separate C1 / C2 tournaments this year
    - Past President needs to sanction tournaments through WAHA
    - Reps will receive home tournaments and blackout dates
  - f. Concession Stand Committee
    - The committee would like to sell gear and tape in the concession stand, including neck guards, winter hats, etc.
    - The committee is setting up concession trainings during summer scrimmages and will follow with additional trainings closer to the season.
  - g. USA Hockey Initiatives
    - None
  - h. ACE Director(s)
    - None
  - i. Equipment Managers
    - Need an update on items to be replaced and updated for this season
    - Equipment Committee shared that there are a lot of old house league jerseys in the equipment room. Discussed plan to sell or donate.
  - j. Jersey Coordinator
    - Need a new jersey coordinator to support Mite and Mini Mite jersey coordination
    - For the 2025-2026 season, Mini Mites will receive reversible jerseys and will no longer use pinnies
      - Larry will coordinate purchasing. Due to costs, players will not be able to keep Mini Mite jerseys post-season.
    - Travel Evaluation and Practice Jersey Discussion:
      - Plan is to purchase reversible jerseys with numbers in gray or black.
      - These jerseys will be used during evaluations and will then serve as practice jerseys for travel teams—eliminating the need to wear Cardinals jerseys at practice.
      - Jerseys will be collected at the end of the season.
      - Estimated cost is ~\$35 per jersey.
      - Approximately 175 jerseys will be needed.
      - The goal is to secure sponsors to feature on the jersey sleeves to help reduce costs.
      - Jerseys are expected to last 3–5 years.
      - Production time is approximately 4 weeks.
  - k. Spirit Wear / Bags
    - Larry Clemens and Ryan Dunt will manage this committee moving forward
  - l. Region 4 Meeting
    - None
6. LEVEL REP REPORTS
- a. Mini-Mite
    - None
  - b. Mite
    - Capitals night scheduled for 2025-2026 season
    - Capitals players can come out to help with practices; more to come
  - c. Squirt
    - None
  - d. PeeWee
    - None
  - e. Bantams
    - None
  - f. Midget –
    - Preliminary plan for Midgets is to run two programs: one pre-high school season (September – October) and one post-high school season for those not participating in the United Hockey program.
  - g. Coaches' Rep

- Larry is reviewing coaches coming back for the 2025-2026 season.
  - SP Ice/SPYHA is hosting a demo day from 10:00-noon featuring CCM and Bauer reps; allowing players to try out gear. Goal is to coordinate another session closer to the season.
  - Travel player development for 2025-2026 season will include classroom on Tuesdays and Monday rotational, including off-ice workouts at the Prairie Athletic Club and Skills Nights at the rink.
  - Groundhogs Camp attendance was light.
- h. Girls Rep
- Dragon's Ice Time
    - During evals, those who said they were interested in Dragons will be separated out
    - Have 10 skaters to host an 8U team for Dragons; 8U Dragons will practice with Mites
  - Dragons will participate in the Corn Fest Parade
  - Dragons survey – great response rate
    - Some respondents expressed concerns about forming all-girls teams due to logistics. Additional feedback included:
      - Belief that player development may be stronger in co-ed environments
      - Preference for keeping friends together on teams
      - Uncertainty about what happens after the all-girls season ends (e.g., next steps, team placement)
7. OLD Business
- a. Prairie Athletic Club (PAC) Skills Night Player Development
- Cost to SPYHA is ~\$500 per week
  - Goalies will be on ice every Monday
  - PAC Player Development nights will give kids more puck touches, as fewer players will be on the ice during Monday skills sessions.
  - Two travel teams will be at the PAC. Plan is to allow each team 30 minutes on the track area and 30 minutes on the soccer field for off-ice workouts that allow teams to play games and get kids moving.
8. NEW Business
- a. Registration Update
- 47 registered across all levels so far
- b. Back to Hockey Events
- Larry will chat with reps; Squirt and PeeWee; maybe Bantam
  - Minis and Mites to coordinate Back to Hockey events closer to the start of the season
- c. Try Hockey for Free 2025-2026 Season Dates
- September 13
    - September 13 THFF will be co-ed so Dragons can also promote this event while participating in the Corn Fest Parade.
- d. Ice Time for 2025-2026 season
- Betsey has completed scheduling; just need to add Midgets.
  - Levels practice times will be the same as last year for the most part
  - Larry is working with Megan on Dragon's ice
- e. Next Board Meeting
- Sunday, August 24, 2025
9. Adjourn
- a. *Casey motioned to adjourn. Kelly second, motion passed unanimously.*
10. Closed Session
- a. Board and Committee Recruitment
- Mini Mite Board Rep approved
  - Concessions Committee approved
  - Jersey Coordinator approved
  - Raffle Coordinator discussed
- b. Approved player releases
- c. Discussed Grimmer Foundation