

Watertown Hockey Association  
10/15/2025 – 6 PM

Watertown Municipal Arena- Party Room

Meeting Agenda

<b>Board Of Directors</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Dave Cushman	Ginger Sherrill - President
Jordan Hess	Shane Caswell – Vice President
Jeremy Kreigbaum	Sean Ryan - Treasurer
Shane Caswell	Amanda Caswell- Secretary
Ginger Sherrill	Michelle Rist - Registrar
Michelle Rist	Jon Rose - Ace Coordinator
Sean Ryan	

- **Establish Quorum Present- Majority of Directors (3 or more required)**
  - All directors were present except Sean Ryan; Shane Caswell arrived at 18:26
- **Call Meeting to Order (Ginger) – 18:14**
  - The board meeting began with a discussion about using Zoom for meetings and implementing AI recording tools to capture notes and voices.
- **Approve Meeting Minutes from September 13th, 2025 (Ginger)**
  - The board reviewed and approved minutes from a previous meeting, making several corrections including updating a \$13,000 figure and clarifying that a personal P.O. box was mentioned instead of an additional mailbox.
  - Agreed and accepted: 5 ayes
- **Public Participation- 5 minutes maximum per participant (Ginger)**
  - BJK Photos**
  - Beth Jones and Nicole Bennett from Photos presented their photos and packaging as well and fundraising opportunities during public participation, though their presentation was cut short due to time constraints. A folder with pricing and picture packages was presented to the board. They described the different photography setups available, including traditional team photos and virtual options, as well as the option for families to choose their own backgrounds. With approximately 140 WHA kids they are able to photograph everyone in 1 day. If someone was absent on the day pictures were scheduled (due to other sports, sickness, etc.) the absentee would have to travel to Oneida for an in studio session as it is not cost efficient to travel back to Watertown for a second day.

-It was discussed that it would be difficult to get everyone in the WHA together in just one night due to illness and/or other sports. Dave offered to call around and see if there was anyone else willing to do photos. Amanda Tate (used last year) was one suggestion and another was a grandmother from 10U.

**-Hannah Sherrill**

-Recently attended the NYSAHA North Section Meeting. The meeting focused on several key updates and changes for the upcoming season. Watertown discussed the challenges of game scheduling and tournament organization, emphasizing the importance of reciprocal ice travel between northern and southern teams. They highlighted the need for U.S.A. Hockey-sanctioned tournaments to maintain liability and insurance coverage, as well as the requirement for rosters to be certified and tournaments registered with U.S.A. Hockey. The group also addressed conduct policies for parents, with a new mandatory code of conduct being implemented, and discussed potential fines for misconduct. Additionally, they touched on the need for continuing education credits for coaches and the creation of a parent education coordinator and female leadership team within the association.

-Snowbelt & TB: goalies are the only exception that are allowed to be duedel rostered but can only skate one 1 team – cannot skate on both rosters.

• **Executive Committee Reports**

-*President* (Ginger)

-Investigations, interviews scheduled.

-*Registrar* (Michelle)

-Player numbers across different age groups were reported, noting a decline in participation among older players. The group discussed jersey orders and potential conflicts, with plans to resolve them. They also addressed dual rostering rules for Snowbelt and USA Hockey.

-*Secretary* (Amanda)

-WHA needs a non-profit Google drive! It's time and much needed to collect all of our documents in one location. Also has capability for a board and executive committee specific email address that could be passed down to incoming committee members.

-*Treasurer* (Sean)

- Financial Report provided as part of consent agenda for board review. Sean provided an update on tax filing status, with 2022 taxes being completed and 2023 taxes in progress. The association is working to resolve issues with 2024 tax filings, and has requested help from the former president for missing

receipts. It was noted the former president has agreed to pay back a portion of missing receipts. Once 2022 taxes are complete they can be submitted.

- **Directors and Coordinator Reports**

- *Ace Coordinator*

- The board discussed team roster decisions, focusing on 8U and 12U levels. For 12U, they decided to wait for the coaching committee's review of John's roster recommendations before making final decisions, as the process needs improvement to better align with evaluation rather than selection criteria.

- The following was discussed and motioned for a vote during the meeting:

- 8U

- 2 teams
        - Room for LTS kids to move up
        - **Ayes across the board**

- 10U

- 22 kids; 20 can only be rostered
        - To be further discussed/offline

- 12U

- 2 teams; team selection vs evaluation process needs to be reviewed.

- 14U

- 1 team

- The board discussed moving Jax Hess from 12U to 14U hockey team due to concerns about the lone goalie at 14U and her development specifically focusing on safety considerations. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the move citing safety and development opportunities for the current 14U goalie, as well as providing better competition and development opportunities for Jax Hess. The board also acknowledged potential challenges for the 12U director, but the level had a goalie for each 12U team and both goalies could be rostered if the team declared tournament bound. After extensive discussion a motion was entered to move Jax Hess to the 14U level for the benefit and safety of all players involved.

- Ayes across the board for Jax Hess to move to 14U as the goalie.

- *Tournament Coordinator* (Ginger)

- The board discussed tournament scheduling changes, with the 12U tournament moved to March 14-15 due to rink conflicts and figure skating commitments.

- **Committee Reports**

- *Coaching Committee* (Jon Rose)

- No report.

- *Finance/Budget Committee*

-No Report. Acknowledge this is in the bylaws, but the committee does not meet. This will be a suggested bylaw change.

- **Old Business**

- Evaluations/Teams (Ginger)

- The board also addressed concerns about 12U potentially withdrawing from Snow Belt play due to perceived skill level mismatch. The 12U Director was instructed to play more Snowbelt games before making a final decision about tournament-bound status.

- NYSAHA Investigations update (Ginger)

- The board also addressed a New York State investigation into 18U team violations from last year, which will conclude after four Zoom interviews next Thursday, with no current impact on tournament-bound teams.

- o Insurance, gear and non-honesty policy (Ginger)

- o Board Membership Update (Ginger):

- 3 letters of interest were submitted for review before meeting by Kim Stone, John Roberts, and Ainsley Singer. It was noted only 2 positions were available.

- Board went into executive session to discuss the 3 candidates.

- After closing the executive session, the board voted to fill two open board positions, with ayes across the board selecting John Roberts and Ansley for three-year terms ending in 2026 and 2027 respectively, though they agreed to officially start their terms at the next meeting.

- o Meat Raffle

- Tabled until non-profit status is reinstated.

- o iPads, Game Sheets and Manager Procedures for 25/26 season (Amanda)

- 2 WHA iPads have been found and it was discovered the WHA never purchased a 3rd. There is currently 1 iPad in use for Game sheets. The other iPad has been wiped clean and needs an account to link it to download apps. If the WHA needs a 2<sup>nd</sup> functioning device they will need to purchase an account or a solution to set up 2<sup>nd</sup> iPad needs to be identified. The only time WHA would need a 2<sup>nd</sup> iPad is if any tournament or regular season games are held by WHA outside of the Watertown rink. Jordan and Shane will be working and setting up the iPads

- Managers were provided information about paper sticker rosters and exhibition codes have been requested from Game sheets. Snowbelt roster codes should be released this week as well. It was suggested that managers always have a backup paper game sheet to use just in case technology fails.

FYI- Game sheets can be used to score games without Wi-Fi access; the game needs to be set up in advance and then downloaded after by a quick Wi-Fi connection. The managers at each level were encouraged to attend the live Game sheets trainings on Tuesday evenings.

-Suggestion: As WHA identifies each team, have a manager specific to the team. There is a significant amount of work for one person as manager for each age level.

-City Contract (Ginger)

-The board reviewed the city contract vote scheduled for October 20th, which will retroactively adjust ice time charges and increase rates by approximately 22%.

o Ice Schedule (Ginger)

-Ice schedule will adjust mid-November when the 16/18U team come off the schedule.

o Update on checks (Ginger)

- \$11,500 of the \$15,000 in outdated checks had been collected, with help coming from a retired accountant Vicki Phillips.

o Bylaws Committee Update (Amanda)

-Bylaws have been converted to a Word document for committee work. Amanda is currently adding all notes from the last 2 years that were recorded via paper. Matt Cullen provided other association bylaws for review and reference. We should consider bylaws that are overarching policies about how the association works with an associated policies and procedures(P&P) document. The P&P could be updated via a board vote, while the bylaws could stay consistently with a yearly review and entire association vote to amend.

-Goal of having first bylaws draft to board by January 2026 meeting.

o Update on Nina Harff Situation (Dave)

-Apparel (Michelle)

- WHA store will close on 11/7 to make sure orders will arrive in time for Christmas.

-Zoom (Ginger)

-A zoom membership has been purchased by the WHA and will be used for all meetings to record conversations as well as provide access for those not able to be physically present for meetings.

-Affiliate Player and Organization Definition

-The board also addressed affiliate player definitions and contracts, particularly regarding Unity/Valkyrie relationships,

-Mites New/Returner Update

-It was suggested to create an 8U survey as to why kids did not come back to WHA.

o Volunteer Safe Sport Training (Ginger)

o Socks (Michelle)

o Snowbelt Fan Actions and Fines

- Shane will be looking into the other teams' bylaws for the fees if parents/kids get ejected from the game; parents would be responsible.

• **New Business**

o Goalie Training with Cole James

-Information was provided to the board for review before the meeting. The board approved a budget of \$500 for goalie training with Cole James, to be used for his certification and participation in skills clinics, with plans to reevaluate spending when the \$500 mark is reached. They agreed to pay him \$25 per hour with a 2-hour minimum, and discussed scheduling clinics for 10U to 14U players on Tuesdays from 9-10 PM and early Saturday mornings. The board also decided to help cover his registration and coaching fees, and to potentially allow him to operate as an independent business rather than an association employee.

-10U-14U levels (around 7 goalies) – will coach everyone at once and 1 coach from each level has to attend

-4 clinics + coaching cert + background check + USA hockey = around \$320

-Have 1 day for other players who want to try goalie

-Will not exceed \$500 & once limit is reached we will readdress

-Will get paid monthly

-A motion to accept the above proposal was presented.

-Ayes across the board

o BJK Photos' Hockey Photography Program

- See above notes in public participation

o Webmaster Position

-Due to volunteer status a background check and safe sport training will be required.

o Scholarships (Ginger)

-JCC Ice Hockey Donation Request

-A letter from JCC hockey program asking for a donation was included in the board materials for the meeting. It was stated that the WHA needs to focus on the association before donating to other organizations. They reviewed financial concerns, noting significant funds were previously allocated to other organizations, and emphasized the need to focus on supporting WHA's youth programs before considering external donations. The board agreed to support JCC Ice Hockey & possibly assist to help fundraise opportunities.

-A motion was put forward to not donate money to the JCC Ice Hockey program.

**-Ayes: 5 Abstained: 1**

o Vacant Positions (Ginger)

-Facebook/Media Liaison

-Tournament Director

o Select Team Update (Dave)

o Dishonesty policy upcoming renewal and representative guidance. (Dave)

o WHA Credit Check (Dave)

o Liability Insurance Update (Dave)

• **Other Business:**

• **Action Items:**

-Jeremy, Jordan and Amanda will cull the sports engine email contacts.

**Meeting Adjournment: 21:25**

Respectfully Submitted by: Cally Grado