

PAHL Membership Meeting – March 2025

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Meeting Location: Ice Castle Arena
Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members present (19):

- Allegheny Badgers: Mindy Ulyas, Geoff Balla
- Armstrong Arrows: Jim Rearic
- Beaver Badgers: Mark Petley
- Crawford County Flames: Greg Beveridge, Matt Nagel
- Erie Junior Otters: Scott Dudkiewicz
- Indiana Chiefs: Leanne Smith
- Johnstown Warriors: Vinnie Cannizzaro, Jody Gustkey
- Mt Lebanon Hornets: Kari King
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tim Adamosky
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Jeremy Parker
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: Michele Graham
- 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: Lisa Doll

Absent Members (6):

- Altoona Trackers
- Arctic Foxes
- Lawrence County Lightning
- Mon Valley Thunder
- Morgantown Blades
- Pittsburgh Huskies

Others present:

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the February 2025 PAHL Membership Meeting were presented by the Secretary.
**Motion by Armstrong Arrows, seconded by Allegheny Badgers:
Approve the February 2025 minutes, as presented.
Motion passes via unanimous consent.**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Report from the First Vice President

- The discipline report presented is final for the current season.
- Potential improvements for next season regarding discipline include improved reporting tools and education for coaches and managers.

Report from the Second Vice President

- Initial declarations for next season will be due as tryouts conclude. Changes to team counts can be made throughout the summer, as needed.
- Teams are asked to gather player experience/history at tryouts so that this important information does not need to be tracked down during the placement process.
- A training session for registrars will be conducted in May. Details will be communicated.
- As a reminder, jersey numbers cannot be zero nor having a leading zero next season.
- The Placement Committee is always accepting new members, and anyone interested in joining the committee for next season should contact Jill Harmon.

Report from the Treasurer

- There is \$136,671.02 in our checking account and \$100,084.44 in our savings account.
- Statements will go out to all associations within the next week to account for adjustments made due to final player counts. Associations that overpaid will be issued a refund, which will be mailed to the address on file. Changes to the mailing address need to be reported to Courtney immediately.
- Fines for the second half will also be applied this month.
- A budget proposal for next season will be put together and distributed once we finalize numbers from this year's playoffs and championship games.

Report from the Secretary

- The application deadline for the PAHL Scholarships and the Academic All-Star Awards is Sunday 3/30.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- Our Championship Weekends were a success, and the feedback has been positive. Any further feedback is welcome as we plan for next season's playoffs and championships, including smaller details surrounding hats, medals, banners, ODSETs, etc.
- Our season was very competitive, which carried over into the playoffs. Out of our 25 associations, 23 had at least 1 playoff team, 22 had at least 1 finalist, and 16 had at least 1 champion. Plus, 3 more associations had an ODSET winner, meaning 19 associations won playoff banners.
- Sportsmanship was great overall across the playoffs, especially among the teams. We had security at Alpha and very few issues. When we had to change venues to Palmer, we did not have security and immediately experienced two significant issues with spectators. We need to make more improvements with spectator conduct so that paying large amounts of money for security does not become the only useful solution throughout the season.

- The Ponytail Jamboree will be on March 22 at Printscape Arena.
- The membership voted last May to require a second number on each jersey for the 2026-27 season. That does not go into effect next season; it is the season after. But a local jersey company has reported that angry individuals are complaining to them and giving them a hard time about the rule. Not only is that behavior not acceptable, the rule comes from a vote of our members and not something being forced by PAHL. Please communicate this to your teams.

Report from MidAm

- The PAHL rule for starting any type of tryout activity is March 17, the day after our playoffs end. National Bound Teams must adhere to the MidAm/USAH policy and wait until 48 hours after nationals are completed, which makes April 8 the first available date.
- Tryout activities include any type of activity related to tryouts, not just the formal tryouts. Examples include open skates, meet the coach sessions, and similar. Associations and coaches cannot be contacting players prior to those deadlines either. If unsure, associations must ask before taking the action – this is not an “ask for forgiveness later” process.
- Once a player is committed to an organization, that player cannot be contacted by another team – that is the true essence of poaching.
- Associations that violate tryout policies will be banned by MidAm from its postseason events.

OLD BUSINESS

New Season Transition

- Proposals for by-laws, administrative policies, and rules are due on March 30. That will allow them to be processed and distributed back to the membership by mid-April, providing a month of lead time to review prior to the May meeting.
- Items that will need proposals and votes in May include the planning calendar, placement policies, online scoring, and new member requirements. The Executive Administrator shared a few ideas on each to help spur ideas.
- Elections also occur at the Annual Meeting in May, so nominations are needed for the open positions of President, Second Vice President, and Secretary. Nominations are to be mailed to the Executive Administrator in advance of the meeting, but nominations can also be made from the floor at the May meeting.

May Meeting Date

- If proposals are submitted by March 30, there will be no April meeting. Proposals will be distributed in mid-April for review instead.
- The standard date for the May meeting is Tuesday, May 20. But due to the length of the meeting and the need to have it in-person, it is recommended that the meeting be moved to Sunday, May 18, which is the weekend between Mother’s Day and Memorial Day.
- There was no objection from the membership to move the Annual Meeting to Sunday, May 18.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:14 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: May 18, 2025