



Minutes From
August 12th, 2023

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
3 rd -6th	Tier I SE District Tournament		
4 th -6th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
9 th -12th	Tier I SE District Tournament	TBD	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
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April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
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13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
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17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
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30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – August 12th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on August 12th, 2023 beginning at 1:30PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	Yes
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes			
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) USA Hockey has started a Presidents Committee that includes all of the Presidents from the different affiliates. From this a Task Force was created to create resources that local associations can pull from as well as a Tryout Task Force to focus on recruiting.					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) Given at the Annual Meeting					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Given at the Annual Meeting. Also, Mo Morrison from the Cooler, Matthew Felder from Biloxi and John Williams from GNASH attending the board meeting. Paul Dixon made a motion to approve the July Board meeting minutes and Rob Link 2 nd the motion. Minutes were approved. Officers positions were nominated and voted on. Don Stone remains Treasurer, Ward Hillegas remains Secretary, Paul Dixon was nominated and approved as 1 st President and Ralph Drensek was nominated and approved for 2 nd President. Committee Chairs were appointed for 2023-24 Season. Those are listed below. Ward gave 1 st motion and Paul gave 2 nd for approval. All approved.					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) Given at the Annual meeting					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Given at the Annual meeting					

State Director Updates**Georgia** N/A**Alabama** N/A**Tennessee** N/A**Mississippi** N/A**Arkansas** N/A**Louisiana** N/A

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	Given at Annual Meeting
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	Given at Annual Meeting
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Given at Annual Meeting
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Given at Annual Meeting
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Given at Annual Meeting
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	Given at Annual Meeting
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Given at Annual Meeting
High School	Andy Franklin	Given at Annual Meeting
Junior	Don Stone	Given at Annual Meeting
Membership	Kevin Cook	Given at Annual Meeting
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Given at Annual Meeting
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	Given at Annual Meeting
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Given at Annual Meeting
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Given at Annual Meeting
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Given at Annual Meeting
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	Given at Annual Meeting
Youth	Ryan McCormack	Given at Annual Meeting
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	Given at Annual Meeting

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
7/13	Match Penalty	Jack Flynn	Open the discussion of moving all match penalties and 601e penalties to the Affiliate level DDR. We will offer discipline consistent with the attached standardization document. We can finalize this at the Summer Meeting.
8/12			<p>Jack started discussions on this topic and it was determined that SAHA would take the following position.</p> <p>All 601(e) match penalties will be handled by the affiliate. The affiliate reserves the right to assign to the local level at their discretion. All match penalties addressed at the local level will be reported to a central database on the SAHA website, including information pertaining to any disciplinary action.</p> <p>Once the form is posted online they will see the information they need to submit. I believe we should also post the USA Hockey recommended discipline (attached) on our website.</p>

New Business

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
8/12	Committee Chairs	Ward Hillegas	<p>Nominate and Confirm Committee Chair positions for 2023.</p> <p>Committee Chairs were nominated and approved. All Committee Chairs are listed on the Committee Chair Report page in the August Board Minutes Report</p>
8/12	2023-24 SAHA Financials	Don Stone	<p>Will introduce the proposed budget for the 2023-24 SAHA fiscal year in order for the SAHA Board to vote and approve this budget.</p> <p>The 2023-24 Budget was approved with a motion to approve from Paul Dixon and a 2nd from Ward Hillegas</p>
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	<p>Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there</p>

is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.



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Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	Yes
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) Continue to meet on regular basis with other affiliate Presidents. A lot of good information is shared. Would like to make suggestion that for your committee reports if you have nothing to report in your committee report within SAHA after a quarter or two, find out what is going on within the SE District or other affiliates and report on what is going on.					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Motion to approve August minutes given by Rob, 2 nd by Paul. Minutes approved. Representative from Associations attending the board meeting were Jason Farr-KAHA, Brad Schell-Atlanta Phoenix, Teddy Rotenberg-NJP, James Perkins-Nashville Youth Hockey, Byran Hince-ProVison, Jamie Gallagher-NWAHA, Mekenzie Steffen-Nashville Jr Preds and Jason Corn-KAHA					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) 150 teams registered so far. Will be sending out email to all coaches that need there their CEP’s. Reminder that National Bound Teams have to roster their Locker Room Monitor					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia Don-Situation with some associations (no real detail provided) but working through them. Paul-Macon group getting started with adult league this year, hoping for youth next year. Chris-application for the Savannah Ghost has been submitted for review/approval

Alabama Travel hockey is starting. House will start in October

Tennessee Clarksville is finally open. Travel hockey starting soon. Working with Austin Peay hockey program as well. Knoxville is doing a lot of things in growing their girls program this year

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Little Rock is starting their youth registration. NWAHA has started their travel teams and the House league is growing.

Louisiana N/A

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Coaching clinics have started. In-person clinic in Nashville. Poor attendance. Wondering is just continue with Zoom clinics
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	N/A
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	601(e) match penalties are being taken on by SAHA. More detail in "Old Business". Variance requests are coming for rostering players. Nothing major.
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Revamping the structure of the goalie programs. Being split into three areas-(1) CEP training, (2) Goalie Development Coord, (3) Membership growth
High School	Andy Franklin	High School Jamboree held in Clarksville
Junior	Don Stone	N/A
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Busy doing seminars. Still short on refs. For large tournaments anywhere have to pull refs in from other markets
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	2 live meetings so far. Created a coaches version for what is Safe Sports and working on a parents version so parents have a better understanding
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	League starting-70 teams in SYTHL and 22 teams in the Tier II league. Using electronic score sheets this year. 19 teams at Huntsville this year for leveling tournament. Next year in Huntsville August 10 th -11 th . Thanked SAHA for \$5000 grant
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Next year camp in Huntsville April 13 th -14 th
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A

Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	N/A

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8/12			<p>Jack started discussions on this topic and it was determined that SAHA would take the following position/language</p> <p>All 601(e) match penalties will be handled by the affiliate. The Affiliate reserves the right to assign to the local level the handling and decision making process at their discretion. All Match Penalties will be reported to a central database on the SAHA website by the adjudicating party (association or affiliate) including information pertaining to any disciplinary action. A form will be posted on the SAHA website with all necessary information that will need to be submitted.</p> <p>Once the form is posted online they will see the information they need to submit. I believe we should also post the USA Hockey recommended discipline (attached) on our website.</p>
9/14			<p>Language was discussed. A motion by Don was made to approve the language to be placed in the SAHA Operating Manual. Ward 2nd the motion and the language was approved. A form will now be created and placed on the SAHA website for associations to use to report the match penalties. Associations are to use USA Hockey recommendations on discipline as a baseline</p>

8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
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9/14			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
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**New
Business**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
9/14	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	Concern has been voiced regarding the rules change to intermediate nets at the 10U level. Rule was implemented at house level prior to 22/23 season but delayed one year at travel level after Squirt leveling tournament. Concern appears to stem from the application to travel teams. Will discuss whether a committee is warranted to review application of rule change, unintended consequences and whether it is having desired effect.

9/14			James Perkins and Rick Murray with Co-Chair a Committee which will be formed by other representatives for the associations within SAHA. These representatives can be association board members or coaches within those associations. This committee will collect data from the associations as well as Russ and the SYTHL to help in any decision that might be made in the future with respect to the use of the Intermediate Nets. Hope to have the committee formed within the next 2 weeks. Ward to send out an email to all the association Presidents and Hockey Directors that Rick will provide explaining the formation of this committee and what it is trying to accomplish.
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TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – October 12th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on October 12th, 2023 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	No
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) The Tryout Task Force are focused on working out and establishing “Tampering Rules”. The next Presidents meeting is the weekend of October 21 st and will be addressing “Residency Rules”					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Paul Dixon with a second from Don Stone. Minutes were approved. Associations that had representation at this meeting were KAHA-Jason Farr and NYHA-James Perkins					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) 215 Teams are registered. USA Hockey now has automated system to provide who does not have their Safe Sport yet. There are some new categories for Locker Room monitoring. Missing some House Team Rosters. Four new girls teams were created this year.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia Columbus is wanting to expand their programs and Macon is trying to get started

Alabama House Leagues have started

Tennessee House League and A, AA, AAA programs have started. Things going well at Clarksville

Mississippi Leagues have started Travel teams start next week.

Arkansas Little Rock has two travel teams this year, one at the U12 and the other at U14.

Louisiana Everything is starting up

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Middle of Coaching Clinic season. Adding staff and instructors
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Called and Emailed Nick McCummings SE District Rep for update. No response
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Had a 601(e) Match Penalty the first weekend. Dealt with it locally
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Still working on changing structure of the program. Working on filling the membership growth positions. Working on 2-Bronze, 2-Silver and 1-Gold clinics
High School	Andy Franklin	The GNASH jamboree was successful
Junior	Don Stone	Starting the season
Membership	Kevin Cook	15-16 grant applications have come in so far
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	In-season recruiting is going on. It has been hard getting ice time for Level 1 clinics
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Four of the five divisions have started. The 5 th will start the next weekend
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Player Development Camp will be held in Huntsville April 13 th & 14 th .
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	N/A

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.

10/12

The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.

New Business

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
9/14	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	Concern has been voiced regarding the rules change to intermediate nets at the 10U level. Rule was implemented at house level prior to 22/23 season but delayed one year at travel level after Squirt leveling tournament. Concern appears to stem from the application to travel teams. Will discuss whether a committee is warranted to review application of rule change, unintended consequences and whether it is having desired effect.
9/14			James Perkins and Rick Murray with Co-Chair a Committee which will be formed by other representatives for the associations within SAHA. These representatives can be association board members or coaches within those associations. This committee will collect data from the associations as well as Russ and the SYTHL to help in any decision that might be made in the future with respect to the use of the Intermediate Nets. Hope to have the committee formed within the next 2 weeks. Ward to send out an email to all the association Presidents and Hockey Directors that Rick will provide explaining the formation of this committee and what it is trying to accomplish.

The Committee came up with a proposal to present to the board (see below). Don made a motion to move forward with this proposal as a motion so the board could discuss it and make a motion on it. Ward 2nd the motion. Discussion began. Don suggested that SAHA provided \$5000 to the committee to use toward the study that would be created to examine the results of the proposal.

After a lengthy discussion Jack made a proposal to table the motion on the committee's proposal for further discussion at our November Board Meeting. Jack then made a motion on tabling the discussion Paul 2nd the motion. The board approved the motion to table discussions until our November Board Meeting.

Proposal to modify the implementation of Rule 26.6 of SAHA Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures

Current rule:

26.6 Goal Net Variance

Intermediate sized nets, no larger than 54" x 36", and pegs will be used for all games played between 8U & 10U teams within the affiliates. It is recommended that 48" x 36" nets be used at 8U and 54" x 36" nets be used at 10U. This shall apply to Tier II and recreational teams but may not apply to away games played outside the affiliate, or tournaments within the affiliate hosted by outside companies.

Rationale for modified implementation:

- While the goal of rule 26.6 to improve development of all 8U and 10U players in SAHA remains the same, several members of the Intermediate Net Implementation Committee voiced significant concerns that immediate implementation of the rule may empower local non-USA Hockey programs to poach players based on the use of intermediate nets in the higher levels of the SYTHL 10U division.
- Concerns were also raised that the rule change might negatively affect recent growth in the SYTHL 10U division if teams decide to not participate in the league and form tournament-based teams instead.

Proposal for modified implementation of Rule 26.6:

1. For the 2023-24 season, Rule 26.6 will apply to all house programs in SAHA and to the A2 division of SYTHL. For the 2023-24 season, the A1 and AA divisions of SYTHL will be exempt from the rule.
2. During the 2023-24 season, hockey directors in all associations participating in the SYTHL will cooperate with an active study to examine the effects of the implementation of intermediate nets at 10U house and A2 travel divisions. The study will be coordinated by Rick Murray, but the parameters of the study are still under development. The details of the study and the data to be collected with the cooperation of the hockey directors will be announced before the first games in the A2 division of SYTHL on October 28, 2023.
3. The intermediate net implementation committee will remain active during the 2023-24 season and will meet to coordinate, analyze, and make recommendations based on the outcome of the implementation study.
4. Barring any further recommendations by the intermediate net committee, Rule 26.6 will be fully implemented in the 2024-25 season.



Minutes From
November 9th, 2023
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
3 rd -6th	Tier I SE District Tournament		
4 th -6th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
9 th -12th	Tier I SE District Tournament	TBD	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – November 9th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) held on November 9th, 2023 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	No
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) Had 2 nd Annual Presidents meeting in Vegas. Still working through Tier I rules. Trying to level the playing field. Confusion on playing travel & HS with regards to serving penalties. Neck guards—USA Hockey—no change to policy.					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) Don made a motion to increase budget by \$7000 for coaching to help support the work being done with evaluating the Intermediate nets. Ward 2 nd it. It was approved					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) I made a motion to approve the October minutes. Paul 2 nd it. October minutes were approved. Associations that had representation at the meeting were Teddy Rotenberger-NJP, Isaac Thomas-, James Perkins-NYHA, Bryan Hince-ProVision					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) Ghost Pirates now have their USA Hockey #					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia Macon is trying to establish an association.

Alabama N/A

Tennessee N/A

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Some stuff going on in NWAHA regarding a coach and SafeSport. Looks like it is being taken to District Committee

Louisiana N/A

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	As of 11/2-1763 coaches certified. That's 120/wk
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Have a call into Nick McCummings, SE District Disabled Chairperson. Waiting to heard back from him
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	7 Match penalties to date, 3 where (601e)
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	National Level going through reorganization. Rick is now the SE District Asst. Coach-In-Chief. The focus is on Player Development and Player Growth.
High School	Andy Franklin	One declaration from NWAHA for Nationals
Junior	Don Stone	More Tier 3 Teams coming to the SE District
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Working on cleaning up referee reports regarding match penalties
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Update in January
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	N/A

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
9/14	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	Concern has been voiced regarding the rules change to intermediate nets at the 10U level. Rule was implemented at house level prior to 22/23 season but delayed one year at travel level after Squirt leveling tournament. Concern appears to stem from the application to travel teams. Will discuss whether a committee is warranted to review application of rule change, unintended consequences and whether it is having desired effect.
9/14			James Perkins and Rick Murray with Co-Chair a Committee which will be formed by other representatives for the associations within SAHA. These representatives can be association board members or coaches within those associations. This committee will collect data from the associations as well as Russ and the SYTHL to help in any decision that might be made in the future with respect to the use of the Intermediate Nets. Hope to have the committee formed within the next 2 weeks. Ward to send out an email to all the association Presidents and Hockey Directors that Rick will provide explaining the formation of this committee and what it is trying to accomplish.
10/12			The Committee came up with a proposal to present to the board (see below). Don made a motion to move forward with this proposal as a motion so the board could discuss it and make a motion on it. Ward 2 nd the motion. Discussion began. Don suggested that SAHA provided \$5000 to the committee to use toward the study that would be created to examine the results of the proposal. After a lengthy discussion Jack made a proposal to table the motion on the committee's proposal for further discussion at our November Board Meeting.

Jack then made a motion on tabling the discussion Paul 2nd the motion. The board approved the motion to table discussions until our November Board Meeting.

11/2

The committee could not agree on whether to bring the proposal back for a vote so it remains tabled. The committee did not meet prior to November Board meeting, so we advised the committee to meet and come back with empirical data and persuasive evidence as to why the rule should be changed if they wish to have a vote in December. Otherwise it will remain tabled.

Rick Murray did go to two weekends of SYTHL games at the A1 & AA divisions. He used cameras behind the nets and took 40 hours of video. He shared some of this with the board. He will present this to the committee along with possible A2 video.

Proposal to modify the implementation of Rule 26.6 of SAHA Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures

Current rule:

26.6 Goal Net Variance

Intermediate sized nets, no larger than 54" x 36", and pegs will be used for all games played between 8U & 10U teams within the affiliates. It is recommended that 48" x 36" nets be used at 8U and 54" x 36" nets be used at 10U. This shall apply to Tier II and recreational teams but may not apply to away games played outside the affiliate, or tournaments within the affiliate hosted by outside companies.

Rationale for modified implementation:

- While the goal of rule 26.6 to improve development of all 8U and 10U players in SAHA remains the same, several members of the Intermediate Net Implementation Committee voiced significant concerns that immediate implementation of the rule may empower local non-USA Hockey programs to poach players based on the use of intermediate nets in the higher levels of the SYTHL 10U division.
- Concerns were also raised that the rule change might negatively affect recent growth in the SYTHL 10U division if teams decide to not participate in the league and form tournament-based teams instead.

Proposal for modified implementation of Rule 26.6:

1. For the 2023-24 season, Rule 26.6 will apply to all house programs in SAHA and to the A2 division of SYTHL. For the 2023-24 season, the A1 and AA divisions of SYTHL will be exempt from the rule.
2. During the 2023-24 season, hockey directors in all associations participating in the SYTHL will cooperate with an active study to examine the effects of the implementation of intermediate nets at 10U house and A2 travel divisions. The study will be coordinated by Rick Murray, but the parameters of the study are still under development. The details of the study and the data to be collected with the cooperation of the hockey directors will be announced before the first games in the A2 division of SYTHL on October 28, 2023.
3. The intermediate net implementation committee will remain active during the 2023-24 season and will meet to coordinate, analyze, and make recommendations based on the outcome of the implementation study.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

4. Barring any further recommendations by the intermediate net committee, Rule 26.6 will be fully implemented in the 2024-25 season.



Minutes From
December 14th, 2023
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
3 rd -6th	Tier I SE District Tournament		
4 th -6th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
9 th -12th	Tier I SE District Tournament	TBD	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – December 14th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on December 14th, 2023 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	No
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) President’s Committee discussing agenda for Winter Meeting. Rumer that USA Hockey is taking over Tier I Hockey is NOT true					
.					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) Need documentation from SYTHL showing how/what the \$5000 Grant money they have applied for will be spent before SAHA can release the funds.					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Motion made to approve the November minutes. Mike Fairbanks 2 nd the motion. The minutes were approved. Associations present at meeting were: Mike Craigen-GNASH, Brad Schell-Ice Forum, Teddy Rotenberger-Jr. Preds, Isaac Thompson-Marauders& Jamie Gallager-NWAHA. Thank you for participating.					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) 95 coaches with their CEP are not current. Rick mentioned there is an issue with the Coaches Clinic software which may be the reason. There are some roster issues players rostered with two different teams i.e.- HS Team and a Travel Team as to who they can practice and play with if they are serving a suspension with one of those teams. Working on association wide communication on this issue					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) SAHA is hosting Girls District Tournament in Nashville. Next SE District meeting in on January 9 th .					

State Director Updates

Georgia Working with new group – NE Hockey Association out of Athens. Sending out play-off Guidebooks.

Alabama Everything going well. 3 Teams declare for Nationals.

Tennessee Tier II State Playoffs for U14-U16 & U18 scheduled for March 1st-3rd. Wolverines Girls program is currently playing under GNASH. They have an application in to become an association but they don't permanent ice. Centennial has given them 2 hrs of ice every week. They are playing in the SGHL.

Mississippi Gulfport has rosters at every level but U-18.

Arkansas Safe Sport issue with a coach in NWAHA. He is currently suspended.

Louisiana N/A

≈		
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	A lot of coaches with CEP expiration coming. Adding Clinics to combat this issue
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Had good conversation with SE District Disabled Chairperson on how I can get more information on what's available. He is working on getting me access to the USA Hockey portal for Disabled programs and opportunities
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Discipline side there are not a lot of 601(e)'s reported. CAHA currently waiting on an appeal. There is a 14-day appeal period
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	USA Hockey reorganizing the goaltending structure. There is be an Asst. Coach & Chief for each district as well as a Goalie Development Coord. Working on creating a Goaltending Growth Committee as well. Rick & Steve, from USA Hockey will be doing a Zoom meeting for coaches, hockey directors, and parents to educate everyone on the Intermediate Nets. This will be held Monday, Dec. 18 th .
High School	Andy Franklin	GNASH is going well
Junior	Don Stone	N/A
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Incident reports are now more standardized. Still need more refs
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	460 games played so far. Lexington, KY wants to join next season
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	N/A
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A

Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	Kevin reported that all 4 grants have been offered

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
9/14	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	Concern has been voiced regarding the rules change to intermediate nets at the 10U level. Rule was implemented at house level prior to 22/23 season but delayed one year at travel level after Squirt leveling tournament. Concern appears to stem from the application to travel teams. Will discuss whether a committee is warranted to review application of rule change, unintended consequences and whether it is having desired effect.
9/14			James Perkins and Rick Murray with Co-Chair a Committee which will be formed by other representatives for the associations within SAHA. These representatives can be association board members or coaches within those associations. This committee will collect data from the associations as well as Russ and the SYTHL to help in any decision that might be made in the future with respect to the use of the Intermediate Nets. Hope to have the committee formed within the next 2 weeks. Ward to send out an email to all the association Presidents and Hockey Directors that Rick will provide explaining the formation of this committee and what it is trying to accomplish.
10/12			The Committee came up with a proposal to present to the board (see below). Don made a motion to move forward with this proposal as a motion so the board

could discuss it and make a motion on it. Ward 2nd the motion. Discussion began. Don suggested that SAHA provided \$5000 to the committee to use toward the study that would be created to examine the results of the proposal.

After a lengthy discussion Jack made a proposal to table the motion on the committee's proposal for further discussion at our November Board Meeting. Jack then made a motion on tabling the discussion Paul 2nd the motion. The board approved the motion to table discussions until our November Board Meeting.

11/2

The committee could not agree on whether to bring the proposal back for a vote so it remains tabled. The committee did not meet prior to November Board meeting, so we advised the committee to meet and come back with empirical data and persuasive evidence as to why the rule should be changed if they wish to have a vote in December. Otherwise it will remain tabled.

Rick Murray did go to two weekends of SYTHL games at the A1 & AA divisions. He used cameras behind the nets and took 40 hours of video. He shared some of this with the board. He will present this to the committee along with possible A2 video.

12/14

This topic remains tabled. The committee has not met yet.

Proposal to modify the implementation of Rule 26.6 of SAHA Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures

Current rule:

26.6 Goal Net Variance

Intermediate sized nets, no larger than 54" x 36", and pegs will be used for all games played between 8U & 10U teams within the affiliates. It is recommended that 48" x 36" nets be used at 8U and 54" x 36" nets be used at 10U. This shall apply to Tier II and recreational teams but may not apply to away games played outside the affiliate, or tournaments within the affiliate hosted by outside companies.

Rationale for modified implementation:

- While the goal of rule 26.6 to improve development of all 8U and 10U players in SAHA remains the same, several members of the Intermediate Net Implementation Committee voiced significant concerns that immediate implementation of the rule may empower local non-USA Hockey programs to poach players based on the use of intermediate nets in the higher levels of the SYTHL 10U division.
- Concerns were also raised that the rule change might negatively affect recent growth in the SYTHL 10U division if teams decide to not participate in the league and form tournament-based teams instead.

Proposal for modified implementation of Rule 26.6:

1. For the 2023-24 season, Rule 26.6 will apply to all house programs in SAHA and to the A2 division of SYTHL. For the 2023-24 season, the A1 and AA divisions of SYTHL will be exempt from the rule.
2. During the 2023-24 season, hockey directors in all associations participating in the SYTHL will cooperate with an active study to examine the effects of the implementation of intermediate nets at 10U house and A2 travel divisions. The study will be coordinated by Rick Murray, but the parameters of the study are still under development. The details of the study and the data to be collected with the cooperation of the hockey directors will be announced before the first games in the A2 division of SYTHL on October 28, 2023.

3. The intermediate net implementation committee will remain active during the 2023-24 season and will meet to coordinate, analyze, and make recommendations based on the outcome of the implementation study.
4. Barring any further recommendations by the intermediate net committee, Rule 26.6 will be fully implemented in the 2024-25 season.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
12/14	Posters	Jack Flynn	Issue with posters being hung on the glass with Rick Murray's face on it in protest of the Intermediate nets. CAHA (association where games were played) and SYTHL are addressing this. 3 parents that were part of the sign hanging have offered an apology. Rick also received a phone apology. It was also determined that a coach on the bench during this weekend was not certified. This issue is also being addressed.
12/14	Rumor on Tier I	Ryan McCormick	Rumor out there is that Nashville will request to be the only association to offer a Tier I program for U11's & U12's. This request would not be in compliant with SAHA's Tier I rules. This would also have to be in Nashville's application. Application deadline is Jan 10 th & Feb 15 th . This would have to be open to all players in the affiliate. Also discussion on having to draw geography lines. Ryan is going to do some more investigating into this rumor and report at our January Board Meeting.



Minutes From
January 11th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
7 th -10 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	Charlotte, NC	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – January 11th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on January 11th, 2023 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) USA Hockey Winter meeting coming up in Orlando. Jack requests all Committee Chairs to provide reports for the Winter Meeting. By-law 10 will be discussed at the Winter Meeting as well as Tryout Update.					
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Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) Grant checks will be going out very soon. Don asked Russ to resubmit the SYTHL request because it had the wrong dollar amount listed. Russ will do that immediately.					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Ward made a motion to approve the December Board minutes. Paul Dixon 2 nd the motion. Minutes were approved. A number of Association had Reps attend our meeting...Beth Wagner and Evan Burau-Wolverines, Brad Schell-IceForum, Isaac Thompson-Music City, Bryan Hince-ProVision, Lee Evans-Nashville, and Teddy Totenberger-Jr. Preds.					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) The credential books went out on Jan 4 th to all National bound teams. Books due back by Feb 9 th & 16 th based on age levels. Finally have all House Rosters. Currently there are 38 coaches that are not current but some of that might be due to software reporting.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Girls District Tournament this year in Nashville March 1 st -3 rd . At District meeting talked with Disabled District Chairperson, Nick McCummings about expenses associated with travel to the SAHA markets should be covered by SAHA based on approval by SAHA Board.					

State Director Updates

Georgia All Declarations for teams in the playdowns have been submitted for U14-U16 & U18 teams. Question raised on whether Tier II tryouts can start on March 25th or 28th. The actual date will be confirmed in the next day.

Alabama Travel and House Leagues are up and running.

Tennessee N/A

Mississippi Looking at hosting a disabled hockey exhibition game in April

Arkansas Registration numbers are above last years numbers in both associations. Both associations have travel teams that play in the MO. Hockey League. NWAHA also looking at hosting a disabled hockey exhibition game. Discussion to occur next week.

Louisiana Things are going smoothly. Numbers are up.

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Clinic season is complete. 50 clinics with 2700 coaches completing the clinics
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Getting setup for the USA Hockey portal into disabled hockey
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	USA Hockey National AAA tryouts same weekend as SAHA Player Development Camp however it is just for the 2011-2013 age group so there is no conflict.
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Bronze Camps are wrapped up, two more Silver Camps and a Gold Camp will be held in May. The goalie equipment is in for the Goalie Grants
High School	Andy Franklin	N/A
Junior	Don Stone	N/A
Membership	Kevin Cook	All the Grants have been approved
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	N/A
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Zoom meeting on Int. Nets was well appreciated. 3 individuals involved with posters regarding Int. Nets have apologized. Refs 18 and under wear green arm bands. Helps minimize abuse of officials. 92 teams have played 632 games so far
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Applications due on 1/10. Jr. Preds were given an extension
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Kicking off camp, emails going out, portal to open soon. Held in Huntsville Apr. 13 th & 14 th .
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	3 new colleges starting a men's program and 2 new colleges starting a women's program. All of these are outside of SAHA

Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	Several requests coming in for Grants. This is great news.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
1/11			The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February
9/14	Intermediate Nets	Jack Flynn	Concern has been voiced regarding the rules change to intermediate nets at the 10U level. Rule was implemented at house level prior to 22/23 season but delayed one year at travel level after Squirt leveling tournament. Concern appears to stem from the application to travel teams. Will discuss whether a committee is warranted to review application of rule change, unintended consequences and whether it is having desired effect.
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10/12

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12/14

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1/11

This topic has been removed from further discussion

Proposal to modify the implementation of Rule 26.6 of SAHA Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures

Current rule:

26.6 Goal Net Variance

Intermediate sized nets, no larger than 54" x 36", and pegs will be used for all games played between 8U & 10U teams within the affiliates. It is recommended that 48" x 36" nets be used at 8U and 54" x 36" nets be used at 10U. This shall apply to Tier II and recreational teams but may not apply to away games played outside the affiliate, or tournaments within the affiliate hosted by outside companies.

Rationale for modified implementation:

- While the goal of rule 26.6 to improve development of all 8U and 10U players in SAHA remains the same, several members of the Intermediate Net Implementation Committee voiced significant concerns that immediate implementation of the rule may empower local non-USA Hockey programs to poach players based on the use of intermediate nets in the higher levels of the SYTHL 10U division.
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with the cooperation of the hockey directors will be announced before the first games in the A2 division of SYTHL on October 28, 2023.

3. The intermediate net implementation committee will remain active during the 2023-24 season and will meet to coordinate, analyze, and make recommendations based on the outcome of the implementation study.
4. Barring any further recommendations by the intermediate net committee, Rule 26.6 will be fully implemented in the 2024-25 season.

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
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1/11			<p>SAHA is satisfied with the way both CAHA and SYTHL have handled this situation and have resolved the issue. Topic is removed from further discussion.</p>
12/14	Rumor on Tier I	Ryan McCormick	<p>Rumor out there is that Nashville will request to be the only association to offer a Tier I program for U11's & U12's. This request would not be in compliant with SAHA's Tier I rules. This would also have to be in Nashville's application. Application deadline is Jan 10th & Feb 15th. This would have to be open to all players in the affiliate. Also discussion on having to draw geography lines. Ryan is going to do some more investigating into this rumor and report at our January Board Meeting.</p>
1/11			<p>Further discussion will be held at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.</p>

**NEW
BUSINESS**

DATE	TOPIC	OWNER	NARRATIVE
1/11/24	Wolverine Association	Jack Flynn	Vote on Wolverines association application.
1/11			SAHA Board approved the Wolverines as a new association within SAHA
1/11/24	Northeast Georgia Hockey Assoc	Paul Dixon	Vote on Northeast Georgia Hockey Association application
1/11			SAHA Board approved the Northeast Georgia Hockey Association as a new association within SAHA.
1/11/24	Match Penalties	Jack Flynn	Discuss suggested tweaks to Match Penalty procedures.
1/11			This topic has been tabled until the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.
1/11/24	Excess Youth Equipment	Ward Hillegas	Columbus Hockey Association has an abundance of youth gear they are looking to donate to any association in need.
1/11			Jessica from Columbus Hockey Association will provide me with a rough list of what equipment that is available and Ward will send it out to the State Directors so they can communicate with associations within their states to see if there is an interest and can work out logistics.
1/11	Players Mic'ed Up	Chris Powers	Potomac Valley Affiliate has sent in a request to the SE District to allow their players to be mic'ed up. The concern by the District is what might be said that will then get out on social media.
1/11			Don Stone along with Rob Link and Paul Dixon will research this topic further.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

DATE	TOPIC	OWNER	NARRATIVE
1/11	Research Project	Rick Murray	Rick is working on a research project to collect data to compare results from U10 players using the Intermediate Nets vs Full Size Nets. Through the funds SAHA has provided Rick for this project, he has been able to take quite a bit of video of U10 games played with the Intermediate Nets. Now he would like to have these same teams play games with Full Size Nets so he has data to compare the two.
1/11			It was suggested that Rick use the Country Western Tournament in Nashville in March to do this. Russ said he would find out how many U10 teams that Rick has already videotaped would be participating in this tournament. Russ would also introduce Rick to the person that runs this tournament so he can get permission to do so.



Minutes From
February 10th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

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12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
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15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
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31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
7 th -10 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	Charlotte, NC	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
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April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – February 10th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on February 10th, 2024 beginning at 8:30AM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	No
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	Yes
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes

Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	No	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No

President’s Update (Jack Flynn) Thanked everyone for attending. Need to focus on making the Committee’s more engaging. Committee chairs must do a better job of finding out what is going on within USA Hockey, SE District, etc. so our associations are more informed.

Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) All Grant checks have been processed.

Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) I made a motion to approve the January minutes. Paul Dixon 2nd the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved. Associations/Rep. that attended the February meeting-Marc Dastous from Center Ice, Teddy Rottenberger-NJP, Ethan Burau-Wolverines, Beth Ann Wagner-Wolverines and Katrina Webb-Northeast GA. Thank you all for participating.

Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) Within SAHA, between Travel & House Teams we had 311 teams registered this season. 100% of the House Teams registered this year. We had zero Adult teams register this year. Some Associations just claimed them

SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) A couple of events coming up-March 1-3 is the Girls District Tournament and March 8-10 is the Boys Tier I District Tournament

State Director Updates

Georgia Welcome to NEGA Hockey Association. State Playoffs are around the corner and everything is ready to go

Alabama Everything is going well. Rec. leagues are winding down. NAHA is helping travel teams cooperate if there is a need.

Tennessee State playoffs coming up. 255 kids have registered for Try Hockey for Free. Funds are still available.

Mississippi Everything is going well. Things are starting to wrap up

Arkansas Both LR and NW AR. Numbers were up this season. LR has two teams U12 & U14 participating in MO League. NW AR also participates in the MO League. NW High School Team is bound for Nationals.

Louisiana Good growth year. Baton Rouge is starting to grow again. LSU has started their club team this year.

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A. Reached out but no response
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A still trying to learn what information needs to be reorted
Audit	Kevin Cook	Reminder that players in associations must be USA Hockey registered
Coaching	Rick Murray	50 Clinics were conducted this season with 2700 coaches certified.
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	See attached document
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Nothing going on at this time. Paul Dixon has been very helpful in understanding Match Penalties
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	Wolverines are starting out as a "grass roots" program
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Learn to Play Goalie clinic will be offered in TN. Silver Clinic will be offered in Columbus, OH. Hosting National Clinic in St. Paul, MN May 30 th -June 2nd
High School	Andy Franklin	Next year National High School Tournament will be held in Anaheim, CA.
Junior	Don Stone	NAHL Top Prospects held in Pittsburg this year. 380+ players out of juniors have NCAA commitments this year so far. Discussions on going so CHL players can play in the NCAA.
Membership	Kevin Cook	Good growth year. GA & TN are the leaders in this area. NWA is also growing well
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Still need more officials. Retention is still the biggest problem.
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Last week of regular season. 11 different divisions this year. Electronic game sheets have really made a positive impact this season.
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Committee has approved NJP for a Tier I Team
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Player Development Camp will be in Huntsville this year. About 200 kids registered so far. Limiting number of players in each position.
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A

Other Topics From SAHA Winter Board Meeting

1). SAHA Bylaws & Policies

- Throughout the year these should be reviewed. Let board members review these and make recommendations to help clean them up. Also need and Table of Content for both. Jack will create a excel spreadsheet so board members can select sections of the Bylaws & Policies to review and make recommendations. If no one selects a section Jack will assign that member a section

2). Winter Meeting Update

- USA Hockey Winter meeting will be held in Nashville next year.
- Neck Laceration Protectors must be worn next year. Currently sourcing a company to make and certify these
- Tier I issues were addressed
 - Prep Schools recruiting kids. Prep Schools can no longer let kids come and skate with them over breaks
 - Can no longer recruit kids during the season
- Teams can now recruit 2 days after the season is over

3). Intermediate Nets

- Rick met with USA Hockey Development Committee regarding the study Rick is doing. They are very interested in the results of this study.
- This topic was brought up at the USA Hockey Winter Meeting
- Rick is to speak at the USA Hockey Summer Meeting to update on the study
- Rick has assigned two students to start research and video analysis for the study
- Rick will be attending the Country Western Tournament in Nashville to take video for the study.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Additional New Business	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January

1/11

The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.

2/10

The committee has met once and will meet once more. The committee is putting the language together and will send it out to the board prior to the March meeting so this topic can be finalized at our March board meeting.

New Business

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>NARRATIVE</u>
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.



Minutes From
March 14th, 2024
Southern Amateur Hockey Association
Board Meeting
Ward Hillegas
SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
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15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
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15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
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15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
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July 2024			
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31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – March 14th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on February 10th, 2024 beginning at 8:30AM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	YES	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	NO
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	NO	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	YES
Paul Dixon	(GA)	YES	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	NO
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	YES (LATE)	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	NO
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	YES	Kevin Cook	(LA)	YES
Andy Franklin	(TN)	YES	Isaac Lee	(MS)	YES
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	YES	Chris Powers	SE Director	YES
Debbie Polk	Registrar	YES	David Polk	Registrar - SE	YES
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	NO	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	YES
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	YES	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	NO
President’s Update (Jack Flynn)					
Forming two tier one committees (address tampering rules & F&Q’s) / Increase participation in Summer Meeting					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone)					
No Report					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas)					
Kevin Cook made a motion to approve the February minutes. Chris Powers 2 nd it. Minutes were approved. Associations/Reps attending meeting were: Teddy Rottenberg-Nashville Preds., Janet Beckly-Northeast Georgia, Ethan Burau & Beth Ann Wagner-Nashville Wolverines, Reney McAtee-Nashville Warriors and Bryan Hince-Pro Vision. Don Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rob Link 2 nd motion.					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk)					
Lull till end of July / Education emphasis on local association needs (national tournament bound) / Physically mailed books (not electronic books) for next year					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers)					
District tournament (Girls) in Nashville (Jr. Preds) going to Nationals. SAHA will not host District Tournament next year, but the year following.					

State Director Updates

Georgia

State Playoffs (Atlanta Fire, won all three age groups) / Georgia referee passed away on 3/13.

Yan Kaminsky has resigned from the GA Board. Vote to be made at the beginning of the new year, open to anyone in GA.

Alabama

Will bring Tier II item up next month in next SAHA Meeting. Associations will be presented before board meeting.

Tennessee

Tier II state playoffs (Jr. Preds swept). NYHL has a new president, Thomas Shearher?

Mississippi

Nothing to report.

Arkansas

N/A

Louisiana

House leagues rapping up, good year in LA.

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	No Report
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	No Report
Audit	Kevin Cook	No Report
Coaching	Rick Murray	Lull period for coaching. Nothing to Report
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	No Report
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	To date we have had 20 match penalties amongst the associations. 7 Match penalties handled at association level. 1 more disciplinary committee still active.
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	No Report
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	National Goaltending Symposium in MN. Presentations from world of goaltending. SAHA Grants are on the wrap up.
High School	Andy Franklin	GNASH has concluded, one new winner. Georgia is in playoff mode, concluding at the end of the month.
Junior	Don Stone	No Report
Membership	Kevin Cook	Hunting Grant Checks, day or two should receive. Membership Council new at the National level, with focus on NHL teams and markets. THFF had more than 8,500 players on the ice, most since pre-covid.
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Recruitment and Retention is centerstone. Course completion was tough. Revamping the new IT setup & system, and completely redoing the referee seminars and no longer requiring modules and tests. Locally talking about own SAHA tests. Gamesheets is looking to provide a ref incident report. Paul states that would be beneficial for minimal issue games. Paul has reservations about the Gamesheet Incident Reporting process.
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	No Report
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	998 Games between two leagues. Most challenging season, but most fulfilling. 9 of 20 teams are making their way to nationals.
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	CAHA is taking down all Tier 1 / AAA references.

Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Capped registration numbers. Ice, jerseys, and schedule is locked up.90% camp was filled in 30 days.
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	TSU is starting club in 2024/2025 season to then move into NCAA D1 within three years.
Youth	Ryan McCormack	No Report
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn Survey going out to people, looking into questions including minors. Working through that.	

*Question brought up by Isaac Lee he wanted to learn more about a different timeframe for the National THFF, due to conflicting sports. The answer was other associations are feeling this as well, but the potential answer is running the THFF platform from USA Hockey year-round and is available to be created at any time. That data is not looking to be changed. Funding doesn't seem to be there to support more than two THFF's per year.

Old Business			
Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Tier II Teams	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
1/11			The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.
2/10			The committee has met once and will meet once more. The committee is putting the language together and will send it out to the board prior to the March meeting so this topic can be finalized at our March board meeting.
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information. New Notes -> Asked to move to Old Business

**NEW
BUSINESS:**

3/14

Bylaw Review Assignment Jack Flynn

We will discuss the assignments to the bylaw review and a process for addressing each section. **New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.**

3/14

Association Approval, Branding Language Jack Flynn

I would like to add language to the association approval that includes approval of the team name/brand. This is being done to address the current environment where teams are using another association's USA Hockey ID to exist in an affiliate without understanding anything about this new entity. **No New Notes (3/14)**



Minutes From
April 11th, 2024

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

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June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – April 11th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on April 11th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	No	Yan Kaminsky	(GA)	No
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	No/Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	No
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	Yes
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) Need to find ways to get people to attend summer meeting. Tier I will have a summary coming with new guidelines to address frequently asked questions. Jack will be part of a committee to review an appeal by a tournament team that was denied in the Carolina’s					
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Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Minutes were approved. Associations attending the meeting were Paul Esdale-Jacksonville/Savannah & Beth Ann Wagner & Kevin Muller-Wolverines					
Registrar Update (Debbie Polk) Next season Tier II category will only be for NTB teams. All other teams will use their category as Travel. USA Hockey is trying to define Tier II the same across the country.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) N/A					

State Director Updates

Georgia N/A

Alabama N/A

Tennessee Hosting a Women's Hockey Classic at Cool Sports. Teams attending are Auburn, Alabama and Georgia. Knoxville hopes to have a team next season

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas N/A

Louisiana N/A

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM	Yan Kaminsky	N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Adding more goaltending in the coaches clinics
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	N/A
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	21 Match penalties 1 hearing 1 appeal. Jack explained issues regarding Mr. Brummels
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	All 3 Pred teams made it to nationals. U16 won. Preds to honor/recognize all girls and boys National Champs at game
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Working on goalie grants. National goalie symposium sold out 600 attending. Got video from the Country Western Tournament and reviewing it
High School	Andy Franklin	N/A
Junior	Don Stone	Push to take over USPHL
Membership	Kevin Cook	Grant checks all out
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	N/A
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	28 allegations this year---17 were actual Safe Sports
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	N/A
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Busy getting ready for Player Development camp this week 245 players signed up
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A

DEI Chris Powers/Jack Flynn Met today with USA Hockey. A lot of good things going on.

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Tier II Teams	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
1/11			The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.
2/10			The committee has met once and will meet once more. The committee is putting the language together and will send it out to the board prior to the March meeting so this topic can be finalized at our March board meeting.
4/11			No Meeting in 2 months. Update hopefully in May
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
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4/11 Waiting until after April 15th to form committee

3/14	Association Approval, Branding Language	Jack Flynn	I would like to add language to the association approval that includes approval of the team name/brand. This is being done to address the current environment where teams are using another association's USA Hockey ID to exist in an affiliate without the understanding anything about this new entity.
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4/11 To discuss at a later time

New Business

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>NARRATIVE</u>
4/11	Hagerman Suspension	Jack Flynn	Patrick Hagerman is a coach in Arkansas who was suspended last year. He is asking for reinstatement at the conclusion of his suspension. He claims that he has no intention of coaching next year however. With some of the other issues going on within this organization, I would like the board to consider the direction we take on this request.

It is suggested that Mr. Hagerman writes a letter to SAHA as to why he wants to be reinstated if he has no intentions to coach again or run for a board position.



Minutes From

May 9th, 2024

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
7 th -10 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	Charlotte, NC	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – May 9th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on May 9th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	YES	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	NO
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	NO	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	YES
Paul Dixon	(GA)	YES		(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	YES	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	NO
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	YES	Kevin Cook	(LA)	NO
Andy Franklin	(TN)	YES	Isaac Lee	(MS)	NO
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	NO	Chris Powers	SE Director	YES
Debbie Polk	Registrar	YES	David Polk	Registrar - SE	YES
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	NO	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	YES
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	YES (LATE)	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	NO
President’s Update (Jack Flynn)					
Tier 1 Committee continuation of discussion, split into two committees (sub committees with 12 each). Reps from each affiliate of various sections. Looking into expanding roster size, vertical integration (move up and down within teams), proposal to expand to 24 teams and eliminate MyHockeyRankings (subjectivity), 2010 & 14/10 rule for post teams, and revision of Tier 1 quota.					
Nordiques Program franchised out in South Carolina & Tampa (Unsanctioned AAA teams). Not sanctioned! Being addressed					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone)					
Nothing to Report					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas)					
Nothing To Report					
Registrar Updates (Debbie Polk)					
To be classified tier II you have to be National Tournament Bound, starting next year (2024-2025).					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers)					
Nothing to Report other than June meeting with potential future updates (rule changes, tournament discussion, etc.)					

State Director Updates

Georgia

Changes to two of the rinks: The Ice in Cumming has new management and Kennesaw Ice Rink has shaken up its management. Men's League now owns The Ice (Non-USA Hockey Sanctioned). No change in Youth Hockey perspective for both facilities.

Alabama

Summer Adult Leagues Started and Travel Tryouts in June

Tennessee

Grassroots & Spring Youth has come to a close. Travel Hockey tryouts are concluding for all Tier I & II teams, along with 'A' teams.

Mississippi

Isaac Not Present

Arkansas

Ward Not Present

Louisiana

Kevin Not Present

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM		Nothing To Report
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	Nothing To Report
Audit	Kevin Cook	Nothing To Report
Coaching	Rick Murray	Mark Dastous brought onto SAHA Coaching Clinics with Rink.
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	Nothing To Report
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Huntsville Request for Play Up has been addressed. Nashville Adult DDR issue has a meeting week of May 13 th . Work between associations for approved variances!
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	Nothing To Report
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Try Goalie For Free in Arkansas in May.
High School	Andy Franklin	GNASH has new board of director/committee. Clarksville/Montgomery Hockey is looking to add new team to GNASH
Junior	Don Stone	New President for USPHL.
Membership	Kevin Cook	Nothing To Report
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	New curriculum for Level 1's, but it is a gap year for USA Hockey. Officials will not have to do tests, but simply attend a zoom seminar.
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	Nothing To Report
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Nothing To Report
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Nothing To Report
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	Successful year and worked well. Kudos to all that helped! Prepping for the District Camp in Charlotte.
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	Nothing To Report
Youth	Ryan McCormack	Nothing To Report
DEI	Chris Powers/Jack Flynn	Meeting on Tuesday the 14 th .

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Tier II Teams	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
1/11			The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.
2/10			The committee has met once and will meet once more. The committee is putting the language together and will send it out to the board prior to the March meeting so this topic can be finalized at our March board meeting.
4/11			No Meeting in 2 months. Update hopefully in May
5/9			Nothing To Report
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).

3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
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4/11	Hagerman Suspension	Jack Flynn	Patrick Hagerman is a coach in Arkansas who was suspended last year. He is asking for reinstatement at the conclusion of his suspension. He claims that he has no intention of coaching next year however. With some of the other issues going on within this organization, I would like the board to consider the direction we take on this request.
5/9	It is suggested that Mr. Hagerman writes a letter to SAHA as to why he wants to be reinstated if he has no intentions to coach again or run for a board position. Suspended/Banned coach asked for reinstatement. Ralph mentions it is at a standstill with hesitancy to reinstate, due to it being related to some other complaints.		



Minutes From
June 13th, 2024

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
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15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
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4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
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April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
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1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
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11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – July 11th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on July 11th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	Yes	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	Yes
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	Yes	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	No
Paul Dixon	(GA)	Yes		(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	No	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	Yes
Andy Franklin	(TN)	Yes-Late	Isaac Lee	(MS)	Yes
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	Yes	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) Jack attended USA Hockey Annual Conference in FL last week. Topics included how affiliates elect directors, Jr. Programs, handling complaints and neck protection to name a few. Rick Murray gave a presentation on the intermediate nets...a lot of interest from many. Debbie Polk was given her 5 year award as district registrar.					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) N/A					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) Made a motion to approve the May minutes, Paul Dixon 2 nd the motion. No discussion and minutes were approved. Congratulation to Don Stone for winning the “NAHL Owner of the Year Award. Directorships for LA and AL were filled. Kevin Cook (LA) and Ryan McCormick (AL) both retained their directorship positions. No one has filled the open GA directorship position at this time. Those associations that had representation at the June meeting were Kevin Muller-Jr. Preds, Sandi with SYTHL, David Cantrell-KAHA, Beth Anne Wagner-Wolverines and Reney McAtee-Nashville Warriors					
Registrar Updates (Debbie Polk) Each team must have LR monitor listed on their rosters. Portal to register teams will be open on July 5 th . Each association must have all of their paperwork submitted, signed (by both parties) and turned into Debbie P. before they can register teams. There is one set of rules for all, not separate for boys or girls. Tier II teams must be Natl. bound to qualify as a Tier II team.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) Next year Girls District is in FL. And youth is in Maryland					

State Director Updates

Georgia New adult league is wanting to start up and registered with USA Hockey. Working on how that will be handled.

Alabama N/A

Tennessee Both association on the east side of state have had tryouts. High School going to Nationals next year. New rules coming out for this.

Mississippi Tryouts were held in May. We will have four teams in SYTHL

Arkansas NWAHA has a new president for next year. They are working on updating their bylaws so they are clear. AR SAHA Director will monitor this to ensure it has been completed and conforms with USA Hockey

Louisiana SPHL team is coming to Monroe

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ADM		N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	Updating training curriculum for this summer. Having some IT issues. Working on continued education for 4&5 levels. Coaches can bank credits. Working on early bird clinics for Level I
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	N/A
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	Natl Symposium in MN was very good. Had 75 vendors attend. Rick presented the intermediate net presentation at the symposium. Rick has been invited to work with the goalies at the Southeastern District 14's camp at The University of Miami (Ohio) in July. It's not really an evaluation, more of a development camp.
High School	Andy Franklin	N/A
Junior	Don Stone	N/A
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	Registration opened June 1 st for officials. Setting up seminars for the upcoming season
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	N/A
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	Started planning for new season. All Nashville U10 teams not playing in SYTHL next season
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Changes are coming for Tier I for next season. Will update when information is available

Player Dev	Jack Flynn	District Camp was held last month. SAHA kids did very well. Mike Fairbanks was a great help
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	ACHA is adding teams next year
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	Attended annual meeting-waiting on approval for a survey to go out to see who are demographic are	

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
8/12	Tier II Teams	Ryan McCormick	Concern that within Tier II teams that have Nationally bound teams that other affiliated are taking players from those teams within SAHA and there is no means to replace that level of player within their associations. The suggestion would be that SAHA could go out into other affiliates and replace those players. This would mean a By-Law change. Paul Dixon, Don Stone, Mo Morrison and Ryan McCormick will Chair a Committee to address this concern and come up with language that can be used in the By-Laws. This would apply to all U-14, U-16 & U-18 National Bound Teams.
10/12			The committee will have recommendations for board to review by November Board meeting.
11/9			Recommendation was made to bump this back to December Board Meeting
12/14			Committee will report in January
1/11			The Committee has met and will report their recommendations at the SAHA Winter Meeting in February.
2/10			The committee has met once and will meet once more. The committee is putting the language together and will send it out to the board prior to the March meeting so this topic can be finalized at our March board meeting.
4/11			No Meeting in 2 months. Update hopefully in May
5/9			Nothing To Report
6/13			Removing from Old Business
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don

received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).

6/13

Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL

3/14

Bylaw Review Assignment Kevin Cook

Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. **New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.**

4/11

Waiting until after April 15th to form committee

6/13

A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.

3/14

Association Approval, Branding Language Jack Flynn

I would like to add language to the association approval that includes approval of the team name/brand. This is being done to address the current environment where teams are using another association's USA Hockey ID to exist in an affiliate without the understanding anything about this new entity.

4/11

To discuss at a later time

6/13

Must declare who they are, must know primary ice facility and team name. Question was raised-do we do a 2 yr probation period with new teams. Working on putting language together to vote on next month.

4/11

Hagerman
Suspension

Jack Flynn

Patrick Hagerman is a coach in Arkansas who was suspended last year. He is asking for reinstatement at the conclusion of his suspension. He claims that he has no intention of coaching next year however. With some of the other issues going on within this organization, I would like the board to consider the direction we take on this request.

It is suggested that Mr. Hagerman writes a letter to SAHA as to why he wants to be reinstated if he has no intentions to coach again or run for a board position.

5/9

Suspended/Banned coach asked for reinstatement. Ralph mentions it is at a standstill with hesitancy to reinstate, due to it being related to some other complaints.

6/13

Closed

New Business

6/13

Committee
Chairs

Jack Flynn

Discuss who is willing to keep their Committee Chair positions and what committee's need a new chairperson.

At annual meeting need to approve all the chairpersons. Need to do a better job of providing updates. Only 8 committees are required by USA Hockey. We need to think about what we should do with all these committees moving forward and address it at the annual meeting.

6/13	Affiliate Teams in the SYTHL	Jack Flynn	<p>Would like to get approval from SAHA to bring the following teams into the SYTHL.</p> <p><i>Evansville, IN Evansville Thunder 12U A1</i> <i>Owensboro, KY Owensboro Rampage 10U A1, 10U A2, 12U A1, 14U A1</i> <i>Louisville, KY Louisville Ice Cardinals 12U SESCL, 14U A1 , 16U AA</i> <i>Lexington, KY Lexington Thoroughbreds 12U A1, 14U A2</i> <i>Pensacola, FL Pensacola Jr. Ice Flyers 10U A2, 12U A1, 14U A2</i> <i>Columbia, SC Columbia Cyclones 16U AA and possibly a 10U A2</i></p>
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It was recommended that we come up with an approval method for teams outside the affiliate who would like to join SYTHL.

6/13	Annual Board Meeting	Ward Hillegas	<p>Invitation to go out soon. Do we make it mandatory that a rep from each association attend the meeting? I need reports from everyone by July's board meeting. Working on hotel. Working with rink on meeting rooms, A/V equipment and food.</p>
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A block of 20 rooms are being held at the DoubleTree in Huntsville. A "Safe the Date" email will go out to all association with the general information on the annual meeting. In that email we will also ask the association to provide topics they would like discussed at the meeting as well as a link to RSVP so we know how many people will be attending.

6/13	New Association	Paul Dixon	<p>It is called ATL50, and is a 50 & over adult league. It is currently a 4 team league playing every Wednesday at Center Ice.</p>
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Since this is more of a league than an association Paul is going to get a hold of Stephanie at Center Ice and see why he will register them with USA Hockey.



Minutes From

July 11th, 2024

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting

Ward Hillegas

SAHA Board Secretary

Board of Directors Information in addition to Association Contacts and Calendar can be found on the SAHA Website (sahaonline.org)

Date	2023-2024 Calendar	Location	Guidance
August 2023			
1st	Start of Fiscal Year		20.6
1st	Earliest date for games to count for 80/20 rule		
1st	2022-2023 Committee Reports Due		
12th	SAHA Annual Board/Membership Meeting	Nashville	
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Nashville	Ward Hillegas
September 2023			
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
October 2023			
1st	SAHA Development Grant Application Deadline		Kevin Cook
12th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Tier 1 Youth & Girls Teams to declare National Bound		Debbie Polk
November 2023			
1st	Dev Grant Application recommendations due to the board		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit agenda items for USA Hockey Winter Meeting		
1st	Last day to submit proposals for USA Hockey Rule changes		
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
TBD	Deadline to report # of states with National Bound HS teams to District		Debbie Polk
December 2023			
1st	Notification and award of SAHA Development Grants		Kevin Cook
1st	Last day to submit application for new associations		
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Last day for waiver variances to Player/team commitments		24.3.4.a
15th	Tier II youth teams to declare national bound		
30th	Last day to submit By-Laws to each registered association member		21.4
31st	Last day to change youth, girls, Tier I & Tier II national bound roster		
31st	Last day for coaches to meet minimum CEP requirements		
January 2024			
10th	Youth Tier I Applications due		24.2.4
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	State Directors report # of National Bound Teams		24.3.1.b
25 th -28th	USA Hockey Winter Meetings		

February 2024			
10th	SAHA Winter Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
15th	Nomination open for election of SE District Director		SE District Guide 6.d
26th-27th	SYTHL Playoff Weekend		
March 2024			
1st	Final Development Grant Reports due		Kevin Cook
1st	Deadline for review of Tier I applications/notification of final decision		24.2.7
1st	Deadline for decision on new association applications/notification		
1st	Nominations close for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
3rd	1st Day allowed for Tier II teams to announce tryouts/coaches		
3rd	Latest date for Tier I tryout announcement. Announcements can be made 2 days after application approval.		
4 th -6 th	Tier II Georgia "Bob McCaig Cup" playdown tournament	Various	
7 th -10 th	Tier I SE District Tournament	Charlotte, NC	Chris Powers
14th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
22nd	Ballots distributed for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		SE District Guide 6.d
24th-28th	USA Hockey Nationals – High School	West Chester, PA	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-14	Plymouth, MI	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-15	Fargo, ND	
4/2-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier I U-16 & U-18	Las Vegas, NV	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II – U-14	Amhurst, NY	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-16	Dallas, TX	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Youth Tier II U-18	Delmont, PA	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier I U-14, U-16 & U-19	Wesley Chapel, FL	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals – Girls Tier II U-14	Sioux Falls, SC	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-16	Green Bay, WI	
4/3-4/7	USA Hockey Nationals-Girls Tier II U-18	East Lansing, MI	
April 2024			
1st	USA Hockey Block Grant Report Due		
1st	Nominations open for vacant seats on SAHA Board		14.1
6th	Earliest allowable date for Tier I tryouts		
6th	Earliest allowable date for Girls tryouts		
10th	Deadline for ballots for election of SE District Director (2024 Cycle)		
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
13/14th or 19/20th	2023-2024 Player Development Camp	TBD	Jack Flynn
21st-24th	USA Hockey Nationals – Sled	Pittsburg, PA	
28th	Tier II tryouts may be held		
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals - Adult Men's	TBD	
TBD	USA Hockey Nationals-Adult Women's	TBD	

May 2024			
1st	Nominations close for vacant seats on the SAHA Board		
TBD	Southeastern District Development Camp	TBD	
9th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
17th-21st	Tier II Tryout protected period		
June 2024			
1st	Deadline for distributing ballots for election of SAHA Directors		14.1
5 th -8 th	2024 USA Hockey Summer Meeting	Denver, CO	
13th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
30th	Deadline for completion of election of SAHA Directors		14.1
July 2024			
11th	SAHA Board Meeting	Zoom	Ward Hillegas
31st	Fiscal Year Ends		20.6

Southern Amateur Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes – July 11th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (“SAHA”) was held on July 11th, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM CST.

Roll Call Board Members (Voting)					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>
Rob Link	(TN)	No	Ryan McCormack	(AL)	No
Mike Fairbanks	(AL)	No	Ralph Drensek	(AL) 1 st VP	Yes
Paul Dixon	(GA)	No		(GA)	
Don Stone	(GA) Treasurer	Yes	Ward Hillegas	(AR) Secretary	Yes
Jack Flynn	(TN) President	Yes	Kevin Cook	(LA)	No
Andy Franklin	(TN)	No	Isaac Lee	(MS)	No
Committee Members / Guests (Non-Voting)					
Russ Beatse	SYTHL	No	Chris Powers	SE Director	Yes
Debbie Polk	Registrar	Yes	David Polk	Registrar - SE	No
Jim Dewhirst	Referee-in-Chief	No	Rick Murray	Coach-in-Chief	Yes
Kahlie Singletary	Girls	Yes	Debbie Barrie	Safe Sport	No
President’s Update (Jack Flynn) No Update					
Treasurer’s Update (Don Stone) Annual Grants submitted to USA Hockey. IRS information has been sent out. Sent out requests in order to put together 2024-25 budget					
Secretary Update (Ward Hillegas) No update. No quorum to approve June minutes. Will have to approve June/July minutes at Annual meeting.					
Registrar Updates (Debbie Polk) Portal is now open. Play-off forms are online to complete. All Natl bound teams must complete a “Consent to Treat” form.					
SE District Director’s Report (Chris Powers) NBC bought Sports Engine. Now billing for it. League App is another option to use. Kevin is trying to set up a meeting with them.					

State Director Updates

Georgia There is a split in one of the associations. Chris Powers might need to get involved.

Alabama N/A

Tennessee N/A

Mississippi N/A

Arkansas Need to follow up on how NWAHA is coming a long on updating their By-laws

Louisiana N/A

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Committee	Chair	Notes
ADM		N/A
Adult	Mike Fairbanks	N/A
Audit	Kevin Cook	N/A
Coaching	Rick Murray	1 st coaching clinic was held this week. More starting in August
Disabled	Ward Hillegas	N/A
DDR	Ralph Drensek / Rob Link	Only four roster variance requests.
Girls	Kahlie Singletary / McKenzie	N/A
Goaltending	Rick Murray/ Andy Franklin	New content is being introduced for clinics. Bronze clinics are starting. Group from Ontario is reviewing what SAHA has done with the Int. nets.
High School	Andy Franklin	N/A
Junior	Don Stone	NAHL put in a camera system to streaming games
Membership	Kevin Cook	N/A
Referee	Paul Dixon/ Jim Dewhirst	N/A
SafeSport	Debbie Barrie	Good drop in SafeSport issues from last year
SYTHL	Russ Beatse	N/A
Tier 1	Kevin Cook	Jr. Preds completing survey/questionnaire which covers expand rosters, vertical integration-bringing up younger players. Expand Natl. tournament teams from 12 to 16.
Player Dev	Jack Flynn	U14 camp coming up next week. District camp maybe in Nashville next year
College / Univ	Ralph Drensek	N/A
Youth	Ryan McCormack	N/A
DEI	N/A	

Old Business

Date	Topic	Owner	Narrative
2/10	SYTHL League Agreement	Chris Powers	There has been discussion on the SYTHL League Agreement and automatically renewing their grant. This topic has been tabled so Chris can talk with Russ to clarify some information.
4/11			Working through this with Russ
5/9			Chris Powers shares concern for the lack of compliance on tax returns. No 990 tax form and names on the filings are not cohesive. Don received forms with Jack copied on it, with potential Guidestar (???) involvement. 501c3 has been revoked with real risk. Lexington has been told they are in the SYTHL. Has not been compliant and their evidence for good standing is not defensible. \$100,000 in cash seems available (substantial).
6/13			Received document showing SYTHL is covered under USA Hockey. SYTHL's 501c3 is getting reinstated. SYTHL will need approval from SAHA for out of affiliate teams to play in SYTHL
7/11			Sent follow-up email to group regarding 501c status. No response to date
3/14	Bylaw Review Assignment	Kevin Cook	Kevin Cook and Don Stone will be forming a committee to review bylaws and operating policies. New Notes -> Looking at different approaches to discussing and categorizing low return/high discussion to then understand the approach. Kevin recommends a small committee completing these, as opposed to individual tasks. Jack mentions separating into three separate categories. Rob mentions using a small passionate group (in person) to finalize it and present it back to the Summer Meeting before August. Agreed upon small committee, goes through A-Z in what we need to address now and then what needs to be addressed later. Kevin will lead the endeavor.
4/11			Waiting until after April 15 th to form committee
6/13			A committee has been put together and meets every 2 weeks. Talking about combining the bylaws and operating policy into one document. It was determined that bylaws can be changed at anytime unless its voting rights.

7/13			Committee met; wants to make document more like a legal document. Michigan's by-laws are very good. Asked John Cox for his help to look at elements of Michigan's to incorporate into SAHA's. Also looking at creating on document to include both Policies/Procedures and By-laws. Will present at Annual meeting.
3/14	Association Approval, Branding Language	Jack Flynn	I would like to add language to the association approval that includes approval of the team name/brand. This is being done to address the current environment where teams are using another association's USA Hockey ID to exist in an affiliate without the understanding anything about this new entity.
4/11			To discuss at a later time
6/13			Must declare who they are, must know primary ice facility and team name. Question was raised-do we do a 2 yr probation period with new teams. Working on putting language together to vote on next month.
7/11			Again, concern is how an association is going to play/act in SAHA. Need to have a process in place to monitor/control this. Will discuss more and put up for vote at annual meeting.
6/13	Committee Chairs	Jack Flynn	Discuss who is willing to keep their Committee Chair positions and what committee's need a new chairperson. At annual meeting need to approve all the chairpersons. Need to do a better job of providing updates. Only 8 committees are required by USA Hockey. We need to think about what we should do with all these committees moving forward and address it at the annual meeting.
7/11			Only 4 committees are required by USA Hockey-Goaltending, Coaching, College and DDR. Suggestion is to place other reports on a quarterly bases or earlier if needed. Will discuss more at annual meeting and put up for vote.
6/13	Affiliate Teams in the SYTHL	Jack Flynn	Russ Would like to get approval from SAHA to bring the following teams into the SYTHL. <i>Evansville, IN Evansville Thunder 12U A1</i> <i>Owensboro, KY Owensboro Rampage 10U A1, 10U A2, 12U A1, 14U A1</i> <i>Louisville, KY Louisville Ice Cardinals 12U SESCL, 14U A1 , 16U AA</i> <i>Lexington, KY Lexington Thoroughbreds 12U A1, 14U A2</i> <i>Pensacola, FL Pensacola Jr. Ice Flyers 10U A2, 12U A1, 14U A2</i> <i>Columbia, SC Columbia Cyclones 16U AA and possibly a 10U A2</i>

6/13			It was recommended that we come up with an approval method for teams outside the affiliate who would like to join SYTHL.
7/11			Not heard back from SYTHL on what this method would look like.
6/13	Annual Board Meeting	Ward Hillegas	Invitation to go out soon. Do we make it mandatory that a rep from each association attend the meeting? I need reports from everyone by July's board meeting. Working on hotel. Working with rink on meeting rooms, A/V equipment and food.
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7/11			Continuing to work on Annual meeting agenda and content
6/13	New Association	Paul Dixon	It is called ATL50, and is a 50 & over adult league. It is currently a 4 team league playing every Wednesday at Center Ice.
6/13			Since this is more of a league than an association Paul is going to get a hold of Stephane at Center Ice and see why he will register them with USA Hockey.
7/11			Paul still working to discuss with Stephane.

