

PAHL Midseason Meeting – January 2026

Meeting Minutes



Date of Meeting: Sunday, January 6, 2026
Meeting Location: virtual meeting
Presiding Officer: Glen Scholze, President

CALL TO ORDER

The PAHL President called to order the 2026 Midseason Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 8:03 PM. The PAHL Secretary is recording the minutes of the meeting.

Members present (20):

- Allegheny Badgers: Josh Fajt, Mindy Ulyas
- Arctic Foxes: Mike Ciocca
- Armstrong Arrows: Mike Heilman
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz
- Crawford County Flames: Matt Nagel
- Erie Junior Otters: Aleasha Nemet
- Lawrence County Lightning: Brent Fisher, Todd Hooper
- Mon Valley Thunder: Frank Lopresti
- Morgantown Blades: Hillarey Young
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Tim Adamosky
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Anthony Quinlan
- Pittsburgh Predators: Frank Buonomo
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: Michele Graham
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Brian Blakley
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion: Sean Coyle
- State College Icers: Pete Brumberg
- Westmoreland Eagles: Amy Roberts, Rachael Lute
- Wheeling Nailers: Caitlin Rodocker
- Youngstown Phantoms: Chris Huziak

Absent Members (5):

- Altoona Trackers
- Indiana Chiefs
- Johnstown Warriors
- Mt Lebanon Hornets
- Pittsburgh Huskies

Others present:

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Report from the President

- Our efforts to reschedule games impacted by weather cancelations on December 13 and 14 are appreciated. Teams need to complete that process for any game not yet rescheduled.
- Elections for officers will be at our Annual Meeting in May. Positions open for election this year are First VP and Treasurer, both of which are two-year terms. Nominations are to be sent to the Executive Administrator.

Report from the First Vice President

- The discipline report shows that incidents are trending slightly higher than last season. Abuse of Officials is still increasing, and there is an increase in match penalties.
- GameSheet has been beneficial to track suspensions incurred and suspensions served. There is still some work needed for suspensions received/served in non-league games.
- Head Coaches need to take more ownership of suspensions and accompanying rules. All major penalties include a game misconduct, which requires a suspension.
- Spectator Conduct Policies need to be enforced. If we do not take accountability on our current policies, a stricter policy will come from above us. The message needs to come from the top, and when a situation arises that requires disciplinary action, it must be addressed.

Report from the Second Vice President

- A spreadsheet will be sent to all registrars this week to collect 8U rosters to get those players loaded into our database.
- More and new members are needed for the Placement Committee. A few of the current members are not going to be on the committee much longer, and the committee needs at least 6 people. Anyone interested should contact Jill Harmon.
- We intend to continue having a 16AA2 division for minor birth year players in that age group, as long as we continue to have at least 5-6 teams.

Report from the Treasurer

- All associations should have received invoices for the third installment. Final statements will come after 8U rosters are compiled.
- Fines will be at the end of the season, and any association that needs to replenish their fine fund will be notified.
- Taxes are currently in the hands of our accountant and should be completed in about 2 weeks.
- We currently have \$141,610.00 in our checking account and \$120,110.91 in our savings account.

Report from the Secretary

- None.

Report from the Executive Administrator

- Our primary goal is to provide a quality experience for our players, and we are having a very successful season towards that mission. We have made a lot of good improvements in the past 3 years to make our league a desirable place to play.
- The PAHL Game Manual and the PAHL Pulse are being underutilized. They contain the answers to most questions and the guidance needed for most situations.
- GameSheet has made scoring entries much easier, but the scorekeeper still needs to have a fundamental understanding of hockey rules, including the difference between a misconduct and a game misconduct. Scorekeepers must not hesitate to ask the referee for clarification and assistance.
- Game lineups must be entered accurately before the game. The backup goalie for the game is still to be listed as playing in the game, even if that goalie remains on the bench. There is a limit of 4 coaches on the bench, but many teams are listing more than 4 people as coaching in each game.
- We are seeing a trend of Penalty Box Attendants joining the handshake line after the game and going on the team bench between periods, neither of which is acceptable even if the person is registered somewhere as a coach. Associations need to put a stop to this trend now before we get to the point that clearances must be required of Penalty Box Attendants.
- The inclement weather in December resulted in 52 games being postponed. This was the first instance of mass postponements we have had in several seasons, and we learned from the experience. We can consider a few tweaks, but the current process is good if everyone follows it.
- Bids for hosting PAHL Playoffs are due on January 11. We still need a host for the girls playoffs on February 21-22. Palmer Imaging Arena will be hosting the championship games for co-ed 12U and above, and even with 3 sheets of ice, some of those games are going to have start times outside of our target window since we chose to place all of those games in a single day this season.
- MidAm State Playdowns are the last weekend of February. Associations are asked to again remind their AA teams that it is not an option to withdraw from PAHL Playoffs. We chose to place our playoffs after MidAms this season under that condition, but there has been talk recently among some of those teams about not participating in our playoffs.
- We also do not have a host yet for the Ponytail Jamboree. Please contact the Executive Administrator if your association or rink is interested in hosting.
- Proposals on bylaws, policies, and rules are due by March 29. If the proposal affects eligibility and/or tryouts, the proposal needs to be submitted by March 1. Applications for the PAHL Scholarships and PAHL Academic Awards are both due on March 29. More information is provided in the PAHL Pulse.
- Associations are reminded that the rule requiring a second jersey number on the sleeves or front was passed last season and goes into effect next season.
- Please remind your Assignor of Officials that there are requirements and limitations for assigning referees to our games, as established in our PAHL Game Manual.
- Hearings on Abuse of Officials incidents are up significantly across the MidAm district. Many of these incidents involve physical contact with officials. All associations need to make a strong effort to curb these behaviors and stop defending violators.

There was no old business or new business. The next scheduled PAHL meeting is our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2026. That meeting will be in-person at a location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:07 PM.

Minutes recorded by: Crystal Ochwat, PAHL Secretary

Minutes approved on: *currently unapproved*