



**Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association**  
**P.O. Box 2323 Salmon Arm BC V1E 4R3**  
**Phone: 250-832-0095**  
**Email: [saminorhockey@shaw.ca](mailto:saminorhockey@shaw.ca)**  
**Website: [www.salmonarmminorhockey.com](http://www.salmonarmminorhockey.com)**

**Minutes: September 2025**

**Date: September 15, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Roy Sakaki, David Mueller, Eric Penner, Tanja Poschl, Matt Davies, Nikki Carlin, Devon Chan, Melanie Penner, Cindy Cameron Cherry, Sean Russell, Lori Adamson, Allison Drager, Chantal Tessier, Tziganey Gagnon, Randi Northeast, John White, Devon Chan, Val Kloska, Liam O'Brien, Jamie Mceachern, Jason Brown

**Absent:** Lana McNeil, Allison Drager

**Late Arrivals:**

1. **Call to order at 6:31 pm Chairing:** John White **Motion:** Cindy Cameron Cherry  
**Second:** Melanie Penner
2. **Approval of agenda: Moved:** Melanie Penner **Second:** Val Kloska **Carried**
3. **Adoption of minutes from previous meeting: Moved:** Val Kloska **Second:** Melanie Penner - **Carried**
4. **Presentation – No Presentation**
5. **Business Arising from previous minutes:** None
6. **Standing Reports:**

**a) Executive Director**

**Jason Brown**

- Enderby ice, association partnerships, sponsorship update, committees,
- Registration update, declaration update,
- U21 rec team formation update
- Upper North Zone update
- other: OMAHA scheduling weekend, NOSL scheduling.

Registrations and declarations will be finalized this week. Jamie and Jason will hopefully get a 1st version of the practice schedule this week. Can work on tweaking so can get stuff out to membership next week

Upper north zone has been a huge undertaking. There are hiccups, and a tonne of work. Expanding to 8 teams from 3 (last year) is a big shift. We are getting feedback and will open up to families. We will have to refine/streamline for next year.

U15 tier 2 formed tonight, U18 will be finalized soon, U13 in process of finalizing as well. The trickle down is occurring. Exhibition games this weekend.

Scott Steward here to talk about a u21 recreation team: We can get ice in Chase that won't affect our divisions. Scott reached out to several players and currently has 17 skaters and 2 goalies to play. It would be good to have kids play with their peers. This age group does not really have a place to play, so there is a lot of interest to form a team with peers. James and Scott are willing to head up the team. Use player contracts to mitigate behaviour and travel should be with parents (injuries, etc.). Just games as a league structure. The board would like to look into this a little more...commitment to ride sharing and having a SAMHA player contract. All in favour of starting to organize this.

Enderby ice: when buying game ice in Enderby, every Sunday there is a practice slot 7:00-8:15pm (will have to confirm)? Possibility to offer to recreation (senior divisions)...perhaps like a scrimmage scenario. Might be at a point where we need to grab ice where we can then figure out how to use it. We have the funds to get this as it would be within the budget. Board approves to purchase that slot.

**Administrator:**

**Roy Sakaki**

-Tournaments update/blackout days for OMAHA scheduling

-Certifications re: coaching staff/sanctioning events info. Will send out information to division managers to ensure each division knows.

-OMAHA mtg. Sept. 13: SAMHA reps attending seminars? Pres, Reg, RIC, Fem. All mtgs. are covered.

*Working to keep the female league together. Dev? School programs? Keeping females in female hockey was a big question in the meeting and finding parity across associations, and buy-in from all associations. Getting back to grass roots to re-build. Need balancing of teams in associations that have OMAHA guidelines (all associations balance teams the same way). Flighting teams is an option to keep things more balanced. We need some direction from OMAHA.*

-Thanks Div Managers for getting all the tournaments sorted.

-Lana has sold 2600 sand bags, but is working on selling more.

-Tournament requests are coming and most home tournaments are full with waiting lists, or are very close to full.

**b) Director of Hockey Development**

**Jamie McEachern**

- My first two weeks have been busy. Onboarding with Jason, then primarily offering assistance to Jason wherever he needs me, joining at a very busy time.

#### **Pre – Evaluation skates:**

- Tasked with conducting several on ice sessions with many groups. U18 Rep, U15 Rep, U11 Dev. initially. This week the focus has shifted to the U15, and U13 recreation groups.
- In my opinion the attendance at the pre-evaluation skates has been low with numbers between 7 and 13. My recommendation would be to consolidate some of the groups next year for more constructive practices and cost savings.

#### **Tryout– Facilitate evaluator round table meetings:**

- Aug 30 in Revelstoke with the U15 and U18s as an evaluator as well.
- Sept 5/6/7 in Salmon Arm U11 Dev and only assisting with set-up for U13 T2 (due to having a player conflict).
- Upcoming – U18/U15/U13 rec, U11 Dev female, U9 Integrated, U9 Female

#### **Ice schedule review and adjustments:**

- Delay in team declarations is the biggest hurdle to coordinating ice times, coaching, evaluators, overall planning. The changes, while desirable, affect the ability to move forward with the plan that was laid out in the summer.
- When teams are added we have to find pre-evaluation skates and tryout skates for the new teams. This means adjusting the schedule based on the ice we have already booked. The shifting of the ice allocated to divisions creates unease and uncertainty. There is the possibility of miscommunication leading to coaches not showing up, players missing the revised ice times. The amount of work and stress this creates is sizable. Going forward we need the declarations made sooner. This seems to be the goal every year but solidifying a deadline is challenging.

#### **Goal setting item:**

- Formalized Startup Process Layout plan for evaluations – series of checklists to take us through the whole process from registration to team formation which includes Booking ice time, Pre-evaluation skates,

creating balance groups, assigning jerseys, Team genius setup, coordinating on ice personnel, HCSP and everything else!

- It is very promising to see the skill level and quality of the players coming in this season. I am looking forward to solidifying the practice schedule as soon as possible and focusing on hockey development planning for the season.

**c) Treasurer:**

**Eric Penner**

- First Silverback Games this weekend so first 50/50 happening this weekend.

**d) DHO Senior:**

**Cindy Cameron-Cherry**

- Start up has been a bit bumpy with not finding people to run pre-skate sessions. We have had a few sessions in U15 and U18 where we were scrambling, in fact there was no one for a while at the U15 ice session last Monday. We have a coaching shortage at both of those levels as well. I am hoping that after Upper North is completed, we will be in a better position in that regard.
- Communication is lacking at the moment, obviously everyone has a lot on their plates, but with better communication, we won't be scrambling at the last minute. Eval groups were not done as indicated to me and the division managers previously, so Randi and Tanja have stepped in at the last minute to get those completed as they start on Monday. U13 evals start on the 20<sup>th</sup> so we still have time there.
- Currently, I am worried about evaluations. We have not been told if there are evaluators yet for senior divisions, and U15 and U18 are starting on Monday. It is imperative that we have good evaluations this season, as optically, it has not been great for a couple of seasons now, so I'm hoping that we will hear something over this weekend about it. That being said, I will be with Randi and Tanja at the evaluations handing out jerseys, etc.. on Monday, which is during the board meeting.
- Office Pools has changed their pricing structure fairly drastically. I am just waiting on confirmation from them before setting up our Hockey Pool. Now, up to 500 teams is \$300, and then after that is a custom pricing option. I will update as I hear back from them. The start date of the regular season is October 7<sup>th</sup>, so I'm hoping to have these out to teams as they are formed.

- Apparel- I haven't heard back from Val, so Randi and Niki and I will be working on this going forward. I'm waiting on Jason to get back to me about the previous pricing list we were given, as the one I was given now doesn't seem to be the same, i.e., it's not as low as I remember it to be, which will dictate if/how much we can add on top as a fundraiser for the Financial Assistance Fund. Please note, we will have to change the apparel policy now if we are making each family pay for their own gear as opposed to team orders (which will keep the fundraising to a minimum). In this regard, I think that only rep/dev teams should have mandatory items that the teams must buy. Any thoughts on this are welcome.

*Perhaps we keep policy the same and have junior teams have the hoodie/t-shirt option, and then open up the store to any families that want to purchase SAMHA swag.*

- Tournaments- Kristel Burgess has reached out to me to help out with the tournament committee again. She said she has some ideas for junior divisions, which will be great. I think that throughout this season, we will be able to solidify a consistent theme in each division with names, logos, etc..
- Medals are ordered for all tournaments, except U18 female (but will order). Those ones are on hold until we know for sure that we will have that division in the SWFT tournament.
- I am working on updating the guides. Sorry, Roy I thought I would have them ready by the end of last week, but I hit some snags. I'm hoping to have them all done this week. The tournament guide is updated, and Roy has already asked Jason to put it up on the website.

#### **e) DHO Junior:**

#### **Tziganey Gagnon**

- Start up has been seemingly fine so far in the junior divisions.
- U11 Development was off to a good start, with Jamie and Jason overseeing all pre and evaluation skates. Lots of evaluators up in the stands and the team is down to their final cuts I believe happening Monday evening.
- Because of reassignments, U11 rec was lacking on ice volunteers for their pre-skates but Chantal has been super diligent and on top of things, and managed to round up some help before the first skate took place.
- Chantal has also been relaying information to our families about the Sicamous Development program, and so far we have had 4 families sign

up for their tryouts. They are low on numbers and really hoping we can send more families their way, so we will again send out more communication to our families tomorrow evening and hope we can help them with more registrants. With some of our kids possibly playing in Sicamous, it is leaving our rec teams at awkward numbers. We might need to take a look at this and bring it down to 2 teams, or possibly move kids off of waitlists, if there are any.

- Allison has also been on top of things with U9 and it sounds like we have quite a number of parents willing to help out at pre evaluation skates starting the 19th.
- I met with Heather last week and I am confident that U7 is in good hands this year. She is on top of start up, securing on ice helpers and going over possible coaching options. She is wanting some clarification whether or not she will be securing evaluators and forming teams, or if that is something Jamie or I will be doing.
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**f) Secretary:**

**David Mueller**

- *Please send in reports prior to the meeting and kindly let the secretary know even if there is no report.*

**g) President:**

**John White**

- The Upper North Zone has some associations putting more time and effort into this. Need to standardize with other associations
- U11 dev only has to go to midway. U13-U18 is by choice to go to Spokane or Midway. If going to Spokane, coaches will need to have paperwork through BC hockey.
- BC hockey is thinking about letting associations choose for full ice for u7/u9, but this got shut down by associations rapidly.

**h) 1st Vice President:**

**Mel Penner**

- Everything I have to report is likely in everyone else's.
- Start up has started and have been running well with very few hiccups. For rec teams we are still needing coaching volunteers but hopefully we will have more hands as the fall out from rep programs happens.

- Our division managers are still needing help with some ice times. The more people we can find to help, the better it is for everyone as this will lighten the load of a few people having to do it all.

**i) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

**Val Kloska**

- First off Niki Carlin is doing an outstanding job keeping everything flowing to members via TeamSnap communications and just tracking all the little niche moving parts that are female hockey. Communication is excellent and she and I connect regularly. She's doing a phenomenal job.
- Also shout out to Jason, I know that he has taken on a lot of work for our association with the fear the north program. (being one of the only employees that the north associations have) it seems he's taken on an immense amount along with our own association and recreation startups. I just wanna send a special note of thanks and acknowledgement Jason's way.
- John attended the female Omaha meeting Saturday the 13th thank you John! Lots of convo on U11 fem dev in the region.
- Currently, our older female recreation teams have hit the ice at least one time from U11, U13, U15, and coming up this week u18.
- U7&U9 are set to hit the ice in the coming weeks.
- We have had some players clarify their registration status, particularly in the younger age group of U7&U9 changing to female from what had shown as integrated registration, and we did have a player at U15 do the same. And reviewing some of the emails from members, it sounds like they assumed they would be placed on the female team at the time of registration, and missed that they needed to register for female, I think this is an important bit of feedback we can think about for next year's registration.
- On the coaching front, Niki was able to download the TeamSnap volunteer list from registration on female teams where families had noted when they registered their child if they'd be willing to help out in anyway. And there are a lot more people on that list than the other link that we've used to solicit volunteers. So I encourage all division managers with access to TeamSnap and registration info to look at that list of volunteers that came through at the time of registration. I am confident we will have coaches across female teams
- Currently 11 female is sitting at 28 players, with reassignments from the integrated development tryouts coming over to female, which makes our

decision to do female U 11 and Dave look really good as we have two teams of approximately 13-14 players, plus 3 goalies

- We do have one U9 female player that's asked to move up to u11 female, Will follow our Samha policy for the exceptional player to work through this during the u11 and evaluation skates.
- Their husband, communication to families on the approval of dual rosters and u9, u15 and u18.
- After some pounding the pavement communication going out, I have seen continued growth of U18 female registration, currently we have 8 girls registered exclusively for U18 female, along with a 9th that contacted me Friday. There are two other overage, pending registrations from players out of our association. And we have a GOALIE out of Revelstoke that is planning to register Monday. I will be making a motion to waive the registration fees for this GOALIE player, given that she will travel from Revelstoke, and it will help out the family significantly. When the dust settles, there will be 11 players plus a goalie, and we have a handful of girls playing in integrated that asked to do a roster to female, so this team will be a goal for declarations.
- We need discussion on u11 female development and having a home tournament. SWFT is full so cannot land there. There is not a lot of ice for a separate tournament that would allow hosting, but perhaps could take ice in another tournament (e.g. u15 NOVAS) have space for u11 dev to host a u11 dev tournament.

**k) 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

**Liam O'Brien**

- I would like to start with a huge thank you to anyone and everyone that was able to put some time into helping with tryouts thus far.
- U15 and u18 tryouts started in Revelstoke the weekend of Aug 22,23 and 24th. Revelstoke was a great host for the weekend to kick off the season.
- U13 and U11 Dev started tryouts the weekend after labour day while u15 and u18 tier 3 tryouts were underway as well in Armstrong. Add in the Novas tryouts in Sicamous on the same weekend and you have a crazy amount of personnel involved in tryout processes.
- I was able to be present at u15 and 18 tier 3 tryouts in Armstrong as an evaluator that weekend.



- The u13 tier 2 tryouts started off without a coach. For medical reasons the named coach could not guarantee being able to stay with the team for the season and had to resign.
- Once the top 25 was through and with the support of the Upper North coach selection committee we were able to hire a parent coach.
- This past weekend tier 4 u15 was held in Sicamous while Tier3 u13 was held in Enderby. I was able to attend the U13 tier3 tryouts as an evaluator.
- So far I have sat in with multiple teams during reassignments. This is always a stressful time for coaches and families. I've been impressed at how well coaches are doing with the process and the positive attitudes of the young athletes.
- The upper North Zone coach selection committee has been meeting to talk through the process and we are trying to move things along as much as possible. The process for many might seem slow and delayed for selecting coaches but there are many factors that have to be considered and much time spent trying to make it happen. We will certainly be talking about different ways to get coaches in place after the dust settles and we can look back at the process.
- With the tryouts getting closer to being completed and with a very different scale for tryouts compared to past years, we are seeing areas that we can improve and again will talk amongst amongst other regions and compare what works and doesn't.
- Lastly we have to recognize the volume of work and effort that Jason Brown has been putting in to help tryouts roll out as well as the rec start up and pre skates prior to start ups.
- A couple more weeks and we can hopefully hit cruise control.

## **7. Divisional Manager Reports:**

**j) U7**

**Heather Anderson**

- **No report**

**k) U9**

**Allison Drager**

- Pre-evaluation skates start this coming weekend. I have Damon Kipp running these skates and a few other volunteers to help. Hoping these go smoothly.
- Tournaments are all set.
- Looking forward to this season.

**l) U11**

**Chantal Tessier**

- All tournaments are booked for both Rec and Dev.
- Re-assignments have begun for Dev. fully complete by tonight.
- Put another call out to coaches for the upcoming season - waiting to hear back
- U11 dev bench staff and manager have also been set

**m) U13**

**Gary Ruden**

- 2 weeks today since starting this position...hit the ground running.
- Overage approval for player should work
- Female player to move to integrated? Should set up a meeting with the Family to address concerns.
- Tier 2 exhibition games coming, refs scheduled? Yes
- Tournaments booked for rec, 6 confirmed.
- Working on all other tournaments.

**n) U15**

**Randi North East**

- U13/U18/Female name bar orders has an email sent out. Rep teams?
- U15 bumpy start-up due to communication breakdown, and have navigated through and evaluations start tonight. Waiting on all re-assignments and evaluations to form teams.
- There is a large trickle down from rep tryouts.

- Coaches are in place for recreation
- Dual rostered female players are pending paperwork and approval.
- Based on numbers and other associations, the rep tier 4 league may or may not happen in OMAHA in U15

**o) U18**

**Tanja Poschl**

- 5 tournaments have been confirmed. 1 more to go, working on getting that firmed up over the next week or two.
- I was able to get help from several coaches to help with pre-skates; group 2 was more difficult to find coaches to run the pre-skates but Jason has said if he has to, he will run the 2nd group. Looks like the same coaches will be available to help for evaluations, that will need to be confirmed once we know times etc. I have had coaches inquire if we aren't having them evaluate the kids like we had last year, I think they still want to be involved in this.
- Thanks to Mel and Tziganey for the jersey handouts and organization.
- Stu Taylor and Jamie Gervais have applied to coach
- May have enough players for 4 teams, however only have ice for 3 teams, and have 4 goalies registered for U18, so could have 4 teams?

**p) Female**

**Nikki Carlin**

**Registration**

- This season we noticed a number of U7 and U9 families who accidentally registered their female players in Integrated when they had intended to register for Female. We should keep this in mind and make registration options clearer for next season.

**Volunteers**

- We've had a few new parents step forward to volunteer, and I have sent out emails requesting additional support.

**U18**

- We are still working to declare a U18 Female team or determine an alternate option for this age group.

## **U7**

- I reached out to all female families registered in Integrated to confirm whether that was their intended choice. A few families were unaware that a Female option existed and were happy to make the switch once they learned about it.

## **Pre-Season Ice**

- U15: Pre-season ice began last weekend, with on-ice support from Jason.
- U13 & U11: Pre-season begins this coming weekend. I will connect with Jamie and Val to confirm on-ice helpers.
- U7 & U9: Pre-season will begin the following weekend.

## **Scheduling**

- Many parents have been asking about practice schedules, as it impacts planning for other activities outside of hockey.

## **U11 Development/Recreation**

- The process for registering in Female Development/Recreation has proven to be more complicated than for Integrated. To help streamline this in the future, I recommend creating a separate TeamSnap option next season to keep names and registration paths clearly separated.

## **q) Ref Assignor**

**Sean Russell**

- Last meeting put in a motion to add \$10 for games after 8:15, have approximately 3-4 games per month (19ish total games)

Motion: Games starting at 8:15 or later the officials get \$10 extra (Sean), Second: Eric

- *Yay: Val, Eric, Tziganey, Dave, John*
- *Nay: 0*
- *Absent/Abstain: Liam, Cindy*

*PASSED*

- *Association minimums will be coming out from OMAHA. Regarding travel expenses.*
- *Copy of the rule book for the ref room. Roy will get a rule book in there.*
- *Will need to get minimum suspension rules to coaches as referees are not supposed to comment on suspensions.*

**r) Referee In Chief**

**Matt Davies**

- ref clinics sept 18 returning officials, sept 20 new officials and returning level 1
- ref numbers way down right now
- will be bringing up the u18 t2 tournament and what system on ice sessions booked for officials. Last year we ran the '3' official system. Might be better to run 4 man system (however is more costly)
- Working on the green armband pilot project, and can remove it once evaluated and comfortable with it.

**s) Equipment Manager**

**Devon Chan**

- **Equipment library**
- Most of our equipment is now inventoried and tagged. We are using a library service called Lend Items. Division managers have been added as users. Coaches will be added as they are chosen.
- If you take something from the equipment room, please take a picture of the tag and send it to me, along with who is responsible for returning it. At this time, most items are being signed out to division managers.
- **Pucks & cones**
- We have plenty of both, but want to keep track of them. If a coach needs 60 pucks, that's fine, but make sure we know about it and try to get most of them back to us. This year we are keeping track of puck "refills" as well as the original puck bag.
- Cones now have straps to keep them together and make them less annoying. I've also heard that older divisions don't use them much, so I will send out fewer at the beginning of the year. If anyone wants more, please let me know, we have LOTS on hand.
- **Jerseys**
- Almost all game jerseys are now in lockers. U11 practice jerseys are also ready to go in the lockers.
- U18 girls -- will there be a team? *Yes*

- U9 girls -- how many per team? We may have to shuffle some jerseys between team sets, use mismatched numbers. and/or pull some larger jerseys from other old sets. We currently have enough for 30 girls total.
- U7 jerseys will arrive on Sept 16th
- We're taking suggestions for what to do with the old jerseys. Current ideas: spectators can borrow to wear at games, sell as fundraiser, use as practice / eval jerseys.
- **Pinnies**
- U7 & U9 teams that only have one jersey colour will be given pinnie sets
- **Socks**
- Socks will be distributed once teams are formed. If anyone needs practice socks in the meantime, there are lots of random socks in the equipment hall.
- **Jersey bags**
- New bags are coming. When they arrive, damaged ones can be traded in. Don't be insulted if your teams got junky bags. It means you'll be first in line for brand new ones.
- **Goalie equipment**
- We have an abundance of goalie equipment for loan in all sizes and we are always in need of more goalies. Please encourage your coaches to get kids trying the position. The cost of equipment shouldn't be a barrier to at least giving it a try. Just let us know the approximate sizes you need and we can put equipment in the lockers.

**t) Risk Manager/Social Media**

**Lori Adamson**

- Safety equipment has been replenished and is ready to go for the season. Some bags have been distributed to rep teams. I have distributed bags and pucks to lockers for pick up.
- Safety people must be designated for all sessions through the pre-evaluation/evaluation period. I have asked division managers to help with this.
- Health information was not collected on registration this year, which was a change from previous years. This is an improvement, because we are not widely sharing personal information with so many members of SAMHA on the registration document now. Division managers must let families know in their welcome email or parent meetings during pre-skates that families are responsible for letting us know if there are any health

concerns that we have to watch out for. Parents should be staying nearby if there is a condition that requires monitoring (eg. Type 1 diabetes, heart arrhythmias, administering inhalers) during the evaluation period until teams are formed and a HCSP can be assigned and informed about health history.

- Safety people volunteering for pre-skates are there to administer minor first aid or call for help, complete injury reports if needed.

### **Communications/SAMHA Facebook**

- We came up with a brief directory to try to curb the emails coming to executives and staff at this busy time. I have pinned it at the top of the page so members can easily refer to it. This will go on our website as well.
- Next steps are to welcome Jason Brown, and then Jamie McEachern so we can introduce them to members so they know what their roles are. Then it would be nice to roll out a framework of our board structure on our facebook page, which might help people understand how the board operates. The goal is to facilitate better communication and reduce redundancy in contacts/emails/complaints. Feel free to send me your ideas and input.
- I am working on a volunteer montage, to be able to thank our volunteers. We like to focus on our players and coaches, but often forget to turn the camera on our volunteers! If you have any photos, send them my way.
- Hang in there everyone!

**Approval of standing reports: Moved: Dave Mueller Seconded: Mel Penner**

### **8. New Business:**

- *Yay:*
- *Nay:*
- *Absent/Abstain:*

### **In Camera:**

**Motion to move In Camera: David Mueller Second: Liam O'Brien Time: 9:26pm**

**Motion to come out of In Camera: David Mueller Second: Mel Penner Time: 9:54pm**

**Motion to Adjourn: Mel Penner Second: Tziganey Gagnon**

**Next meeting - @ Salmar Grand (Monday, Oct 20th, 6:30pm)**

