



Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association
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Minutes: October 2025

Date: October 22, 2025

In Attendance: Roy Sakaki, Niki Carlin, Melanie Penner, Cindy Cameron Cherry, Sean Russell, Lori Adamson, Chantal Tessier, Tziganey Gagnon, John White, Devon Chan, Jamie Mceachern, Gary Rudin

Absent: Lana McNeil, Allison Drager, David Mueller, Heather Anderson, Eric Penner, Val Kloska, , Liam O'Brien, Jason Brown, Matt Davies, Randi Northeast, Tanja Poschl

Late Arrivals:

- 1. Call to order at 6:30 pm Chairing:** John White
- 2. Approval of agenda: Moved:** Cindy Cameron Cherry **Second:** Melanie Penner **Carried**
- 3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting: Moved: Melanie Penner Second:** Tziganey Gagnon **Carried**
- 4. Presentation – No Presentation**
- 5. Business Arising for previous minutes: None**
- 6. Standing Reports:**

a) Executive Director

Jason Brown

Absent. To be added.

Administrator:

Roy Sakaki

–Tournaments: There are a lot of new tournament chairs. They all seem to be underway in planning and going great. Lots of tournaments are full already. Both Novas tournaments are close to full. U7 Female needs more teams to sign up.

-Certifications: Lots of coaches are getting certified and sorting which team the person belongs to.

-Website should be updated very shortly. We have paid this out to Greg Pattison to run for the association.

- Equipment needs to be returned properly! Black foam dividers specifically.

-Photography schedule is out for Nov. 3-5. All pictures will be taken on the ice. We need all teams and coaches and parents to be cooperative with this so everything runs smoothly.

-Permission to travel request forms now need to be submitted online to OMAHA.

-Discipline committee needs to submit a report after each offense to Roy.

-B Line cleaning machine is in and is giving a discount to every family who uses their services.

b) Director of Hockey Development

Jamie McEachern

-Startup:

I have been conducting on ice sessions, running benches for evaluations, coordinating evaluators, compiling results, handing out jerseys, and filling in wherever needed... even officiating!

Evaluations went well for all groups. Pleased with the job the evaluators did. Compiled a list of contacts for independent evaluators for our future reference.

Team formation for the Recreation teams ran smoothly. Great input from the division managers that know the families and can make teams that are balanced in terms of players, coaches, managers, and still create an atmosphere that is fun, takes into account requests to make travel easier, and keep friends together.

-Ongoing:

Goalie implementation plan: Currently working on a goalie warmup and drill plan to make available to coaches. This will be based on goaltending fundamentals. Also looking at a Goalie AP model to be sure teams are not caught without goaltender. Trying to get this in place soon.

Beginning to attend some team practices to help out and assist where needed. I have been to some morning practices for U11 and U13. I also plan to just check out some of the other teams' practices to check in on how things are going and to introduce myself and offer assistance where needed.

-Looking Ahead:

Jason and I completed a review of projected ice time for games and practice for each division/team. We found some teams require additional ice outside of the normal practice times to equal what other groups receive. Having this information we allotted additional ice to some groups to have a baseline that is equal to all groups. We also saw where ice could be fully optimized through sharing the ice to increase the total amount of icetime for some groups which is something we can bring to teams for them to consider. Now that we have the ice fairly dispersed, we can put forward some options for additional ice – primarily Friday mornings – to use for additional programming. I think some priority should be to no charge

goalie skills, then pay per use player skills, 3 on 3? 4 on 4? We plan to create some ideas and have the board approve.

-For review:

Through startup Jason and I have been conscious of where SAMHA could make improvements. Based on the experience gained this fall, we have a plan to put forward

some recommendations to strengthen our processes around Tryouts, Team Formation, Coach Identification and Selection. Jason and I have discussed what went well and what could be improved. Now we need to capture this knowledge, map the existing processes, create a framework for startup and then make this information accessible. I believe this will not only help startup run smoother but also increase the confidence that our members have in the process.

Lastly, I am pulling together some resources that I would like distribute in two separate information packages. One going to coaches and the other to parents. More on this to come – will require approval before sending out.

c) Treasurer:

Eric Penner

- I am waiting on financials from Deb as she is a bit behind on the bookkeeping side with all the registrar duties that need to happen this time of year. We will have a financial update prior to November board meeting.
- Our gaming grant was approved and we received \$90,000 which is the same amount as we received last year.
- Silverbacks 50/50s are underway and we have put together a schedule to assign 4 volunteers to each home game.
- A few license requests coming in for tournaments. Processing times will possibly be impacted by ongoing BEGEU strike. Better to apply sooner rather than later for these licenses.

d) DHO Senior:

Cindy Cameron-Cherry

- We have managed to get everyone rostered now in the senior divisions. Thanks to those of you who helped when I couldn't get there. All divisions are set with their bench staff also, and the division managers can report more thoroughly for their own divisions.
- **Hockey pools** have gone out and are open for sales until October 31st. Division managers, it is up to you to make sure those get returned and money received by then, as our license states: end of sales is October 31st. Reminder that it is a mandatory minimum of two per player, not per

household. I have given a week to get the spread sheet filled in, and then, I will send the link that you can send out to the people who bought them. Then, they will have a week to choose their teams. The cost this season was \$750 + tax for the amount of teams that we usually have, which was approved by the executive.

- **Apparel-** the delays have been from our supplier's side unfortunately, which has obviously been frustrating for everyone, myself included. I hope that by the time we have our meeting, that packages will have gone out to the teams, so they can get ordering. We have decided that U9 and U11 will use the SAMHA logo (which I still don't know if Winwave will do for us, I'm waiting on some answers, otherwise they can go to Watermark), and the U7s can go ahead with their own logos. U9 and U11 can do their own helmet and bottle decals in their own logos if they want.
- **Tournaments-** we now need to stick to the names we have on the website for all tournaments, so please, division managers, let your team managers know, and if there are any issues, we will address any name changes after this season is over. We have already set the precedent, so it needs to stay that way going forward for this season.
- **Financial Assistance Fund-** I need my committee to respond to the batch of requests sent on Saturday, October 11th, so that I can get back to the applicants. We have also agreed that the minor increase in apparel costs will go directly to the SAMHA Financial Assistance Fund, so that we can keep it replenished and keep helping our SAMHA families.
- Fundraising- division managers please remind your teams that they need to get approval for fundraisers. It's really just to make sure we don't have the same stuff happening at the same team with different teams. I have gotten a few requests in.
- One last thing, tournament, managers, and fundraising guides have all been updated on the website, so you can direct your team managers there.
- We need to ensure that people are not on the ice until they have their CRC. This is extremely important and something that can't be missed.

e) DHO Junior:

Tziganey Gagnon

- All teams have now been finalized for the junior divisions. We have yet to roster the U7's as they were put on a bit of a hold with their final evaluation game being cancelled on thanksgiving. Deb will get to that once she is home.
- U9 teams were also finalized with a bit of player movement due to coaching requests. Our "B" team is looking for guidance on how their

games will be structured this year so we are still waiting to hear from other associations on how this division will be run. I'd like to draw up a policy for this division next year, starting with team selection, coaching selection, and overall structure. I have spoken with Jason about this and am excited to get it started.

- U11 Rec have had a bit of a rough start, with bench staff not being rostered, missing jerseys in each set so no complete sets, and an overall sense of frustration. The transition from U9 to U11 is a challenge for lots of families but we've had some guidance on providing sufficient information, to hopefully help make sense of things

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

- Nothing to report

h) 1st Vice President:

Mel Penner

- Team formations for all rec teams are now complete. It felt like a long start up process but that was the trickle down effect of our rep program. Thank you to everyone who put a lot of hard work into the start up process.
- We were able to find head coaches and bench staff and have lots of new volunteers in SAMHA which is exciting.
- We are working now on getting Jamie out to practices for some of our divisions with less experienced coaches to give them support and help them build practices. I think this will be a valuable asset to these coaches.
- Eric and myself have built a security schedule for all Silverbacks home games and have our 50/50 process sorted for the season. We have 7th players picked and are working with Allison and Heather to give all u7 and u9 teams a chance to play an intermission mini game. Having this connection with the silverbacks is exciting for our young players and important to continue.
- I know lots of board members and staff are feeling drained after start up so I just want to reiterate how well everyone has done. It is never easy and there is always speed bumps in the process. We can take some time in the coming months to reflect on start up and fix things for next season but I

just wanted to thank everyone for all the work they've contributed to the season already. It doesn't go unnoticed and I know it's appreciated by many.

i) 2nd Vice President:

Val Kloska

- All teams are officially formed. In total we have 8 all female teams across the association for the second year (not including the novas). Looking forward I think we will need to consider a junior and a senior female div manager - it has been an immense amount of work for Nikki and I have off loaded where able. She has done a phenomenal job but being the support and contact for 8 teams of different age groups is too much.
- U7 is our small team. I will work on some creative ways to support this team for upcoming game play with additional players.
- U9 female AP to u11 requests were submitted and we await word back from Omaha.
- U13 to u15 female APs I previously discussed with you all had a delay as Deb and I started this work when Deb returned this week. My goal is to ensure all steps are completed for these final two players this week.
- The Swift tournament schedule is drafted with icetimes between Chase and SA. I have to slot in teams, but otherwise the draft is set. Games will start early Friday morning and run to Monday mid-day. I will finalize the schedule for your review by the first week of November. I am going to put together a communication to guest teams that will review the general schedule related to hotel booking needs. Roy emailed saying we lost a couple guest teams but don't know any more than that. The prestige wasn't willing to exceed their two team limit so hotel accommodations for 24 visiting teams will likely not be feasible but will see what I hear back based on my email. An initial tournament committee meeting invite to all 5 host teams will go out this week for the first week of November. We have very few returning parents that have led the work on this tournament in the first two years, so it will be almost a new year from scratch coordinating this tourney.

k) 3rd Vice President

Liam O'Brien

- Rep and Dev teams are all under way. The upper north zone project was longer than anticipated to finalize down to tier4.

- OMAHA has put out a survey with questions for association membership to take part in. This was not only designed to go to rep families. The goal of this survey is to get feedback on the whole hockey picture as it relates to rep and rec players and families. An OMAHA meeting is scheduled for Sun Oct 26th to further discuss the pilot project with the survey being a useful tool in these discussions.
- I have had to clarify to several of the membership on how the Upper North Zone has been run. Many are under the impression that one person has been making the decisions for this project. As there has been one main contact/communication person, there has been a larger committee consisting of board members from all four participating associations making the decisions.
- An Item to note that was agreed on by the committee is in regards to pay for coaches. In the past SAMHA has paid coaches \$500/ month for rep coaches to help with travel and expenses as a non parent coach. Our neighbouring associations have always left that up to their teams to pay these fees. We decided for the Upper North Zone, individual teams will cover \$500/month for non parent head coaches and \$250/month for parent head coaches.

7. Divisional Manager Reports:

j) U7

Heather Anderson

- 1 - Start up has been very slow, my teams will only have a few days to collect hockey pools. I won't have teams declared until Oct 15 with their first practice set for Oct 19.
- 2 - Associations have started reaching out to me to book games. When do I know what ice time I have available for games or just use my super Sunday ice slot?

k) U9

Allison Drager

- Finally, have the Integrated teams all rostered and we are underway with our practice rotation.
- U9 B have already had games scheduled and this has been communicated to the team manager. There is an upcoming meeting that Tziganey and myself will attend to schedule games for the other 2 integrated teams for sure (not sure on the females).

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- Feedback on the jerseys and socks is that they are very nice and good quality compared to Tim's jerseys. However, jersey's and socks are quite small for our U9 players. Jason is supposed to look into ordering new socks for teams/players. If next year or next time these are ordered, more medium jerseys over smalls and extra smalls for this age with the gear on, as this was also an issue last year with Tim's jersey.
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l) U11

Chantal Tessier

- U11 Dev took gold for their first tournament of the year! Very exciting stuff.
- - tournament planning underway for Rec (nov 28-30) and Integrated Dev (nov 21-23)
- - working with Jason and Jamie on ice support and improving communication with the families
- - managers feeling really overwhelmed with learning the ways of things and have inquired about bringing back managers meeting at the beginning of the season.

m) U13

Gary Ruden

- T2
 - Players (15/2)
 - Coach Mark Delleman
 - Assistant Coach - Kip Noble
 - Assistant Coach - Blake Lawson,
 - Assistant Coach - Chris Jacobs
 - Team Manager - Camille Yano
 - HCSP – Chris Jacobs
 - Sponsor – Yan's Restaurant
 - Affiliate players – notified and rostered
 - All officials have proper certifications
 - 3 Tournaments
 - Salmon Arm, Vernon, Port Moody
- Team 1
 - Players (16/2)
 - Coach Nelson Reed
 - Assistant Coach – Andreas Kitsinelis - Pending
 - Assistant Coach – Cam LaBoyne
 - Team Manager – Kristal Burgess – Pending
 - HCSP – Nelson Reed
 - Sponsor - Salmar

- 3 Tournaments
- Salmon Arm, Penticton, Chase
- Team 2
 - Players (15/2)
 - Coach Patrick Riley
 - Assistant Coach – Chris Larson
 - Assistant Coach - Jason Philips - Pending
 - Team Manager – Lindsay Larson
 - HCSP – Chris Larson
 - Sponsor – Askew’s
 - 3 Tournaments
 - Salmon Arm, – including home Tournament
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- Outstanding issues
 - Discipline – TS– Meet with parents – GR/Cindy
 - Move goalie down to U13?
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n) U15

Randi North East

- Team formation was done with the head coaches and board support. The process was smooth and fair teams were established.
- We had room to welcome a couple out-of-association players, from Chase and Sicamous, as they don't have U15 teams.
- Bench staff are currently working on getting all certifications needed to be rostered.
- 2 tourneys for each team have been booked and paid for. The first one is team LOWE in Kelowna Oct 24th.
- Coaches and parents have expressed disappointment with having only 1 practice a week.
- Questions from Managers as to why we aren't working with a local supplier for team swag; frustration that they're still waiting on a price list. Hopeful that turnaround on product is quick to make up for time lost waiting on pricing and ordering process. Also hopeful the discounts are sufficient to balance the disappointment with not using a local company and the delay in info.
- Questions from Managers about photo day info.

Namebar Update:

- Order has been placed for 220 namebars. Turnaround is about 4 weeks. Parents are making the \$40/set payment to a dedicated account; invoice will be paid once the order is received. Any residual funds will be reported to the Board once payment is made.

o) U18

Tanja Poschl

- All teams have been formed now and the season is on its way. There have definitely been a lot of challenges this start up season, from lack of a third coach, lack of parent volunteers to lack of communication within the board/executives which seems to be nothing new unfortunately.
- My hope going forward is that it will be a great season and little issues. I have asked each rec team for 1 tournament chair who I hope will work together and split the workload prior to the home tournament as well as during the tournament weekend, rather than have one tournament coordinator who is stuck with being at the rink for 3 days straight. So far they all seem to be on board with that and I hope that is something that we can start to do across the board (if it's not something that other divisions are doing).

p) Female

Niki Carlin

- U11 Female Dev team is looking to play a third away team. This is allowed as it is the same as U11 Dev integrated.
- U7 Female roster is small but they are very happy and happy to play just a couple games.
- Val and I hosted a Head Coach & Team Manager meeting last week; went over policies specific to female and gave new volunteers the opportunity to ask questions.
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q) Ref Assignor

Sean Russell

- The year is off to a busy start, with the first tournament on thanksgiving weekend. We were able to cover all the games with 3 officials and 4 for the semi and finals. With the super league in full swing and rep & female leagues started, it's going to be a challenge having officials for all the games from our home association, especially with so many games in other towns at the same time as our home rink. I know we are going to be using officials from other associations. I think we are going to need to revisit the travel compensation, for officials that are closer in line with OMAHA's new travel rates of .70 cents per KM.
- So I would like to propose new rates of \$30 for Sicamous and Enderby and \$65 for Chase. This would be half way of what OMAHA new rates are and what our old rates are currently.

r) Referee In Chief

Matt Davies

- **Absent**

s) Equipment Manager

Devon Chan

- The bulk of the startup rush is over. Big thanks to Lori, Mel, and Jason for helping get things out to the teams. All requests are being handled as quickly as possible, and everyone should have what they need by this week.
- We're still waiting for some sponsor bars. Brushstrokes was delayed in getting the blank bars due to the Canada Post strike. Randi Northeast is doing sponsor bar sewing for us this year. She's been getting things done quickly for a very reasonable cost, with drop off and pickup from the arena. Thank you Randi!
- In terms of communication, I'm actually not picky about who contacts me. It doesn't bother me if parents, coaches, or managers send me emails.
- However, I have two requests for communication:
- 1. Please give ALL the details. Which team it is and who the sponsor is. What sizes and numbers you're looking for. What you currently have. A picture would be helpful. "I need bigger socks" or "Our numbers don't match" doesn't give me enough information to get people what they need, especially when the jerseys and socks are no longer at the arena for me to look at.
- 2. Give me at least two business days' lead time for requests. If you need a bigger jersey on Sunday morning, put in the request by Wednesday evening.

t) Risk Manager/Social Media

Lori Adamson

-I believe we have enough safety equipment to cover all of the teams now. I do not have a list of the safety people yet for the teams, because some of the rosters are still being completed. Some coaches are still naming and certifying HCSPs on their team. Once I can get names for safety people, I will be able to communicate better, and set up an orientation and an email list.

-Just a reminder that the EAP in the arena is inaccurate with respect to Emergency access - Rogers Rink would like all emergency personnel to attend the main entrance (the players entrance by our office) for all emergencies, and not use any other doors for emergencies. The EAP on the wall does not reflect this. I will communicate this in the safety meeting in November, but in the meantime, I am trying to share this information as much as possible. I will write up a new EAP for SAMHA before the safety meeting to distribute. I cannot change the EAP on the wall – it is property of Rogers Rink, and I will leave it to them to adjust.

-Questions regarding Bullying, Harassment, Abuse, Maltreatment – please direct people to the policy on the website unless in immediate danger (911). The policy outlines steps to be taken.

-Safety orientation tentatively being scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th, 5:30pm.

-I have been sorting out some individual safety needs, and I think the players are set up for a good season. I hope everyone stays safe!

u) Sandbags

Lana McNeill

- Total of 3721 bags sold @ \$4/bag = \$14884
- Expenses:
 - bags \$1380
 - Ties \$72
 - Pizza \$652
- Was a tough year for sales. Buyers either had overstock or were tight themselves this year, but welcomed calls for support next year.
- I do not want payment this year please. A small coffee card from Anvil or Starbucks is fine, but I'd rather the money go to the teams. I am happy to help out
- What about issuing donation receipts to drivers? If they maybe track their mileage, we can issue a donation receipt for it? I don't know if this is pittance for them but might be something to look at besides paying them out straight cash for their gas...or both? The drivers today, particularly Kamloops ones, put out a lot of driving.

Approval of standing reports: Moved: Cindy Cameron Cherry **Seconded:** Mel Penner

8. New Business:

- A team has requested to not have a jersey parent this year and wants their players to look after their own jerseys. We have a policy in place so we need to stick to that.

In Camera:

Motion to move In Camera: Cindy Cameron Cherry **Second:** Tziganey Gagnon

Next meeting -November 17 @ Salmar Grand (Monday, Nov 17th, 6:30pm)