



Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association
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Minutes: December 2025

Date: December 15, 2025

In Attendance: Roy Sakaki, Melanie Penner, David Mueller, Chantal Tessier, John White, Devon Chan, Gary Rudin, Liam O'Brien, Heather Anderson, Cindy Cameron-Cherry, Tanja Poschl, Lana McNeill

Remote Attendance:

Absent:, Sean Russell, Lori Adamson, Allison Drager, Randi Northeast, Matt Davies, Niki Carlin, Jason Brown, Tziganey Gagnon, Jamie Mceachern, Val Kloska

Late Arrivals:

- 1. Call to order at 6:32 pm Chairing:** John White
- 2. Approval of agenda: Moved:** David Mueller **Second:** Liam O'Brien **Carried**
- 3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting: Moved:** Liam O'Brien **Second:** Melanie Penner **Carried**
- 4. Presentation**
- 5. Business Arising for previous minutes:** None
- 6. Standing Reports:**

a) Executive Director

Jason Brown

Officiating Update:

We have been working a lot to manage the situation regarding officiating in the association for the better part of 3-4 weeks. BC Hockey has been involved to offer support and guidance through the process.

BC Hockey will be offering mentorship to our officials over the course of the remainder of the season, and we are working to better align the officiating program as a whole internally.

Matt Davies has stepped away as Referee in Chief effective immediately, and there is no current replacement. I have engaged 3-4 potential candidates about the role, and am confident to not only have a replacement in the early weeks of the new year, but to also have a mentorship program within the officiating ranks rolled out as well with the

inclusion of some senior officials who would love to support the association more in this capacity.

In the interim, I have been and will continue to monitor the inbox of the Referee in Chief. This time of year the workload is minimal for the role, and it won't be until we look towards programs and courses for next season that the workload will pick up once again.

Ice Allocation Update:

We have worked through the first half of the year to ensure equity among the age categories, and divisions within our association. I am happy to report that as we approach the Christmas break, all teams have been 'evened out' in terms of their access to ice comparative to registration costs, and one another. We will continue to work to ensure that in future seasons this work can be done more effectively, and earlier in the process of season startup.

There will be a list of available ice times for the second half of the season to come out just before the break. That ice will be available on a first come first served basis and must be booked through the office. We will be allocating ice in a manner that will ensure all teams have access to additional ice should they want it, meaning we won't allocate a disproportionate amount of extra ice to anyone team without everyone first getting an opportunity.

Director of Hockey Development:

In the absence of a true skills program like has been hosted in the past, we have added Jamie as our Director of Hockey Development, and the intention was to have him work closely in support of our coaches to assist them with player development within the context of their team practices.

Jamie has joined our Recreation teams in all ages and categories, and the feedback I've received is positive across the board.

Outside of creating a skills program, which is something that has been asked for (we would provide this program once again with more access to ice) I believe having Jamie to assist these coaches and teams has been a successful venture thus far, and a worthwhile investment for the association in our player development.

Going forward, we will continue to bolster the role and work to create a uniform schedule so that teams in future years will have a better understanding going into the season of how much and what type of support they can expect. As is the case in any year 1 of a new program, we are building the best program possible as we go through it, and what we're learning right now will directly help us in developing a more concrete plan for next season with regard to this position.

A look ahead to 2026:

While the 2025/2026 season has settled in and the hockey is prevailing, we have a lot to work on operationally, and from a communications standpoint looking ahead to next season. In my January report I will have a comprehensive look back at this seasons

startup, and will have a look forward into the next number of months in preparation for next year.

I will revisit our partnerships with new sponsors and suppliers, give an overview of the financials, and will provide a series of recommendations on all things programming, internal operations, and communications internal with the board and external to our members.

Administrator:

Roy Sakaki

- Jason/Crystal working on playoff ice
- Playoffs: U15 and U18 fem. A ...ice for Feb. 27-Mar. 1 Best of 2 out 3.
- heads up for NOSL playoffs needing ice...starts Feb. 21 st to Mar. 3. Host c championship on Super Tuesday
- all others in OMAHA including Dev...tournament format starts:
 - Feb. 27-Mar 1: U11 fem rec and U15 fem rec
 - Mar. 6-8: U13 fem rec and U18 fem rec and U11 Dev integ.
- District Championships: U18 rec tourney Mar. 13-15 in SA
 - (who represents SAMHA if we host?) highest in playoff standings. Highest standing in playoffs 'hosts', and if we win the league we will have 2 host teams.
- Sale of SA jerseys in Hucul foyer for interested parents/spectators who wish to buy one?
 - Give one home/away to sponsors? Sell sets of uniforms?
- The U9 tournament this past weekend was a great success. Really enjoyed the tournament.
- Financial reports due this week
- Affordability of tournaments? One close and one distant.
- The referee room is super cold, and needs a heater. Will need to approach Rogers Center.

b) Director of Hockey Development

Jamie McEachern

Practices: I have had the opportunity to attend all teams practices to view how things are going. Attempts made to attend all teams practices and offer assistance and support. Most coaches very willing to collaborate and have had me take part, and this has been very constructive.

U11 Skills sessions. - slow start with only 8 players at the first session. 14 at the last session and a total of 17 signed up. Parents have mentioned the second early morning being difficult, but that is the same for the other U11 dev teams having two morning practices.

Goalies sessions with Angus: - up and running, once through the groupings. I have encouraged those that work with the goalies to attend with their players and learn from Angus, including myself. Getting volunteers to help and I believe that will help goaltenders in general. Additionally, I have provided a Goaltender warmup and practice series and distributed it to all head coaches. This included a video, practice plan and handout highlighting key teaching points.

APs: Encouraging coaches to make use of APs - identifying, requesting, getting them to practice and games when needed. Reminders were sent early on to coaches to identify and AP goaltenders.

Spring Hockey: Fielding some questions about spring options. I think there is an opportunity to provide some form of programming through the association in the future.

Survey: I would like to propose a survey to be distributed to the membership to determine interest levels regarding spring programming. Additionally, I think getting some feedback from members is a worthy pursuit. Jason and I have talked about this and will pull something together. The goal would be to distribute and review the surveys and bring results agenda for our next board meeting.

Ongoing: Receiving requests and meeting with parents to meet regarding future hockey development within the association.

c) Treasurer:

Eric Penner

- Nothing to report

d) DHO Senior:

Cindy Cameron-Cherry

- We continue to have some issues with goalie availability and having to do some last-minute emergency relief paperwork. We need to try and get AP goalies on all rosters before the cutoff period, as it's definitely causing some headaches. I think that perhaps a discussion needs to be had with our U15 goalies to maybe be able to come out to practices with the U18s once in a while and see if they could be comfortable playing in U18 as a backup. The consensus last time was that they were scared because of the age gap and possible intensity of the shots, but if they haven't been out, how can they know. Maybe they might not find it so bad. Our U13s should definitely be put as APs on the U15 rosters, of course with parent permission, so that we aren't scrambling to get paperwork into BC Hockey. We have had to reach out to neighbouring associations and borrow from tournament host teams to get by.
- We have pretty spread-out teams in U15 and U18 with regards to the standings, which is obviously not ideal. U13 is at the bottom of the standings but the two teams are together there at least.
- As some of you know already, we have been having issues with players causing trouble in hotels while they are away at tournaments. Gary has dealt with the latest one, and the coach, with support from Gary, handed out some internal suspensions, so hopefully, these players have learned a lesson and will behave more appropriately in the future. Jason put together a memo for our membership in this regard. I think it's something that can also be added to manager/coach meetings for the beginning of the season, so that they can address it as well as the possible disciplinary action that SAMHA will take in these situations.

- We were able to help all of the requests for financial assistance this season, which is fantastic, and most of them were accepted for other outside grants/funds that they had applied for as well, which obviously helps us too. That being said, that fund is getting depleted, so anything that can be done to direct funds that way, would surely help a lot of our SAMHA families in future seasons.
- We had a few issues with hockey pools, just people not getting the links to make their teams, but because of this new system they have, which we pay for, I was able to manually add the pools for the people who didn't get their links. Obviously, this is not something that we would want to have to do a lot, but at least we could look at the situation and see it was a legitimate issue from our side that we could fix for them.
- I think most teams have received their apparel by now, finally! I have no idea when/if Winwave will be putting up the online store... but I think that ship has sailed anyway. I asked a few times and never received an answer.

e) DHO Junior:

Tziganey Gagnon

- U7- Heather did a fantastic job of creating a schedule for the u7 girls to join the integrated games whenever they can and want, so most girls are now playing games with the integrated teams as well as their 6 games against them. Everyone seems to be really happy.
- Big shoutout to Heather organizing that!
- They are doing a jamboree with all 3 integrated and female teams before Christmas to wrap up the 2025 year.
- U7 team 3 had their first away tournament and our smaller rosters proved to be a detriment to their team as lots of the little ones didn't make it to the games. Hopefully adding some of the female team to their roster will help!
- U9- hosted their home tournament this weekend and as far as I know it went really well. The Christmas tree raffle idea was a huge hit and they sold out of their raffle items by 11 am Saturday morning. Big thanks to everyone involved in that tournament.
- U11- Jamie has been working on AP's for our 2 rec teams as well as the u11 dev kids being AP'd to U13.

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

- Nothing to report

i) 2nd Vice President:

Val Kloska

- Nikki continues to do a great job. She can add some further detail to her ongoing tasks but she is great at communicating and keeping everyone up to date.
- We did have an inquiry for a u11 female looking to potentially join. Nikki can provide further info.
- I have not actioned or approved the u13 dual roster requests from sicamous (would be a dual and then an AP) to u15 female after looking at the information further.
- The tournament committee for the SWFT is slowly coming together, but coming together. Good response from my last email. There has been one schedule change request for the tourney, out of all 28 teams coming so that was awesome!
- I will take on some volunteering for the weekend related to the schedule, team snap etc.
- I have been trying to keep up on emails etc. if something is needed urgently a text is always welcome.

k) 3rd Vice President

Liam O'Brien

- Not too much has come my way in the last month.
- We are working on finalizing a protocol for APs for the rep stream with the upper north zone program. We have tried to not have teams run with maxed out rosters to keep playing time more beneficial for players. In doing so we are experiencing teams that could really use the help of APs.

- An AP process that allows for opportunity in multiple ways for developing players moving up as well as players in different roles on their teams is what we are seeking to solidify.

7. Divisional Manager Reports:

j) U7

Heather Anderson

- I have been working on scheduling U7 players from the female team to join the U7 integrated teams for game play and the home tournament (since the U7 female team was approved to withdraw from the home tournament). I have been keeping track of who is playing when to ensure no one player in U7 is getting more game experience than another player.
- Our teams are small, the past tournament found the players were exhausted and we put out a call to send additional players to their Sunday game. I'm not sure if this is due to the specific tournament format (games were longer than an hour) or if we need to consider bigger teams next season so teams have 3 shifts available at games
- I have more information about the Sicamous tournament. The games were not longer, we just had a very low turnout. Only 7-8 players came out for games.

k) U9

Allison Drager

- No report submitted.

l) U11

Chantal Tessier

- Both U11 home tournaments held in the last month
 - U11 Dev went smooth overall. Positive feedback from visiting teams.
 - U11 Rec sounds like there were some hiccups with several unfilled volunteer shifts, yellow cards and player suspensions though it sounds like it was all handled.
- U9 APs for Rec teams assigned and rostered - big thanks to Deb.
- Dev. coach Jordan has put in his request for APs from the rec teams so just waiting for that to be finalized. Have had a goalie practicing 1x per week and have had positive feedback from his family about this.

m) U13

Gary Ruden

U13 - Tournament Update

- Organizing Committee was formed.
- Co – Chair - Suzanne Lewis
- Co – Chair – Jessica Walters
- Secretary – Jessica Penner
- Treasurer – Amber Woods

- All Tournament tasks have been assigned.

- There was confusion on the Game Format for the U13 Tournament.
As per the Tournament Guide; 12-team tournaments including host teams- (Recreation) U13, U15 and U18 Integrated and Female:

- Game duration: 1.5 hrs.
- Periods: First and second period: straight time. **(flood halfway 2nd period)**
- Third period: stop time. (If third period time is of concern, the tournament chair, in discussion with the referee, will adjust time accordingly to complete on time, continuing with stop time until the end.
- No overtime or shoot out in round robin play.
- I reached out to Crystal to confirm and according to her there were no ice cleans (floods) at the U13 level as per the Tournament Guide that she had.
- After looping in the Tournament Committee, and Roy, it was decided by the Tournament Committee that there will be no ice cleans.

- 5 minute - warm up (5)
- 2 – 20 minute run time periods (40)
- Third period being 20 minute stop time. (30-40)
- Hand Shakes (5)

U13 A2 Tournament Update

- Sian Lawson and Coach Delleman are Co-Chairs for the tournament, everything is proceeding well!!

Discipline Issue – Team 2 – Kamloops Tournament

- I received an email from Coach Riley, looking for guidance from SAMHA, on how to proceed, after a number of discipline issues at the recent Kamloops Tournament.
 - Players was spraying down the pool area with the staff hose, throwing lounge chairs into the pool
 - Player pushing room cleaning carts into staff rooms and dumping all the laundry onto the floor.
 - Video of the player and a couple other players playing Ding Dong Ditch the night before.

- First night at the team dinner two players broke some bottles in the back alley beside the restaurant which the assistant coach and I dealt with by making them clean it up.
- After discussion it was decided that it would be appropriate to hold a team meeting. The conference room at the arena was booked on December 4th. All coaches, parents and players were in attendance, with the exception of one player. The Division manager was in attendance.
- Head Coach read a prepared statement:
- *Thanks for being here on short notice. We need to address some serious behavior issues that occurred at the Kamloops tournament—both in the hotel and around the rink. Incidents included damage to property, disruption of hotel guests and staff, and behavior that does not reflect our team values. The hotel provided video and staff reports confirming multiple events. This was disappointing for all of us. Tournaments are meant to be a highlight of the season—a chance for teammates and families to bond. Instead, we were left dealing with complaints and behavior that reflects poorly on the whole team, even though only a number of players were involved. I want to be clear: as coaches and managers, we volunteer our time because we care about your kids and their love of hockey. But supervising children in hotels is ultimately a shared responsibility. We gave the players some independence, and unfortunately, it became clear that as a group they weren't ready for that level of freedom. Going forward, we are asking each parent to directly supervise their own child during hotel stays, team travel, and downtime at events. We've also heard concerns about behavior in the dressing room—bullying, inappropriate language, and actions that make players uncomfortable. Coaches cannot be in the dressing room at all times, so we're asking for parent volunteers to help with supervision before and after practices and games to ensure a positive environment. Regarding consequences: based on the incidents and confirmed involvement, several players will receive suspensions or benching's proportional to their actions. Those conversations will happen privately with the families involved. In addition, all involved players will be required to write letters of apology to the hotel staff. There was no major property damage, but hotel workers spent significant time cleaning up after our team, and acknowledging that is important. If any players were involved in the ding-dong-ditch behavior and have not yet been identified, this is an opportunity to come forward—either now or privately afterward. We're not looking to punish honesty; we're trying to teach accountability. Our goal is to move forward as a stronger, more respectful team. Your support and cooperation are essential to creating the environment we all want for the kids. Before we wrap up, I'd like to open the floor: does anyone have*

thoughts, concerns, or suggestions about supervision, expectations, or consequences?

Post meeting discussions with players:

-
- L. G.– Suspended for 2 games. Will be present in the stands for both games.
- J. S. – Suspended for 1 period at the next game. Will sit on the bench for the first period.

Meeting before the game on Dec 6, 2025:

- H. A.– Conversation with Patrick Riley, Jason Philps, Kendra Andreasen – Suspended for 1 period. To be served on Dec 13, 2025 as he was playing in net on Dec 6th and we didn't want to dress two goalies.
- A copy of the minutes and the prepared statement will be copied to Roy.

n) U15

Randi North East

- No report submitted.

o) U18

Tanja Poschl

- Not much to report on my end. All seems to be smooth sailing.

p) Female

Niki Carlin

-

q) Ref Assignor

Sean Russell

- No report submitted.

r) Referee In Chief

?

- No report submitted.

s) Equipment Manager

Devon Chan

- Looking to get a set or two of goalie pads that can be worn over normal gear, so we can swap out goalies more frequently (bauer Learn To Save Goal Kit). Will look into funding for this.

t) Risk Manager/Social Media

Lori Adamson

- Nothing to report

u) Sandbags

Lana McNeill

- sandbag update/year end. 28 businesses purchased 3731. 5 teams participated. Went well. Sales: \$14920, less expenses, total \$13330, net profit \$11332, with each team getting \$2266
- Recommend capping it at 4 teams.
- There is competition from other associations (eg Scouts Canada)
- May be able to reduce costs by getting donated bags to use.

Approval of standing reports: Moved: David Mueller **Seconded:** Liam O'Brien

8. New Business:

- Spring fundraiser pitch: (1) Host a mini golf tournament (will have volunteer help), (2) Community Partners Hockey Event (police, fire, etc.) - hockey tournament, maybe have one Silverbacks player join each team. 1st place, gets bragging rights! Income comes from ticket sales for spectators, less costs (ice, awards, etc).

In Camera:

Motion to move In Camera: Liam O'Brien **Second:** Cindy Cameron Cherry

Next meeting -January 19th @ Salmar Grand (Monday, Jan 19th, 6:30pm)