



**Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association**  
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## **Minutes: January 2026**

**Date: January 19th, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Roy Sakaki, Melanie Penner, David Mueller, Chantal Tessier, John White, Devon Chan, Tziganey Gagnon, Gary Rudin, Liam O'Brien, Niki Carlin, Heather Anderson, Cindy Cameron-Cherry, Tanja Poschl, Val Kloska, Randi Northeast, Sean Russell, Jason Brown Allison Drager

**Remote Attendance:**

**Absent:** Lori Adamson,, Jamie Mceachern, Lana McNeill

**Guests:** Kristen Musial

**Late Arrivals:**

- 1. Call to order at 6:31 pm Chairing:**John White
- 2. Approval of agenda: Moved:** Cindy Cameron Cherry **Second:** Val Kloska **Carried**
- 3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting: Moved:** Val Kloska **Second:** Liam O'Brien **Carried**
- 4. Presentation**
- 5. Business Arising for previous minutes:** None
- 6. Standing Reports:**

**Administrator:**

**Roy Sakaki**

- Review of glass breaking in U18 T2 game/OMAHA guidelines on both tables/Rogers *Must follow the OMAHA guidelines, but will try to manage the delays working with the arena workers. Manager should be responsible to ensure the time-keeper knows the OMAHA rules.*
- Year end stuff: Jerseys/equipment return (Devon/Roy) - *Checklist will be sent out to all teams to ensure all equipment returned.*
- Holdback on team contra acct - This will be for equipment return.

- Esso Medals program/medals ordered/U21 trophies/location and date April 21 (Hucul dry floor booked) Mel/Cindy/Roy
- AGM to follow Awards Night. Elections: 25-26: 2 yr. term: VP1, Treasurer, DHO Senior.
- Send your intention to run to Roy. Nominations accepted from floor.
- Year end adult awards/Life time members (5 outstanding years of service) nominations...send nomination and write up to Roy. Exec. will decide on choice. (adult awards: Presidents Award, Volunteer of Year, Rep/Rec/Female coach of the year/Unsung hero/Safety Award. Honorary Life time)
- Coaching staff dinner at Yan's April 14th . 6 pm. Adult Awards presented
- Brief summary of first half financial reports - *all reports in.*
- Try program Spring Break/dates Mar. 17, 18, 19...male: 4:30 pm female: 5:30 pm. Must register through Hockey Canada. Will be on our website. *Link will be on the SAMHA website*
- Tablet #1 is still missing

**a) Executive Director**

**Jason Brown**

-Playoffs: Waiting on tournament schedules. Will see if we have ice to host. Will work with OMAHA on this. Should know in a day or two.

-No increase for ice rates, booking policy has been updated, etc. (Rogers)

-RIC update - Hope to have someone in place by middle of March at the latest. We have a couple of good candidates, so should be able to fill the spot. Will accept other recommendations.

-other: Dealing with 18 and filling spots

**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. Some coaches are very receptive and I am working regularly with their groups. I have a schedule in place for the U11 Rec, U11 rec female, U13 Rec, U15 Rec divisions in place and looking to firm up the schedule with all the

remaining groups. So far this has just been scheduled on days that suit those teams.

#### U11 Skills sessions.

These sessions are going well. Good attendance and motivated kids that are making great strides.

#### Goalie sessions with Angus:

Hearing great things from the goaltender parents. I have encouraged those that work with the goalies to attend with their players and learn from Angus, including myself when not scheduled at the same time. We are getting volunteers to help and they are learning from Angus. 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. I have also used this plan several times when helping with team practices

#### Spring Hockey:

Fielding some questions about spring options which is mostly just providing information to people about what is available. The concern I am hearing is that this information is only "word-of-mouth" and hard for people to find. Perhaps consider sharing this information with our members through social media.

I think there is an opportunity to provide some form of programming through the association but we will have to make a decision quickly as Spring Ice requests need to be made ASAP. This might work best as a skill development series rather than team formation but open to suggestions here.

#### Survey:

I would like to get a survey out this week. It would be distributed to the membership to gauge member satisfaction and based on the prior surveys we have used. We could also use it to determine interest levels regarding spring programming as mentioned above. Is there anything else we would like to learn from the members? Jason and I have talked about this and will pull something together. We see that we should use 3 surveys.

1. SAMHA member playing in SAMHA
2. SAMHA members playing on other MHA teams
3. Players from other MHAs playing in SAMHA

The goal would be to distribute and review the surveys and bring results to our next board meeting.

*Would maybe want to add something about Spring Skill Development in the survey, but limited to skills, not team formation. Ice may still be a constraint. 3 v 3? Not team formation. Jason will put together a proposal (pay to play and 1-2x/wk)*

**c) Treasurer:**

**Eric Penner**

- Nothing to report

**d) DHO Senior:**

**Cindy Cameron-Cherry**

- There is something I would like to say as part of my report. This season it has become increasingly apparent to me that differing opinions are not really welcome. I have been met with defensive sarcastic comments or pure silence when just trying to get an answer or give my opinion or thoughts on something, which is not constructive when trying to get work done. If we can't come together and have conversations about things, then what are we doing here? This has led me to feel like my opinion is not valued or wanted, which again leads me to ask, " what am I doing here?"
- I believed that being on a board is to help get things done in a manner that is suitable for most of the people we serve in our membership, which requires discussion and differing opinions/views to be presented so that we can make the best decision possible. It has become exceedingly difficult to have those discussions.
- I am not saying this to call anyone out or to try to be difficult or confrontational, in fact, I hate having to be in this situation... I do not like confrontation at all, but I think that we all need to be more cognisant and respectful of each other. We all put a tonne of effort and work into helping this association run and making sure we are supporting the players, bench staff and families in the best way possible. A small amount of respect and decency goes a long way in building trust, and I believe our membership has lost trust in us, so we need to be extremely aware of respect and transparency, especially within our own board.
- I want to remind everyone that a question or an opinion is not an attack, and there is no need to be defensive, and all of us should feel comfortable sharing our opinions/thoughts. We have to be able to have discussions around everything to get our work done properly and in the best possible way for our membership and our board members, keeping in mind that our division managers are the forefront of communication that goes out to the families in our association.
- That being said, I feel like we are doing a disservice to the rest of our board members when we are discussing things on Tuesday morning executive meetings that are not of an urgent matter. Those meeting were originally meant to keep control of things in season that needed to be dealt with quicker. There are discussions being had that especially our new division managers need to

be a part of so that they can also learn the nuances of our decision-making process and to be able to answer the questions that arise from parents when we make certain decisions. Again though, that's just my opinion and I am using my moment to share it.

Onto DHO senior business:

- We have spent a lot of time working on getting emergency relief players for Jamie's team. The first 2 games worked out pretty well. Yesterday's was not as great as there were conflicts for the other U18/U15 teams. Our next important step here is to try and get a couple of OAs on the roster for their Surrey tournament as they need to confirm tomorrow or Wednesday. This will mean getting OA approval for two 2007s from Jamie's team last year, and then getting them as emergency relief for that tournament. Both other U18 teams have games that weekend, and it's also an extra expense for the families if they want to go, so the OAs would really be helpful in this particular situation. Otherwise, they will have to cancel.
- One more item that has come up and I believe is very important. Since the U18 game situation, mental health has come up again as something we should be supporting in some way. I reached out to Lori when this came up from one of our families, and she provided some guidance in where to reach out for mental health support. It's perhaps something we could have on our website as a player support link or something like that.

**e) DHO Junior:**

**Tziganey Gagnon**

- Wrapping up our junior division tournaments at the end of the month with our U7 hockeysaurus classic. The girls team is disbanding for the tournament to be spread out onto the three integrated teams, as per their decision.
- Everything has been pretty quiet from U9 and U11, and Niki can speak on the female teams.

**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**

- OMAHA meeting this weekend in Kelowna:
  - Female Nova programs may not carry on at level. 3 options: league back to association, go to 2 AA teams (would play in pacific coast league, which is really expensive), or leave it with 4 A teams. These changes are based on players that came to tryout. Val will join the committee to provide direction from SAMHA. Having development in lower levels will help to feed these leagues and keep females in female hockey. Will help to follow the guidelines developed from Hockey Canada.
  - U9: OMAHA is looking to have 3 tiers to create parity throughout OMAHA at this level. Could have a re-calibration midway through the season. This may cause associations like SAMHA to not have teams to play locally. Thought would be to have associations to provide teams to this proposed league.
  - Home Team Live camera system being proposed, a presentation will be sent out.
  - Tiering weekend for u15
  - Working on making teams more quickly and having parity of how teams are formed in the Zoned rep leagues. OMAHA needs to be there to help get exhibition games.
  - U11 Dev - will not zone up as this is still recreation hockey.
  - Junior B starting back in Summerland (can affiliate with Princeton)
    - zone players welcome if we know any.
  - Video review: too many videos sent to OMAHA. These must go to the coach, then President, then OMAHA, not directly to OMAHA from parents. All videos need to show 1 minute before and after the infraction. Please let members know.
  - U18: we have a couple of suspension appeals happening, however these come with a \$500 fee. Do we help subsidize this?
  - U18 overage players will be needed for a tournament in Surrey. There are 3 OA players that would be interested, but can we add more than 2 OA players to a roster...yes, but only 2 can be playing on the game sheet (i.e- can play in the game). Players will need to be insured and they will need to know that they do not get to play the rest of the season unless as a relief player.
  - Should form a discipline committee to deal with situations where we need to make decisions regarding disciplinary issues/questions.

**h) 1st Vice President:**

**Mel Penner**

- Nothing to report

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

**Val Kloska**

- SWFT tournament committee working well, and think the tournament will go off without a hitch.
- SAMHA members that are playing in U13 are concerned that, when we represent a lot of female players playing on the U13A team, there is concern of who will host the female team(s). e.g.. - We host the u13 Lakers. Will need to find ice to accommodate this. Will need all associations to also get on board with this, and to make sure there is understanding amongst the associations.
- Some discipline things that happened in a U15 game will be brought forward to the president to make all associations involved aware.

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

**Liam O'Brien**

- The one thing on my list is the game delay due to broken glass.
- It's a topic on the list for the board meeting tonight. OMAHA policy is below. Tournament and non Omaha procedures to be discussed.
- Other situations can include injury where Ambulance is required and lengthy delay.

**7. Divisional Manager Reports:**

**j) U7**

**Heather Anderson**

- All teams are in tournaments Jan 17, if anything interesting happens I will bring it up.

**k) U9**

**Allison Drager**

- Nothing to report

**l) U11**

**Chantal Tessier**

- Need to have some clarity on how to go about the AP process. Director of Hockey Development will ensure this.

**m) U13**

**Gary Ruden**

- U13 - Tournament Recap:
- Have asked for feed-back from participating teams; It was a great tournament. We did come dead last, mostly due to our penalty issues. I believe it was a tie-breaker between the three 0-3 teams, we had the most

penalties so we got placed in the 11 vs 12 game. Which we lost. We did not get blown out, all of the games were within reach, and we learned a lot and improved significantly throughout the tournament. And the kids had a great time despite the result.

- It's a tricky time of year for a tournament! We lost all our games but the team has definitely improved. We didn't have any huge score divides; a couple games were close. Still lots of penalties but overall the team has improved. We've got a captain and two assistants now so that was exciting for everyone.
- Co – Chair - Suzanne Lewis
- Co – Chair – Jessica Walters
- Secretary – Jessica Penner
- Treasurer – Amber Woods
- Big Thankyou to all involved!!!
- U13 A2 Tournament Update:
  - Tournament finished on Sunday night, no feedback as of yet. Will follow up with organizing committee Sian Lawson and Coach Delleman Co-Chairs for the tournament.
  - S S - Withdrawal:
    - Jan 5, 2025 - Hi, sadly our son was supposed to play U13 this season but he has been off for most of the season due to illness. He had pneumonia October-November which triggered appendicitis so he had to have surgery at the end of November and has still been recovering. We were just wondering if there is any option of reimbursement if we formally withdraw for the season as he is now pretty behind in skills and has barely got to know his team mates.
    - Deb, has been looped and is trying to determine the last time the player participated in a team function to determine the amount of refund to process.
      - Prorated refunds are available up to December 31st of any given year– less an administrative fee set by the Board of Directors on a yearly basis. Do we make an exception in this case?

#### **n) U15**

#### **Randi North East**

- All 3 teams in middle to lower end of the standings
- Coaches are sharing the entire 90 minute morning practice to get the kids more ice time

- Coaches are sharing the 60 minute afternoon practice to get the kids more ice time
- We've had Jamie out to a couple sessions to do skills
- Home tournament coming up March 6-8
  - Tourney committee has held a meeting, tasks have been assigned
  - Draw is done
  - Schedule is with ref assigner

**o) U18**

**Tanja Poschl**

- We are still dealing with one of the U18 rec teams and trying to ensure they have enough kids on their roster while some players are serving their suspensions. So far it's worked well where we have been able to have some of the other 2 rec team players joining their team as well as APs from U15.
- Everything else has been fairly smooth going and I appreciate everyone's hard work with this situation. It has definitely been a learning curve.

**p) Female**

**Niki Carlin**

- **U7**

The U7 Female team has disbanded and joined the U7 Integrated division for games and tournaments. Thank you to U7 Division Manager, Heather, for her support in coordinating this transition.

- **U9**

The U7/U9 division would like to request hosting a one-day Female-only Jamboree next season, similar to successful events run by other associations this year.

Game scheduling has been challenging, with some confusion around game time and location changes at outside associations.

- **U11** Development

U11 Dev has had a very strong season in the integrated rec league, currently sitting 1st of 11 teams (11 GP, 10 wins, 1 tie).

They have also competed in two female development tournaments, earning silver in both, highlighting strong performance against both integrated and female development teams. The team is hopeful for a dedicated development league next season.

- **U11 Recreation**

U11 Rec is struggling this season, currently 9th of 9 with 11 games played and no wins.

- **U13**

1st place of 7 (9 GP, 8 wins)

- **U15**

4th place of 5 (9 GP, 2 wins)

- **U18**

2nd place of 7 (10 GP, 6 wins)

**Board approval is requested** for Deb to cover costs for their U18 tournament. Due to late team declaration, tournaments were scheduled after the October 31 deadline.

I would like to recommend that this deadline be moved closer to December or January, as many teams struggled to collect fees early in the season.

- **SWFT Tournament**

Planning and preparation are underway. A huge thank you to Karen Kehl (U18 Team Manager) for stepping up and taking the lead on tournament organization.

**q) Ref Assignor**

**Sean Russell**

- I would just like to remind all division managers to let their coaches know, that it is the coaches responsibility, to keep their players on the bench after the whistle goes at a stoppage of play, or buzzer at the end of a period or the game. Until directed by the official that they can leave the bench. Especially if there is a fight going on.
- The first player that leaves each bench, without direction from officials will be issued a double minor and Game misconduct, and every player after that will be issued a Game misconduct. Also the coach will be issued a Game misconduct for not keeping their player or players on the bench.
- I'm sure everyone has heard what happened in Vernon, and this weekend we had another game that turned into a bench clearing brawl at the end of the game, resulting in 8 Game misconducts and a match penalty. Those players will have multiple game suspensions. All because the coaches couldn't keep their players under control.

- It is imperative that the coaches know they have a responsibility to keep their players on the bench until directed by the official

**Motion to go to 3 or 4 man system for U18 rec:**

**Motion: Liam O'Brien, Second: Cindy Cameron Cherry**

**Yes: Tziganey, Mel, Dave**

**No:**

**Passed**

**r) Referee In Chief** ?

- No report submitted.

**s) Equipment Manager** **Devon Chan**

- Equipment return is usually the first week of April, however this year that week is the Easter long weekend. So maybe we should push the deadline to the following week. We'll use the same letter as last year, except emphasize the need to remove sponsor bars (some were missed last year), and include a financial threat for missing items. Will also include a note that we are aware U11 & U13 are already missing jerseys from their sets. Everyone else had new sets, so we expect every jersey accounted for. U7 & U11 keep one jersey as usual.
- Found some discount Winwell pucks at Costco and cleaned them out. 360 pucks for \$223.
- We did a test run with the Bauer Learn To Save goalie set. It takes about 2 minutes to dress a goalie over their regular hockey gear, so we're able to have multiple kids play goalie in a game. We'll have further opportunity to try it out at the upcoming "Goalie Try-It" session on Jan 30th. *Probably worth investing in more. Regular price is \$399.*

**t) Risk Manager/Social Media** **Lori Adamson**

- Risk manager report Jan 17/26
- Our safety people are doing a great job, and I am receiving excellent questions and requests for support and feedback often

- Just a reminder that the home team is responsible for injured referees, or at least ensure a safety person from one of the benches tends to injured refs. This could happen in a tournament in another community as well, so please be mindful.
- We had a request for individual counselling to debrief with some of our U18 rec players who are struggling after the Vernon bench brawl incident Dec.21. We don't have a specific process in place but I have directed them to some of the local counsellors who would hopefully be a good fit. It is a reminder that psychological well-being should be considered, and also recognizing the impacts of these events.
- Social media:
  - I have had a couple of questions/complaints about promoting some businesses on social media more than others. We did try to standardize this 2 years ago, after reviewing the monetary amounts that different sponsors give (thanks Roy!) - individual posts are done in the spring for every business that has sponsored a team, as well as major sponsors. There is a collective ad post for businesses that are signage sponsors (they give a smaller amount).
  - At Christmas, I do holiday "Shop Local" posts for small businesses in the community, since most of these businesses support numerous tournaments, and so this is an opportunity to highlight them.
  - We discussed our advertising approach as a small committee 2 years ago, and agreed that promoting tournament sponsors, and posting tournament 50/50's etc was not something we could sustain with over 30 teams in our organization, so we would not make any posts like that, otherwise we get complaints that it is unfair to some teams. Val, hoping you can keep these goals aligned on our female page as well. However, families are definitely welcome to thank these sponsors on their personal pages!
  - Sorry this just came to my attention and we haven't had a chance to talk about it today before the meeting.
  - I am happy to revisit this topic with the board and staff if anyone feels that a change in strategy is needed in this regard.

**u) Sandbags**

**Lana McNeill**

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

**8. New Business:**

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**In Camera: No in Camera**

**Motion to move In Camera: Second:**

**Next meeting -February 17th @ Salmar Grand (Tuesday, Feb 17th, 6:30pm)**