



**Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Association  
Board Minutes**

Date: April 16, 2026  
 Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
 Location: RBC Multipurpose Room

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| Peter Dulhanty –President                         | Present |
| Vacant - Vice President                           |         |
| Lisa Bonin – Secretary                            | Present |
| Cayla Stryncl – Treasurer                         | Present |
| Rob Dunphy – Director of Competitive              | Present |
| Brian Bruce – Director of Recreation              | Regrets |
| Chris Prentice – Director of U7/U9                | Present |
| Steve Coleman – Director of Development           | Present |
| Sarah Chiasson – Director of Communications       | Present |
| Jeff Merrick – Risk Management & Discipline       | Present |
| <b>Non-Voting Members</b>                         |         |
| Erin Madden - Registrar                           | Regrets |
| Winnell Jackson - Diversity and Inclusion Officer | Regrets |

|    | Topic  | By |
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|    | Meeting Start Time: 6:32 pm  | PD |
| 1. | Approval of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mover: JM</li> <li>● Second: SCh</li> </ul>  | PD |
| 2. | Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mover: JM</li> <li>● Seconder: SCh</li> </ul>   | PD |
| 3. | Previous Action Items for Follow Up:<br><br>MBC Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The two outstanding MBC applications have been approved and funds have been applied to player’s accounts. All requests for funding for 2025-2026 were granted. The current process for fund reporting and tracking needs to be streamlined.</li> </ul> | LB |
| 4. | Financials<br><br>Update   | CS |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Onboarding continues for the incoming Treasurer. CS is due to spend time with the Controller to go over processes</li> <li>● There are unpaid player registrations of approximately \$13,000. The Registrar and Treasurer have been in contact with those owing balances.</li> <li>● Year-end finances will be completed on April 30. Prioritizing equipment purchases (pucks, bumper pads etc) would be prudent if there are excess funds.</li> <li>● LB and CS have an appointment at Scotiabank on April 17, to gain signing authority and receive bank cards for the DWMHA account. Signing authorities will then be President, Controller, Treasurer, and Secretary.</li> <li>● 2025 Financials were reviewed, but not approved by the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> Board will vote on 2025 Financials at the next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |     |
| 5. | <p>Risk</p> <p>Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It has been a lighter year in terms of having fewer player suspensions.</li> <li>● The new committee has been very helpful in distributing workload.</li> </ul>  | JM  |
| 6. | <p>Sponsorship and Community Initiatives Update</p> <p>GrayJay 50/50 Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comparison between two fundraising platforms continued and S Ch consulted with the Fundraising Coordinator to determine a recommendation for the Board.</li> <li>● A benefit of GJ is that credits are automatically applied to player accounts so they can be used throughout the season (ie. pay for development sessions), rather than just at the beginning of the season.</li> <li>● The Board voted to proceed with a one-year contract with GrayJay - <i>all in favor.</i></li> </ul> <p>Game Changer and Brady Richard Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nominations are now closed and SCh has compiled nominations to be presented to the Board for voting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> SCh to distribute a voting form to the Board with a completion deadline of April 26.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The Board discussed prizes for award recipients and determined that gift cards would be the most useful and cost-effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> SCh to purchase gift cards in advance of the award ceremony.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | SCh |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There were no nominations for the Brady Richard Award. This award is not given annually if there is not a suitable candidate to meet the award criteria. The Board discussed potential deserving candidates and would like to reach out to managers again for nominations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> PD to reach out to the team manager of the candidate being considered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contract negotiations are still occurring and the Board discussed the aspects that would provide the most benefit to our members, their families, and the DWMHA. As there are many factors to compare, SCh will create a table to highlight key differences in contracts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> SCh to create a contract comparison table and share with the Board.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Whalers Logo/Jersey Submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Many members responded to the call for jersey and logo design ideas. As there were so many submissions, SCh will sort into jersey design and logo ideas to make selection more straightforward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> SCh to create separate viewing packages for jersey and logo design ideas.</li> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> RD to mock up a logo and jersey design based on preferences noted during Board discussion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Members also made suggestions to consider EDIA in jersey design. One idea is to create a helmet sticker or jersey patch that would be worn by all players.</li> </ul> |           |
| 7. | <p>Rec Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Rec Championship night was a big success. It was well-attended and a great way to end the season for players and their families.</li> <li>● Board members noted that positive comments were made by volunteers and members during and after the event.</li> </ul>   | LB for BB |
| 8. | <p>Secretary</p> <p>Nominations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There have been no nominations made for board positions that are to be filled due to terms ending. The deadline for nominations is May 5 in order for notification to be sent to membership in advance of the AGM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Action Item:</b> SCh to send reminder about call for nominations to members.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | LB        |

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|     | <p>Executive Role and Policy Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each board member should review their role description for accuracy. The document is important for ensuring responsibilities are met when new volunteers fill roles.</li> <li>● Each board member should review the updated policy manual and be prepared to approve it at the next meeting, so it can be shared with the membership at the AGM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Action Item: LB to ensure board members have reviewing access for both documents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |              |
| 9.  | <p>Diversity and Inclusion Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WJ sent regrets, with nothing to report.</li> </ul>   | WJ           |
| 10. | <p>Additional business</p> <p>TD Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The current workload with development is unmanageable for volunteers. There has been value in having the development team in place for the 2025/2026 season (particularly on-ice), but a new approach could be considered for next season.</li> <li>● There was discussion regarding returning to the previous model of having a TD position, but potentially not in a full-time capacity. There is a candidate who would like to present their ideas about the role to the Board. Considerations are: the cost vs value of the role, burden on volunteers, and the budgetary changes that would result due to the cost of development and ice rental.</li> <li>● Since moving to GrayJay, it has been easier to access data and statistics regarding attendance at development sessions.</li> </ul> <p>Of Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2026/2027 ice allocation has been completed and we will be receiving 80 hours per week (71 @ RBC, 9 @ Sportsplex), up from 66 last year. Next step is for the Ice Scheduler to determine how ice will be allocated per team, based on the estimated number of teams.</li> <li>● It was suggested that when allocating ice time for development, early on Sunday mornings should be avoided as this negatively affected participation throughout the year.</li> <li>● Dressing Room #7 is to be emptied as of May 1, with equipment being placed in rink-side cages once they are secured (lids and locks). The gear can be placed back in Room #7 in the fall. The Equipment Manager will lead this task.</li> </ul> | SC/CP/<br>RD |
| 11. | <p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting Adjourned: 8:23 pm</li> <li>● Mover: LB</li> <li>● Secunder: PD</li> </ul>   |              |
|     | Next Meeting Date: May 7, 2026, 6:30-8:00 pm, RBC Multipurpose Room  |              |

