



**Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Association
Board Minutes**

Date: January 22, 2026
 Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
 Location: RBC Centre Multipurpose Room

Peter Dulhanty –President	Present
Matt Mahoney – Vice President	Present
Lisa Bonin – Secretary	Present
Vacant – Treasurer	X
Rob Dunphy – Director of Competitive	Regrets
Brian Bruce – Director of Recreation	Present
Chris Prentice – Director of U7/U9	Present
Steve Coleman – Director of Development	Regrets
Sarah Chiasson – Director of Communications	Present
Jeff Merrick – Risk Management & Discipline	Present
Non-Voting Member	
Phil Power - Past President	X

	Topic	By
	Meeting Start Time: 6:35 pm	PD
1.	Approval of Agenda Mover: SC Second: JM	PD
2.	Approval of Minutes from previous meeting Mover: SC Seconder: CP	PD
3.	Previous Action Items for follow up: See Item 4 - Financials - Concerns brought forth based on the 2025 year-end financial statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ice rental costs have increased and need to be accounted for in future budgets. ● A bookkeeping error led to extra payment of officials in December 2024, which will need to be added to the reports and shared with members. 	LB/MM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was confirmed that the \$33,600 Subcontractor Fees are accounting charges. ● MNP recommended issuing T4s to those receiving payments for services in excess of \$500, however this was determined to be unnecessary as any payments would be distributed as Consulting Fees, rather than to salaried employees. ● Cash flow is currently very high; consideration for an investment policy to ensure money is responsibly managed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: Draft an investment policy to keep cash flow minimized. 	
4.	<p>Financials</p> <p>Update and Ice cost calculation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MM to provide a report to the Board; anticipated date of January 30, 2026 <p>Treasurer recruitment/selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are three people who put their name forth for the Treasurer role. PD will summarize and compile their expressions of interest (due January 31) and present them to the Board for consideration and approval by evote (due February 5). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: PD to provide Treasurer candidates to Board for evote; to be completed by February 5, 2026. <p>MNP annual reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion noted in Item 3 	PD/MM
5.	<p>Risk</p> <p>Formation of a Complaints, Discipline & Appeals committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JM will draft an Expression of Interest for the Complaints, Discipline & Appeals committee to be shared with membership. The short list of candidates will be communicated to the Board in advance of the next Board meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: JM to send ROI and report candidates to Board <p>Additional Risk Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There have been many complaints, particularly at the Recreation level, that team rosters are too large, limiting ice time for players. Discussion to put a cap on Registration. Ice allotment from the city will dictate how many ice times the Whalers will have per week for the 2026/2027 season, which will allow for a better estimate of how many teams can be formed. <p>Plan for policy updates</p>	JM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy edits have been in progress for quite some time. Edits should be reviewed before the Board winds down activity in late spring/summer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Item: LB to contact Policy Coordinator to receive an update on editing progress. 	
6.	<p>Sponsorship and Community Initiatives Update</p> <p>Apparel Proposal for Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interested organization has submitted a proposal for apparel (jersey) purchases and associated sponsorship as our current contract is due to expire within the year. The Board has recommended that apparel samples be provided in addition to continuing contract negotiation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Item: SC to meet with potential sponsor and share Board feedback. <p>Sponsorship Pitch Deck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides have been created for meetings with potential sponsors. Work has been done to establish sponsorship tiers and the offerings included under each category. SC is seeking feedback and input from the Board for additions to the pitch deck. Board suggestion to reach out to membership early in the season to offer initial sponsorship opportunities to organizations/companies of members before we contact any possible competitors regarding sponsorship and promotion. 	SC
7.	<p>Tryouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debrief by Director of Competitive Hockey and Director of Development deferred due to absence of RD and SC. MM has no additional comments. Suggestion to create a Tryout Subcommittee to draft a tryout policy and distribute general information to members in advance of tryouts next fall. This could include grading systems, expectations, etc with the goal of transparency and adequate communication. RD put his name forth to participate on the subcommittee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Item: RD and others interested to consider subcommittee structure, goals, and timeline. HNS contacted PD to discuss how communication on ice times and final rosters could be better shared with members during fall 2026 tryouts. 	MM/RD
8.	<p>Officials</p> <p>Referee-in-Chief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current RIC has been unresponsive to emails and the current Assignor has assumed duties in their absence. The Board feels 	PD

	<p>that the RIC position should be officially reassigned to Glenn Boyce, effective immediately. PD to communicate change in position to current RIC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vote: To relieve current RIC of their position and appoint Glenn Boyce to the position of RIC. <i>Motion carried.</i> <p>Officials Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Assignor performed a survey of officials fees paid by other associations. It was found that Whalers officials are paid below the median. A proposal for fee increases and payment restructuring (ie. appropriate compensation for longer games) was put forth for consideration when the next budget is drafted. 	
9.	<p>Diversity and Inclusion Report</p> <p>WJ has performed a review of our current processes and has provided recommendations for how to better incorporate EDIA within our association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet with Director of Communications to discuss social media possibilities (ie. player biographies/spotlight). ● Create a survey for members to self-disclose religion, culture, ability to be distributed now, and also add an option to registration platform for 2026 registration. ● Have teams try modified hockey (sledge, deaf/blind) or figure skating. ● Create a process so feedback from members can be directed to WJ. ● Promote EDIA in Whalers coaching staff (BIPOC, women). ● Draft an EDIA policy/action plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: JM to share EDIA draft with WJ for review and input. <p>Note that the previous culture and diversity training required to be taken by coaches and officials is now called "Shift Forward."</p>	WJ
10.	<p>Ice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RBC pads A, B, and C will be taken out from July 20 - September 4, which will affect season start-up sessions. ● Ice costs of \$245 +tx to be going up in 2026, as well as the subsidized ice cost that is charged to the Whalers. These factors will impact our budget. ● SW has submitted the annual request for ice allotment to the city and is awaiting the response. ● Discussion to purchase a center-ice Whalers logo decal to be installed in one of the pads at the RBC. The decal logo is very costly (~\$10,000), but can be used for approximately 10 years. 	SW

	- Action Item: JM to obtain a vendor quote for the decal.	
11.	<p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Checking clinics are a valuable form of training for our members, although we currently have to outsource for a clinic facilitator. S. Coleman will likely have contact information for a previously-used facilitator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: LB to contact S. Coleman regarding checking clinic contact person. 	
	Next Meeting Date: February 19, 2026, 6:30-8:00 pm, virtual	
	Meeting Adjourned: 8:04 pm Mover: PD Secunder: MM	