



EHMHA Board Meeting

Part 1: August 16, 2026 7:00PM

Bannister Room, East Hants Sportsplex

Part 2: August 23, 2026 7:00PM

Virtual – Google Meet

Part 1 Attendees: Greg Heard, James Thompson, Mariah Allison-Sokolic, Krystal Kristiansen, Evan Taylor, Brennen Hartling, Adam Gillis, Katie Muise

Part 2 Attendees: Greg Heard, James Thompson, Mariah Allison-Sokolic, Krystal Kristiansen, Evan Taylor, Brennen Hartling, Adam Gillis, Katie Muise

August 16, 2026 - Part 1

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** by Greg Heard
 - Meeting called to order at 6:56PM
 - Agenda approved
2. **Ratification of board meeting minutes from July 19, 2026**
 - Approved
3. **President's Update** by Greg Heard
 - Greg provided an update regarding player release requests. Some requests had been received directly by the Regional Director, while others had been received by EHMHA and forwarded accordingly.
 - GrayJay invoices/settings were discussed. Evaluations/tryouts for levels that EHMHA would not be offering were to be removed.
 - The Board discussed tournaments that open registration before teams are selected and whether teams could be pre-registered in advance. Concerns included the financial risk if families later chose not to attend and the administrative responsibility associated with registering teams during the off-season. The Board discussed bringing the matter forward at the next AGM so expectations surrounding early tournament registration can be communicated to families in advance.
4. **VP Hockey Ops Update** by Evan Taylor
 - Registration and pre-season development numbers were reviewed. U11 pre-season development had reached capacity and there was continued interest from families. The Board discussed opening a second U11 development group using available ice.

- Due to low U18 registration numbers, U18 participants would be combined with the U13/U15 pre-season development group.
- Following discussion of registration numbers and available ice, the Board agreed to open an additional U11 pre-season development group.
- It was noted that a second checking clinic was not expected to be required, potentially freeing additional ice for other programming.
- There had been limited interest in the outstanding divisional coordinator positions. Coordinators had been identified for U7 and U13. The Board agreed to send another communication to membership seeking volunteers for the remaining divisional coordinator positions, as well as the outstanding Central Minor/Dartmouth Rec coordinator positions.
- Approximately 56 coaching-interest responses had been received, with particularly strong interest at U11. The coaching interest form will close August 28.
- Evan led a review of the new tryout/evaluation policy and proposed process. Edits to the tryout/evaluation policy were identified during the review, including revisions to divisional processes, evaluation structure and recreational balancing. The recreational balancing process will place greater emphasis on observing players in game situations in addition to skills-based evaluation.

5. Financial Update by James Thompson

- James provided an update regarding the GrayJay 50/50 program. The Board expects administration of the program to be smoother this season following the experience gained during the previous season.
- The winner of the final draw from the previous season had not responded despite attempts to make contact. The prize will require a redraw in accordance with the applicable requirements.

6. VP Admin Update by Mariah Allison-Sokolic

- Mariah provided an update on First Shift registration. Registration numbers remained lower than anticipated.
- An update was provided on the ongoing jersey inventory. Approximately 30 jerseys had been identified as requiring repair, with additional bins still to be reviewed. Assistance from other Board members was requested to complete the inventory. Jerseys requiring cleaning and repair would be organized before being sent for repair.
- The equipment room requires further organization. The Board discussed sorting existing equipment and
- removing/returning items that are no longer required, including remaining bingo-related materials.
- Kortnie Wadden was awaiting direction regarding the Finance Committee's responsibilities and next steps. Further information would be provided.
- The Board discussed whether the association's insurance requirements had been confirmed for the upcoming season.

- The Board discussed the annual U7 jersey order and associated medals.

7. **Any Other Business** by All Board Members

- Brennen presented information regarding Cleve's as a potential association clothing partner. Pricing, availability and the ability to order additional items, including team socks, were discussed.
- **Motion:** Proceed with Cleve's as EHMHA's clothing partner.
Moved by: Greg Heard
Seconded: Mariah Allison-Sokolic
Motion Carried Unanimously
- Krystal and Katie discussed expanding EHMHA's social media content to create more engaging and positive coverage of players and teams throughout the season. Ideas included player features, coach/manager nominations, tournament send-off posts and regular game/schedule content. Katie agreed to continue overseeing this area and developing association social media content

Action Items:

- **Katie Muise** to prepare and send the coordinator recruitment communication.
- **Brennen Hartling** to contact Cleve's and begin the process of establishing the partnership.
- **Katie Muise** to prepare another promotional post for First Shift
- **Greg Heard** to follow up and confirm that required insurance coverage is current.
- **Mariah Allison-Sokolic** to follow up regarding the Tim Hortons jersey order and medals.

Due to time constraints, the Board was unable to complete the remaining agenda items. The meeting was paused at **8:09 PM**, with the remaining agenda items to be continued virtually via Google Meet on **August 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM**.

August 23, 2026 - Part 2

1. **VP Hockey Ops Update Continued** by Evan Taylor

- The Board reviewed the updated Tryout/Evaluation Policy. Board members were asked to review the updated policy and provide any additional feedback by Tuesday/Wednesday. The policy will then receive a final review before being distributed to membership.
- The Calling All Coaches meeting is scheduled to be held virtually. Approximately 63 individuals have expressed interest in coaching positions.
- Coordinator recruitment was discussed. U11 and U15 remained areas where additional recruitment may be required.
- The Dartmouth/Central Minor coordination role was also discussed. A potential candidate may be interested depending on where their player is placed.
- The approved development budget is \$20,000. Evan and Bryan will develop a proposed development plan outlining how the funds could be used throughout the season. Development-related ice and other applicable development

expenses are to remain within the approved allocation. The cost of IHS membership for coaches will also be included within the development budget.

- The Board discussed ensuring development opportunities benefit as much of the membership as possible and are not concentrated solely on competitive teams.
- Additional development providers, including power-skating instruction, may also be considered. Qualifications of providers will be confirmed before advertising them as certified instructors.
- A Thursday 4:00-5:00 p.m. ice time has been approved for development programming. The Board discussed offering opportunities across divisions, including U18 where practical, and evaluating participation before determining whether sessions should continue.
- Concerns were raised regarding combining U13 players with U15/U18 players during pre-season development. It was explained that available ice is limited and that the divisions would be separated into stations rather than directly participating together. The Board also discussed whether Hockey Canada restrictions existed regarding age groups sharing ice. No applicable restriction was identified during the discussion beyond requirements relating to younger divisions.

2. Finance Update Continued by James Thompson

- James provided a financial update. The balance sheet, income statement and cash-flow information have been provided to our finance controller for preparation/review.
- Registration revenue has begun coming in and current cash flow is positive.
- Financial statements are being prepared as required for licensing, including 50/50 and Alcohol and Gaming requirements.
- The Board is also exploring bookkeeping services. Monthly financial reporting will include comparison of actual revenue and expenses against budget, with appropriate General Ledger classifications. The goal is to provide regular financial information to membership and improve visibility regarding the Association's financial position.
- The Finance Committee will also provide additional financial oversight.
- James advised that team bank accounts from previous seasons have been cleaned up and are being prepared for the upcoming season.
- Following the manager meeting, individuals requiring ScotiaConnect access will be identified and set up. An information session will be provided to explain the system and its functionality.
- The issue from the previous season regarding accounts not requiring two signatories has been corrected. The two-signature requirement is now in place, including on Board accounts.
- Outstanding accounts from previous seasons have been addressed. Players with outstanding balances will be required to resolve them before participating.

3. Recruiting & Events Update by Krystal Kristiansen

- Krystal discussed the Volunteer Coordinator role and proposed creating a general volunteer-interest form.
- The Board discussed creating one centralized Google Form where members can indicate interest in roles such as Manager, Treasurer, event support and other volunteer opportunities. Responses could populate a spreadsheet that Board members can filter according to the positions they oversee.
- The Board noted that members may be more likely to volunteer when presented with specific tasks rather than broad requests for assistance. The list would provide potential volunteers to coaches and Board members without obligating individuals to accept a role.
- The Board discussed encouraging teams to give back to the community. Potential opportunities include food drives and partnerships with local organizations. It was noted that community initiatives need to be coordinated early in the season, particularly when planning holiday food drives.

4. **President Update Continued** by Greg Heard

- Greg advised that the Regional Director is arranging a meeting between the Presidents of Sackville, Bedford and East Hants. The meeting is intended as an initial discussion for the upcoming season. Import-player matters may also be discussed.
- The Board discussed changes in neighbouring associations' willingness to accept import players. Some associations that accepted imports in previous seasons are reportedly limiting or declining them this season.
- Potential expansion or adjustment of EHMHA boundaries was also discussed. Any boundary changes involving neighbouring associations would require further discussion and cooperation.
- The Board discussed situations where a business or organization wishes to sponsor an individual player's registration. A mechanism can be developed to allow sponsorship payments to be made directly toward a player's costs. The Association cannot provide charitable tax receipts, and sponsors will need to determine how the expense is handled for their own accounting purposes.

5. **VP Admin Update Continued** by Mariah Allison-Sokolic

- First Shift registration has increased, with recent social-media promotion appearing to generate additional interest. Continued promotion will occur as registration remains available. It was noted that overall registration traditionally increases closer to the beginning of the school year, particularly in older divisions.
- The Board discussed opportunities to promote EHMHA to families moving into new developments within East Hants. Ideas included providing registration information to apartment buildings and working with local realtors to include Association information in welcome packages for new residents.
- The Board discussed the existing policy preventing a Head Coach and Manager from living in the same household and whether the restriction should also include

the Team Treasurer. Conversely, the Board acknowledged that recreational teams sometimes have difficulty recruiting enough volunteers and that expanding the restriction could make filling positions more difficult. No change was finalized. The matter will remain under consideration.

- The possibility of holding informal support sessions for new Managers, Treasurers and other volunteers was discussed. These sessions could provide assistance with systems such as GrayJay, Spordle and team administration. The goal would be to make volunteer roles easier to navigate while avoiding duplication between the responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinator and the Board members responsible for Coaches, Managers and Treasurers.

6. **Any Other Business** by All Board Members

- The Board discussed the idea of closing the skills-and-drills portion of evaluations to spectators. Potential benefits discussed with note that several other associations have implemented similar practices. Concerns were also raised regarding transparency, the short timeline before tryouts, logistical requirements, and introducing a significant procedural change at the same time as a substantially revised evaluation policy. Following discussion, Board members indicated their positions on implementing closed sessions for the upcoming season. The majority supported **keeping evaluation sessions open for the 2026–27 season**.
- The Board will continue discussing the concept throughout the season with the intention of potentially implementing closed skills-and-drills sessions for the **2027–28 season**. Advance communication with membership would be established before implementation.
- The Board discussed ways to encourage and develop goaltenders within the Association. Potential future registration incentives were discussed.
- The Board discussed purchasing Association-owned goaltender equipment to reduce barriers for younger players interested in trying the position.
- Multiple quotes will be obtained before purchasing equipment. Potential discounts through local sporting-goods suppliers will also be explored.
- The Association will investigate eligibility for a \$5,000 Sport Nova Scotia equipment grant.
- The Board discussed issues encountered with Sportsplex ice requests. Tournament ice requests will be resubmitted/confirmed with the current Sportsplex contact to ensure the required dates are secured.

Action Items:

- **Katie Muise** to post an additional call to membership for any remaining vacant coordinator positions.
- **Krystal Kristiansen** to explore acting as a liaison between teams and community organizations to identify suitable opportunities.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: Board Meeting on September 20, 2026 at 7PM