



EHMHA Board Meeting

April 19, 2026 7:00PM

Bannister Room, East Hants Sportsplex

Attendees: Brett Garden, Greg Heard, Tyson Spencer, Evan Taylor, James Thompson, Katie Muise

Hockey Nova Scotia Representative Attendee: Garth Isenor

Regrets: Gus Smith, Mike Norris

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda by Brett

Brett welcomed HNS representative Garth Isenor and thanked him for joining.

Agenda approved

2. Ratification of board meeting minutes from March 29, 2026

Pending

3. President's Update by Brett

- Brett explained that Garth Isenor was in attendance to provide a recap of the February 15 EHMHA Membership Meeting and the Hockey Nova Scotia meeting with membership held on February 22. The following are the discussion points from Garth.
 - **HNS Review on League Structure / U13AAA for Next Season**
Garth Isenor discussed considerations surrounding whether there will be a U13AAA team next season. Concerns were noted regarding overall player numbers and whether EHMHA would have sufficient numbers to support a team at that level. Discussion also included the possibility that player numbers could increase if players who played with other associations this season return to EHMHA next year. Expanding the catchment area was identified as another possibility that could increase overall registration numbers, although it may not significantly impact the U13 age group specifically. It was acknowledged that additional information is still required and that no final decisions have been made at this time.
 - **Player Releases:** Discussion also took place regarding player releases from the previous season. Garth noted that releases are intended to be for one season only and that players are generally expected to return to their home association afterward. It was

discussed that this expectation should be clearly communicated to all families who received player releases.

- **Association Administration Discussion:** Garth strongly suggested that EHMHA consider hiring an administrator role, separate from the current administrative clerk position. Discussion included the possibility of building the cost into the association budget and increasing registration fees to support the position, subject to approval at the AGM. It was noted that a knowledgeable administrator could help alleviate operational challenges and improve response times to membership inquiries.
 - **Meeting Minutes:** Garth stated that the association should work toward posting meeting minutes in a more timely manner.
 - **Suspension Process Discussion:** Discussion took place regarding the association's suspension process. Garth suggested that phone calls be used in place of warning letters when addressing potential suspension matters. It was also noted that EHMHA should improve follow-up procedures with suspended members. EHMHA maintains records related to investigations, including documentation of instances where opportunities to meet were offered but not accepted. Discussion further included limiting suspension meetings to only those directly involved in the matter.
 - **U9 Division Update:** Garth discussed upcoming changes to the U9 division structure, including an increase in the number of full-ice games. It was noted that full-ice play may begin on December 26 and that half-ice games should no longer take place after that date. Hockey Nova Scotia may also provide a presentation to ensure associations are clear on the expectations and rules moving forward.
 - **Game Length Discussion:** Discussion took place regarding game lengths for A level and higher, with reference made to HNS bylaws indicating games should consist of three 15 minute periods. Concerns were raised regarding available ice time within Central Minor. Further clarification is required.
 - **Garth's Role:** Garth advised that his current role with Hockey Nova Scotia is up for re-election and that he may be moving into a different role.
 - *The board thanked Garth for joining us to discuss these topics. Garth then left the meeting.*
- It was noted that several positions will be up for election at the upcoming AGM. Information regarding the available positions and the AGM date will be posted as soon as possible.

4. VP Admin Update by Greg

- The association has been receiving nominations for Volunteer of the Year and Coach of the Year. All nominations will be compiled and brought forward for board review and voting.

5. **VP Hockey Ops Update** by Tyson

- Discussion took place regarding reaching out to RJ, Referee-in-Chief, to review how the season went and to share feedback between the association and officiating group.
- It was noted that coaching surveys for membership will be distributed in the near future.

6. **Finance Update** by James

- Year end financials are currently looking balanced and in a positive position. A few additional sponsorship payments are still expected to be received.
- A meeting with Alcohol and Gaming is scheduled to close out the 50/50 program for the season. It was also noted that associations will now be permitted to sell 50/50 tickets at games for that specific game, which is expected to significantly improve team fundraising efforts.
- Discussion took place regarding volunteer awards and potential associated costs, including trophies for Manager of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement recognition.

7. **Events & Tournament Update** by Evan

- Discussion took place regarding plans for the Ettinger-Smith Tournament Committee moving forward, including maintaining the core committee and beginning planning meetings in June. It was suggested that the committee work more closely with the Bannister tournament committee and combine sponsorship opportunities into one package, as some companies expressed concerns about being approached separately by both tournaments.
- Proposed tournament registration fees of \$1,300 for U11 and above divisions and \$1,000 for U9 were discussed. Additional discussion included starting the tournament on the Friday before March Break, increasing ice time, and involving the committee more directly in ice scheduling discussions. Ideas for championship days, a designated gap hour, goalie-versus-goalie events, and shootout/skills competitions were also reviewed.
- Additional tournament planning discussion included assigning a designated tournament treasurer, identifying a lead for sponsorship coordination, and exploring the possibility of a paid volunteer coordinator position to assist with areas such as staffing the swag table. It was also discussed that team volunteer expectations should be formally communicated during management meetings and potentially established as a requirement for teams to volunteer in some capacity, even if that team is not participating in that tournament.
- It was noted that one lesson learned from this season was the importance of pre-registering EHMHA teams before tournament registration opens to outside

associations. Discussion also included incorporating home tournaments directly into team budgets

- Additional takeaways from the season included combining registration, swag, welcome, and 50/50 tables to reduce volunteer requirements and improve efficiency during tournaments. Discussion also included the use of QR codes and the email address tournamentmvp@ehpenguins.org for submission of player photos, as well as the possibility of creating a dedicated tournament bank account.
- Brandon Horne was discussed in relation to creating pre-recorded messages explaining the background and purpose of tournaments, with recordings to be played prior to games, along with announcements for championship games.
- Additional operational improvements discussed included creating properly edited music playlists and pre-setting playlists on tablets. Tournament committee members also noted that some members had asked where tournament funds are allocated, and it was suggested that tournament financial results be shared at the AGM.

Meeting adjourned: 9:02PM

Next Meeting: AGM - May 24, 2026 at 8PM in the Todd Hunter Room at the Sportsplex