EHMHA Board Meeting
June 14, 2026 7:00PM
Bannister Room, East Hants Sportsplex
Attendees: Greg Heard, James Thompson, Evan Taylor, Mariah Allison-Sokolic, Krystal Kristiensen, Brennen Hartling, Katie Muise

1. **Welcome and Approval of Agenda** by Greg
    - President Greg Heard called the meeting to order, approved the agenda and welcomed everyone in attendance, and extended a special welcome and congratulations to the newly elected Board members:
    - Mariah Allison-Sokolic – VP Admin
    - Krystal Kristiansen – Recruiting & Events Coordinator
    - Brennen Hartling – Director at Large

2. **Ratification of board meeting minutes from May 18, 2026 Board Meeting & May 24, 2026 AGM**
    Approved

3. **President's Update** by Greg Heard
    - The Annual General Meeting was discussed. It was noted that the meeting was well attended and received positive feedback.
    - A Board Buddy system was introduced to support newly elected Board members as they transition into their roles. This provides new Board members with a point of contact for questions and guidance outside of regular Board meetings.
    - The composition of the Discipline Committee was discussed. The committee will consist of the President, Vice President of Administration, and Director at Large. The Board also discussed conducting Discipline Committee meetings in a more formal manner to ensure consistency and professionalism. Meetings are expected to begin soon.
    - The Board discussed the importance of the Financial Audit Committee meeting on a monthly basis. Regular meetings will help ensure financial matters are reviewed proactively, allowing any questions or concerns to be addressed in advance rather than prior to Board meetings.
    - The importance of maintaining confidentiality as a Board member was emphasized. Greg thanked Mariah Allison-Sokolic for preparing the confidentiality agreements, and all Board members present signed the agreements.

- An update was provided on the ice schedule. Greg reported that a productive meeting was held with the municipality regarding ice allocations.
- The Board discussed non-voting Executive support positions for the upcoming season. Les confirmed he will return as Ice Scheduler and offered to attend the Managers' Meeting to provide an overview of the ice scheduling process. Courtney Z. will return as Administrative Clerk. Mark's return as Equipment Manager was also discussed; however, this remains to be confirmed and will be revisited. The Board also discussed the value of having a Volunteer Coordinator and agreed that these responsibilities could be incorporated into the Recruiting and Events Coordinator role, with Krystal Kristiansen assuming those duties.
- The Board selected **July 26, 2026**, as the date for the Special Meeting, which will be held virtually. The purpose of the meeting will include voting on the proposed budget for the upcoming hockey season. The Board also agreed to advise the membership that bylaw amendment submissions may be submitted for consideration and voting at the Special Meeting.
- The Board discussed Hockey Canada's transition to the Spordle platform for player registration, rostering, scheduling, and game management. It was noted that while Hockey Canada has selected Spordle as its national platform, associations are not required to adopt it at this time. Given the Association's positive working relationship with GrayJay, the Board agreed to continue using GrayJay for the upcoming season.
  Motion: To continue using GrayJay as the Association's registration and management platform for the 2026–2027 season.
  Moved by: Evan Taylor
  Seconded by: James Thompson
  Motion Carried Unanimously

4. **VP Hockey Ops Update** by Evan Taylor
    - The Board discussed appointing Ashley Yates as Tournament Chair, a non-voting position. Her contributions to planning the U7 Jamboree and her involvement as U7 Coordinator were recognized as valuable experience for the role.
      Motion: To appoint Ashley Yates as Tournament Chair.
      Moved by: Evan Taylor
      Seconded by: Brennen Hartling
      Motion Carried Unanimously
    - Evan suggested sending communication to the membership introducing the newly elected Board of Directors. The email will introduce the Board as a whole, express the Board's enthusiasm for working collaboratively to support a successful season, and encourage members to reach out with any questions, concerns, or feedback. Evan and Katie will both work on this.
    - The Board discussed the current development opportunities available to players and the importance of identifying member priorities. It was agreed that a survey will be distributed to the membership to gather feedback on the types of

development opportunities they would like to see offered. The survey will include a comment section to allow members to provide additional suggestions and feedback.

- Evan suggested and The Board discussed distributing a "Calling All Coaches" communication following the membership survey. The purpose of the communication is to identify interested coaches, their skills and experience, the areas in which they are willing to assist, and the strengths they can bring to the Association
- The Board discussed establishing a Coaching Mentor program to identify experienced individuals who are willing to support and assist in the development of coaches throughout the Association.
- The Board discussed updating the Treasurer and Manager Handbooks. The existing handbooks will be reviewed and revised as needed before being posted on the Association website.
- The Board discussed the Association's current Tryout and Evaluation Policy, Evan noting that it is less detailed than those of many other associations. Evan is reviewing the policy to identify opportunities for improvement and to enhance transparency throughout the tryout and evaluation process. Areas identified for consideration include the addition of guidelines for Exceptional Status and other aspects of the tryout and evaluation process. The policy review remains a work in progress.
- An additional update was provided on ice scheduling. Evan reported that he had met with Sportsplex staff and that the Association's ice allocation will remain consistent with the previous season, with additional ice time available for tournaments. Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 p.m. ice slots have been designated for player development. The Board also discussed opportunities to collaborate with the East Hants Senior Penguins to support player development and will explore ways to make these development opportunities accessible to all levels.
- The Board discussed the IHS Hockey coaching and player development initiative as a potential resource for the Association. The program was recognized as providing useful coaching and player development tools at an estimated annual cost of $1,000. The Board agreed that the initiative should be considered during budget discussions and brought forward to membership for further review.
- The Board discussed establishing monthly meetings with the East Hants Senior Penguins to strengthen communication and collaboration. The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing outreach efforts and identify ways the Senior Penguins can become more involved in supporting the Association.

5. **VP Admin Update** by Mariah Allison-Sokolic
   - An update was provided on the Hockey Canada First Shift program. Registration is now open, and 10 participants have registered to date.
   - The Board discussed plans for Manager and Treasurer meetings following team formation. An initial meeting will be held as soon as possible after teams are

formed, with a second Managers' Meeting to follow a few weeks later to talk about team budgets.
- There was discussion regarding the possibility of reintroducing paper 50/50 ticket sales. It was noted that a number of members have reported a decline in sales since the transition to an online format. The Board discussed the operational requirements of returning to paper sales, including the significant workload for 50/50 Coordinators and the need for additional planning and volunteer support. While the Board acknowledged that reintroducing paper 50/50 sales is possible, no decision was made at this time.
- Mariah advised the Board that proof of insurance is required. Greg Heard indicated that he would verify the status of the Association's proof of insurance.
- It was noted that the Association's Hockey Canada membership requires renewal. Greg Heard advised that he would complete the renewal.

6. **Finance Update** by James Thompson
    - The Board discussed the proposed budget that does not include the addition of a paid administrative position. Based on current estimates, implementing a paid administrative position would increase player registration fees by approximately $25 per player; however, it was noted that the increase may be closer to $30. Final registration fees will be confirmed once the ice schedule and associated costs have been finalized. It was noted that ice costs have now been established.
    - An update was provided regarding Eastlink TV Bingo. James advised that he has contacted the Community Group involved and is awaiting the minutes from a previous meeting. It was noted that the Association received $10,000 in seed funding; however, $29,000 had previously been approved and agreed upon. The matter remains under review.
    - The Board was advised that the East Hants Soccer Club has been invoiced $3,500 for its share of Bingo related expenses, reflecting the collaborative nature of the Bingo operation between the two organizations.
    - The Board discussed engaging a financial consultant to provide ongoing financial support to the Association. The consultant would prepare monthly financial reports and present them to the Finance Committee at a rate of $75 per hour, with work expected to begin the following week. The Board also discussed the need to appoint a Finance Committee member from the general membership who is not a Board member, with preference given to an individual with a financial background.

7. **Recruiting & Events Update** by Krystal Kristiansen
    - Krystal confirmed the dates for the Association's tournaments. The Braeden Bannister Memorial U7 Jamboree will be held on **February 27–28, 2027**, and the Ettinger Smith Tournament will take place from **March 5–14, 2027**. Scheduling was planned to minimize overlap with other tournaments in the area. The Board also discussed the potential to expand participation by increasing the number of teams in future tournaments.

- The Board discussed the possibility of including rep teams in the Ettinger Smith Tournament. Preliminary discussion focused on how this could be structured, including whether rep teams would participate as part of the existing tournament or as a separate event. Noting that this could be possible due to the increase in ice allotment for tournaments. It was noted that rep team tournaments cost more due to needing additional refs. The Board acknowledged that the concept is in the early stages of discussion and noted that any proposal to include rep teams would ultimately require approval by the membership.
- The Board discussed enhancements to the Braeden Bannister Memorial U7 Jamboree to provide a more engaging experience for participants. To support these enhancements, the Board considered increasing the team registration fee from $400 to approximately $500–$550 per team.
- The Board discussed the importance of recruiting volunteers early in the season by establishing a volunteer sign-up process. The goal is to develop a pool of volunteers who can assist with a variety of roles as needed throughout the season. The Board also discussed providing information outlining available volunteer opportunities, recognizing that members may be able to contribute in different capacities depending on their availability and level of commitment.

8. **Any Other Business** by All Board Members
    - The Board discussed filling the vacant Director at Large position following the resignation of Gus Smith. Adam Gillis was unanimously appointed by the Board to serve as Director at Large for the remainder of the current term.

Action Items:

- **Mariah Allison-Sokolic** to contact Mark to confirm whether he will return as Equipment Manager.
- **Katie Muise** to prepare and distribute the Special Meeting notice to the membership, including the meeting date, purpose, and invitation for members to submit proposed bylaw amendments. Receive and compile all bylaw amendment submissions, and prepare the agenda and supporting documentation for the Special Meeting.
- **Katie Muise and Evan Taylor** to collaborate on drafting a communication introducing the newly elected Board of Directors. The email will be distributed to the membership following the opening of registration.
- **Evan Taylor** to Prepare a membership survey prior to the start of the new season to gather feedback on player development opportunities, including a comment section for additional suggestions and feedback.
- **Evan Taylor** to prepare and distribute a "Calling All Coaches" communication following the membership survey to identify interested coaches, their skills and experience, the areas in which they are willing to assist, and the strengths they can bring to the Association.

- **Greg Heard** to verify the Association's proof of insurance and report back to the Board.
- **Greg Heard** to Renew the Association's Hockey Canada membership.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:31PM
Next Meeting: Board Meeting July 19, 2026 and Special Membership Meeting July 26, 2026