

*McCall Youth Hockey Association*  
*Meeting Minutes*  
11/12/24 @ 6:00 pm • Crawford Olson

**I. Call to order**

A) Ricki Drabek

**II. Roll call**

A) The following board members were present: Nicki Dyson, Ricki Drabek, Ryan Drabek and Brian Recher. Vanessa Polvi was present for item A under Open Business.

B) Additionally, Michael Martin and Jacob “Deets” Babbitt.

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (10/8/24)**

A) Motion Nicki Dyson

B) Second Brian Recher

C) Board approved unanimously

**IV. Open Business**

A) Youth Coaching Program (Vanessa Polvi)

- a. Email from Vanessa: “The goal of this proposed program is to engage older youth hockey players in mentoring younger athletes, fostering leadership, skill-building, and a stronger sense of community within MYHA. The attached document outlines the proposed structure, volunteer expectations, tracking system, and planned rewards.
  - i. Mites are in need of help with coaching and recruiting players.
    1. Currently there are several coaches who have no hockey experience.
    2. MYHA could cover the cost of hockey 101 for coaches in this situation; Nicki thinks it’s likely that we could get grant money to cover this.
  - ii. Older players would come in to help the mites.
  - iii. Would be a great way for youth to come in and get some volunteer hours as well as mentorship.
  - iv. Incentives; possibly based on hours.
    1. Recognition, party, gift, raffle?
    2. Vanessa will take the initiative to track the current volunteers’ time served.
  - v. It seems there are probably others interested in addition to the handful of youth volunteers that are currently serving. Vanessa would like to make this program more official to give everyone a chance to serve who would like to.
  - vi. Deets mentioned that there would need to be monitoring to ensure the young helpers are contributing and not distracting.

b. Learn to Skate

- i. Discussion on MYHA getting more involved with the rink's program to offer a more hockey-oriented side of the program for those kids who are wanting to pursue hockey.
- ii. The class typically begins right when Mites season begins. Vanessa has previously tried to work with the rink to change the timing this class to end right before Mites begins. Previous efforts were not received well but we are hoping the new rink management might be willing to consider.

B) Discipline update (Amber)

- a. Email from Amber: "We have had a few things come in that have been handled by coaches flawlessly.

A new parent accidentally submitted to the state so Mark Engren was on an email, we went through our policies and procedures and closed that out in about 3 days and he said we handled it perfectly.

All in all, so far so good."

C) Consulting update (Brian K.)

- a. Email from Brian: "Jeff Compton is working on a time he can travel to McCall-most likely during Christmas break."

D) City League Update (Amber)

- a. Email from Amber: "Our first night of City League was last Wednesday, thanks Brian for running the score box.

I have spoken with most of the parents and other than an older goalie request, it was all positive. Some of the feedback was:

1. A younger kid loved being coached and cheered on by the older kids, and felt safe during line switches.
2. An older kid liked to just play hockey without the whistles and constant coach critique and stress they would have during a game or scrimmage.

The focus was fun, pick up hockey, there weren't a lot of whistles and the kids just played.

We have captains that act as "coaches" they gave pep talks during periods, cheered the littles on when they weren't on the ice, and did a great job.

The main concerns before we started were the big kids worried about playing with the little ones and vice versa. For it being the first night, we think it ran really well. The captains could definitely take more initiative with calling line switches but that will definitely work itself out."

- b. "We still don't have enough [players] to purchase a second sheet however, we would need at least 15 more."

E) Registration updates (Amie)

- a. Email from Amie: “Enrollment is up for Mites, we are at 30 kiddos! Vanessa has done an amazing job recruiting these kids.

I have turned current registration list with USA Hockey numbers to Gregg Tankersley

Amber provided updates for City League, 26 kids registered, and I will help continue registration if there is enough interest.”

**V. New Business**

A) T-shirt fundraiser (Nicki)

- i) We would order 100 Mountaineer shirts, 50 Vandal shirts, 150 Ice Breaker Challenge shirts
- ii) MYHA would seek corporate sponsorships to get logos printed on the backs of t-shirts.
  - (1) “Hat Trick” level \$1500, “Slap Shot” level \$1000, “Wrist Shot” level \$500, “Snapshot” level \$250, “One Timer” level. Each level comes with various levels of business advertisement.
  - (2) Sponsor money would cover the cost of printing and the rest would go to MYHA.
- iii) Nicki has been working with Howie’s Hockey to print t-shirts.
- iv) Individual teams could sell t-shirts at their tournaments to make money. Ricki suggested allotting a specific amount to each team so that all teams get the chance to sell shirts, even the teams whose home tournaments are later in the season.
- v) Brian suggested adding hats. Maybe a “playmaker” level donation (for more than \$1500)

B) Michael Martin and Deets are proposing the idea of adding refs to the BOD.

- i) Adding two officials to the board would improve rule interpretation and determining consequences when needed; work with discipline committee as appropriate.
- ii) It would be beneficial to have the perspective of both officials and coaches for board decisions.
- iii) Would help to streamline our referring program from a more organized standpoint.
- iv) Would be beneficial to have knowledgeable people that can explain rules, decisions, etc. to parents and players.
- v) We will vote on this at next BOD meeting.

**VI. Adjourn**

- A) Next board meeting will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Crawford Olson