



MINUTES






Delaware Valley Hockey League

January 8, 2025, 7:30 PM | In-Person Meeting at IceWorks was called to order by President Jay Finnigan



















Respectfully Submitted by Michael DeRose, DVHL Secretary

Attendance:




Executive Committee Members Present:

-  President – Jay Finnigan
-  Executive Vice-President – Joe D’Angelo (Absent)
-  1st Vice President & Co-Commissioner (18U, 16U, 14U) – Dave Jackson
-  2nd Vice President & Co-Commissioner (12U, 10U, 8U) – Joe Spagnolo
-  Vice President Marketing – Larry Sechuk
-  Treasurer – Beth Ritter
-  Secretary & SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose

Represented Member Clubs:

 Campus Wild,  Central Penn Panthers,  Chester County Cougars,  Delmarva Raptors,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,  Delco Phantoms,  Dynamites,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  Genesis,  Hatfield Ice Hawks,  Hershey Jr. Bears,  Philadelphia Little Flyers,  Quakers,  Reading Jr. Royals,  Snider Hockey,  Susquehanna Selects,  Wilmington Nighthawks, and  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins


Associate Members:

-  Referee & Chief – Mike Campbell
-  COVID Coordinator – Lisa Silvotti (Absent)
-  DVHL Scheduler – Mike Wiercinski (Absent)

Members Absent:

None

Guests:

 Lady Patriots






MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League




Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **November 13, 2024**, DVHL monthly meeting was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
 - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by:  **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the minutes by:  **Campus Wild**
 - Approved unanimously.
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Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **November and December 2024**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by:  **Genesis**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**
 - Approved unanimously.
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Approval of the Meeting Agenda:



- The meeting Agenda for **January 8, 2028**, was put to the floor for approval by DVHL President,  Jay Finnigan.
 - Motion to approve Agenda by:  2nd Vice President & Co-Commissioner
 - Motion seconded by  1st Vice President & Co-Commissioner port by:
 - Approved unanimously.
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Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
 - Joe announced that he is now handling the annual DVHL scholarship which awards one (1) DVHL player who is a high school senior \$1000 towards college.
 - Joe asked that the membership ensure that their respective members are aware of the scholarship and stated that all of the information regarding the process is on the DVHL website.



MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League

- Joe requested that the membership ask their members to get the applications in as soon as possible. Deadline is February 15th.
- Joe then brought up the subject regarding placement of teams at all levels. Joe stated that some of the teams in the DVHL are +154, +97, etc. Joe believes that some of the divisions are lopsided regarding the placement of the teams. Joe suggested that the DVHL membership start a competition committee. Joe stated that the forms we filled out for the New Jersey Youth evaluations will be utilized. After the paperwork is completed, the competition committee will review everything after the placement tournaments. Joe asked for additional volunteers from the membership to join the competition committee along with him and Joe Spagnolo. Joe stated that if anyone is interested in joining the competition committee, they email him or Joe Spagnolo.

1st Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
 - Dave had nothing to report, but did state that everything seems to be going smoothly regarding the new format on the DVHL website.

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Joe added to the issue that Joe D'Angelo addressed regarding placements, specifically at the 10U level. Joe stated he believes that the DVHL has enough teams at the 10U level to have both a B National and a B American level. Joe feels that by doing this, it will solve some of the issues regarding the complaints that he has been receiving in regard to the lopsidedness.
 - Joe added that emails will be forthcoming requesting suggestions from the membership on how the DVHL can keep things moving in the right direction.

Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry stated that he is working closely with IceWorks to have lots of family fun activities for the players and their families over the playoff weekend.
 - Larry stated that Dick's Sporting Goods will be sponsoring the DVHL playoffs. The DVHL Championship hats will be made onsite by the staff at IceWorks.
 - Larry announced that he contacted a vendor to have new "windless" banners produced which will have all of the newest teams that have come into the DVHL on them to ensure that every organization within the DVHL is represented.



MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League

- Larry then stated that the podcast has been put on hold due to the individual who was doing it being unable to do so due to work commitments. Larry went on to state that he is in the process of finding a person to replace the podcaster.

President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
 - Jay called on DVHL Referee & Chief, Mike Campbell.
 - Mike stated that he has not received too many complaints regarding officiating this year.
 - Mike asked the organizations explain to their coaches that the officials don't have any understanding of suspensions. Those questions need to be addressed to the league representatives. The officials only know what the game rules imply, they don't know what other situations have come up during the season.
 - If there is an issue with the officiating, the protocol is for it to go from the team to the team representative then to the president of the organization and the organization's president will submit it to the league. If anyone does have a question, Mike's contact information is on the DVHL website.
 - Jay then addressed two (2) suggestions made by Genesis that would go into the Rules and Regulations to get updated at the August meeting. Jay went on to state that there will probably be significant changes to the rules and regulations because this is a rule change year for our USA Hockey, there are two-hundred, eighteen (218) rule proposals as we voted on. As an example, Jay stated that the mouthguard rule will no longer be a warning it will be an automatic ten (10) minute misconduct for a mouthguard violation as well as neck guard laceration equipment. Jay added that there is discussion regarding on and off sides depending on what level. That has gone from the playing rules committee to the body, but he is unsure at this time what direction the body will go.
 - Allan Plotkin from Genesis stated that especially this year, there have been a number of lopsided games. Allan suggested that perhaps we look to restore the running clock at the lower levels.
 - Allan then suggested that the DVHL follow the one (1) game suspension for fighting instead of the current way the DVHL assesses the fighting penalty.
 - Jay informed the membership that over the last two (2) years the DVHL has had significantly lower fighting penalties than any other league.
 - After much discussion on the topic, Joe D'Angelo told Allan to update his proposal to include the hierarchy of the suspensions so that the membership can vote on it at the August meeting.
 - Jay then brought up Brian Pecca to discuss MAHA.
 - Brian stated that over the past several months he has had some meetings with the NJYHL discussing what the alliance is going to look like next year in relation to



MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League

this year. Right now, they are focusing on the AA and National levels. The thinking is to stick with A national and not go to A American or B levels, simply because the A American and B levels right now, have plenty of teams on both sides. Right now, in the DVHL, if you look at the any American B levels, there's plenty of teams, there's plenty of a variety of competition, so you don't have to worry about getting enough teams to have a division.

- In regard to the AA levels, what they're looking at next year right now, we have a DVHL 14AA level and NJYHL has a 14AA level and they basically crossover but there's no true standing of it right now. Next year, the plan is to merge those divisions into one (1) standing. Instead of having a NJYHL and a DVHL division, we would have one (1) 14AA division.
 - Brian added that the U16 and U18 divisions need to be worked out due to New Jersey's split season due to High School.
 - The plan right now, is to merge U10AA because there is only one (1) DVHL team at that level and to merge U12AA and U14AA. This is to have one (1) standing view. GameSheet can't have a split and one (1), so by merging the divisions, it will allow a wide variety of competition. Since they are District and National bound.
 - Brian uses the U14AA as an example, the plan is to have it's a NJYHL playoff bracket and a DVHL playoff bracket. You're going to have a DVHL final and a NJYHL final, the winners of that would then have a league final at the end, which would give credibility for the standings in terms of having a merged division, but also protects the paths for District and National bound levels.
- Jay announced that he and Joe met with Team Philadelphia and they are willing to schedule non-league games against DVHL teams at any level. The only issue is that Team Philadelphia does not know if they can do reciprocity on ice, they are mainly looking for away games because they are booked pretty tight.
- Jay then called on Zach Overholtzer from the Dynamites announced that the Dynamites and the Huntsman will be merging and plans on bringing the Huntsman into the league at U16AA and U18AA levels to unify all of the organizations in the Power Play facility in the years to come.
 - Jay added that the Huntsmen are going through the Tier 2 approval to add U16 and U18, which has the Exton Kings support.
- Jay addressed the idea about combining the Presidents and Annual meetings, but based on the conversations at this meeting, Jay believes that it is a good idea to keep the meetings separate.




MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League

- Jay then addressed Championship weekend and asked for each organization to have two (2) volunteers to work rotating shifts for coverage of the front table for check-in. Coverage schedule will be emailed.
- Jay spoke on SafeSport and reminded the membership that SafeSport is on a twelve (12) month rolling expiration, so if you took SafeSport on February 1st last year, you're due to renew it February 1st this year. You will receive an email reminder
- All fees need to be paid before the teams can participate in championship weekend/playoffs.
- DVHL Code of Conduct has not been updated, there will most likely be changes. If anyone in the membership has any suggestions, we'd like to get that out in April when you do your new registrations, so we'll update that in March.

Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the January meeting was made by:  Central Penn Panthers
 - The motion seconded by: All
 - Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

The February meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00pm.