



# MINUTES


## Delaware Valley Hockey League

Date | time February 12, 2025, 7:30 PM | Zoom Meeting 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)
-  1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Co-Commissioner (18U, 16U, 14U) – Dave Jackson
-  2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Co-Commissioner (12U, 10U, 8U) – Joe Spagnolo
-  Vice President Marketing – Larry Sechuk
-  Treasurer – Beth Ritter
-  Secretary & SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose (Absent)


#### Represented Member Clubs:

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

#### Associate Members:

-  Referee & Chief – Mike Campbell (Absent)
-  Player Safety/Health Coordinator – Lisa Silvotti
-  DVHL Scheduler – Mike Wiercinski (Absent)

#### Members Absent:

-  Central Penn Panthers (due to an unforeseen family emergency)

#### Guests:

None

#### Approval of the Meeting Agenda:








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- The meeting Agenda for **January 8, 2028**, was put to the floor for approval by DVHL President,  Jay Finnigan.
    - Motion to approve Agenda by:  2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Co-Commissioner
    - Motion seconded by  1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Co-Commissioner port by:
    - Approved unanimously.
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### Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **January 8, 2025**, 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:  **Huntsmen**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
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### Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **January 2025**, was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
    - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by:  **Huntsmen**
    - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Chester County Cougars**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
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### Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
  - Joe addressed the scholarship stating that as of this meeting he has two (2) complete forms and two (2) incomplete forms, one (1) from the Nighthawks and the other from Chester County Cougars. Joe asked that these organizations notify the players to complete the applications and added that he will postpone the deadline for another month to give them the opportunity to complete the applications.
    - Joe added that he would like to get more than just four (4) total applications.
    - Joe addressed the competition committee stating that they had a good meeting approximately two (2) weeks prior.
  - Joe stated that what they are looking for the organization to do after tryouts / evaluations and once the rosters are complete, if the organizations can fill out the forms similar to



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what was done with the New Jersey Youth (NJYHL), Joe believes that it will help level out the divisions.

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#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
  - Dave addressed that he and Will are updating the website so that the Playoffs can be tracked along with regard to the standings and scores. Dave added that this will be done within the next few days.

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#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
  - Joe addressed the Great 8 Shootout which is an All-Star game for all mite level (8U) who are moving up to squirt level (10U), so that means this is for 2016 birth year players. The date for the event is Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 11:10 AM until 12:40 PM at Power Play. There will be three (3) twelve (12) minute periods followed by a twenty (20) minute skills session.
    - Joe addressed how the teams will be divided. Joe stated that the DVHL has six (6) teams at (8U), if each of those teams has a one (1) goalie, that is a 2016 birth year, there will be three (3) goalies on each team. Each goalie will play one (1) period. If the teams do not have one (1) goalie, Joe asks that the organization notify Jeff Grable at Power Play so that an alternate plan can be worked out.
    - The remainder of the organizations that have 2016 birth year players, you are to pick your top two (2) players for the event.
    - The event is a free event and jerseys will be supplied to all of the players.
    - The deadline to get the information into Jeff Grable is March 1, 2025 via email.
      - Jay added that an email will be forthcoming with Jeff Grable's contact information.

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#### Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
  - Larry reported that he is currently at Ice Works getting everything ready for the DVHL Championship weekend.
  - Jay added that he placed all of the different organization's logos in the DVHL logo for the Championship weekend.



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#### President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
  - Jay advised the membership of a fraud that was committed against the league by an unknown person.
    - The league had a check that was deposited in March of 2024 that appeared to have been washed and duplicated in the amount of six-thousand, five-hundred dollars (\$6,500.00) as opposed to the two-hundred, eighty-three dollars (\$283).
    - Jay and Beth have been working with TD Bank to resolve the issue. The account has been closed, and a new account has been opened to conduct DVHL business.
    - A Police report was made in Philadelphia and is currently being investigated. As a result, TD bank has replenished the funds that were taken from the account.
    - Jay asked that any transfer of funds be done electronically.
  - Jay addressed the officials for the playoffs and stated that they are scheduled.
    - Jay then addressed the incident that occurred in Seattle. The incident resulted in the officials being accosted and criminal charges have been filed against the offender regarding the incident. USA Hockey is involved, and the offender is banned from all Pacific Affiliate rinks and facilities until he has a hearing with USA Hockey.
  - Jay called on Dr. Lisa Silvotti for player safety updates. Dr. Silvotti stated that she had no updates at this time and wished everyone a safe and successful championship weekend.
  - Jay called on Jamie DiDomenico from the Campus Wild regarding a question about the DVHL player agreement.
    - Jamie asked if Campus Wild as an organization have to use that word for word or can they modify that agreement as they are delivering it to their players?
    - Jay stated that the agreement is the DVHL player agreement, the organization can have an addendum to it, but the agreement as adopted by the League is the agreement.
    - Campus Wild added that they did not see that in the DVHL By-Laws and were wondering if they overlooked it.
    - Jay stated that it is not in the DVHL By-Laws, but it was voted on by the membership approximately five (5) to ten (10) years ago.
    - Zach Overholtzer from the PA Huntsmen asked Jay to review what Campus Wild was proposing and what is currently in existence.
    - Jay stated that Campus Wild did not propose anything, but they wanted to remove Section 12 that says, “the parent understand by signing this agreement, the parent has up until twenty-four (24) hours after the placement of your child on a team to withdraw from this agreement and not be held financially responsible.” Jay then asked if a representative from Campus Wild wanted to



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explain their reasoning and explain what they would like to substitute in place of the aforementioned line in the DVHL By-Laws.





- Campus Wild stated that their thoughts were trying to eliminate people making a choice on a team and then trying to go and get a better option on the second (2nd) night.
- Jay stated that it's a contract and Pennsylvania Law gives you seventy-two (72) hours to opt out of a contract and twenty-four (24) hours is less than Pennsylvania law allows. Jay added that the DVHL policy cannot be enforced against the contract law in Pennsylvania or Delaware.
- Campus asked if the organizations are entitled to the same regarding the contract.
  - Jay stated he will look into it and get back to the league with an answer.
- Zach Overholtzer from the PA Huntsmen asked if there was a way to set an expectation as a league and leave it open-ended for those that want to go down that path so that there is a transparent contract timeline. Zach added that if someone wants to go the other direction, they can do that. Zach elaborated that just like USA Hockey and the Atlantic District, the DVHL defines that once a contract is signed with a team the by-laws state "XYZ". Zach went on to state that if someone wants to challenge it by stating what the Pennsylvania State law states otherwise, then they can contact the organization.
- Allan Plotkin from Genesis stated that he does not think it's a good idea to have different clubs have different structures or the possibility of it. Allan went on to state that he believes that it should be consistent for the entire league.
- Zach Overholtzer from the PA Huntsmen stated he's only suggesting it for state bound. He is suggesting that the league should put something out as a league statement and then if someone of a member club, wherever they are, want to raise that point, then that's when we, the membership take a case by case.
- Brian Peca from the Ice Hawks asked Zach if he was looking at this more from a league perspective rather than a district perspective. Brian went on to state that if that is something that Zach would like to propose to the district on this matter, the annual meeting is in June and that would be the time to do it. Brian believes that what Zach is referring to would pertain to all clubs in the district, not just a specific league.
- Allan Plotkin from Genesis added that if someone does not want to stay, his organization would release that player because that person would not be committed to the organization or the player to the team. If that person wants out, then his organization will allow them to leave. Allan added that his organization does not usually have that problem due to their size, his organization often has more players than they can place on a team. Allan went on to state that in different situations with smaller organizations it is a different situation, but if you



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- have someone who is dissatisfied or unhappy, then they would be just as happy if they left
- Jay asked Campus if they wished to make a motion to remove number 12 from the player agreement and Campus stated that they did not at this time.
  - Jay addressed the projected budget for next season regarding the regular season, placement tournament, and playoffs. Jay will present it in two (2) ways, the first way with everything in it and the second will exclude playoffs. Jay stated that he will send that out to the membership via email before the March meeting.
    - Dan Schindler from the Delaware Jr. Blue Hens asked Jay a question regarding the email that was sent to the organizations quoting two-thousand dollars (\$2,000) a team, but Dan believed that it should be one-thousand dollars (\$1,000) a team. Jay stated that he would look into it, but he believes that two-thousand dollars (\$2,000) is correct.
  - Jay then addressed the Code of Conduct that modification that the executive board requested be sent out to the membership due some issues that involved spectators where the Police had to be called. The board feels that if we could get some more latitude on that, it'll be good to deal with some of these situations. Jay added that the organizations where some of these incidents occurred have been very helpful.
    - Motion to adopt the updated Code of Conduct was made by:  **Genesis**
    - Motion was second to adopt the updated Code of Conduct by:  **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
  - Jay addressed that Wilkes Barre Jr. Pens uniforms were approved unanimously and stated that the PA Huntsmen will be addressed later.
  - Jay then addressed Delmarva Raptors stating that they have a unique situation on their 14U A American team. They had a player that was added on 11/23/2024. The way their schedule was built, they only had seven (7) league games. After that, the player participated in seven (7) league games. That player has only had one (1) assist in those seven (7) league games. Scoring wise. In the league he ranks one-hundred sixty-two (162) out of one-hundred seventy-six (176). Rules regarding eligibility for playoffs state that you have to play in half (1/2) of your team's league games. The 14U A American Division had eighteen (18) league games. The player only participated in seven (7). Therefore, they would not be eligible to participate in the playoffs and they're asking for an exception to allow this player to play in the playoffs.
    - Motion to allow the Delmarva Raptors 14U player to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs was made by:  **Chester County Cougars**
    - Motion seconded to allow the Delmarva Raptors 14U player to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs by:  **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**



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- The motion to allow the Delmarva Raptors 14U player to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs was opposed by:  **Hershey Jr. Bears**
- The motion passes nineteen (19) to one (1).
- Justin Lyle from Wilkes-Barre Jr Pens asked that two (2) players from his 16U team that moved up to his 18U team be allowed to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs.
  - Motion to allow the two (2) 16U players from Wilkes-Barre Jr Pens to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs was made by:  **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins**
  - Motion seconded to allow the two (2) 16U players from Wilkes-Barre Jr Pens to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs by:  **Campus Wild**
  - The motion to allow the two (2) 16U players from Wilkes-Barre Jr Pens to participate in the 2025 DVHL playoffs was opposed by:  **Chester County Cougars,**  **Genesis,**  **PA Huntsmen,**  **Ice Hawks,**  **Exton Kings,**  **Quakers,**  **Reading Jr. Royals,** and  **Hershey Jr. Bears.**
  - The motion passes twelve (12) to eight (8)
  - Jay added that he will call Karen Fund after the meeting to see if this will affect the team advancing to Districts and will notify Wilkes-Barre of the outcome.
- Jay addressed the Championship weekend. Jay stated that the table coverage was assigned. Jay asked that each team participating in playoffs brings their roster to the table. Jay added that he sent out information regarding coaches having their SafeSport certifications updated due to the twelve (12) month rolling expiration.
- Jay then addressed the DVHL meeting schedule for 2025 / 2026
  - Motion to adopt the league meeting schedule was made by:  **Huntsmen**
  - Motion seconded to adopt the league meeting schedule by:  **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins**
  - All in favor to adopt
- Jay addressed that The Huntsman were approved formally the Dynamites. Changing the name to the Huntsman for Tier 2 at 16U and 18U. Jay stated that he received the uniform that they will wear. Jay went on to state that the way he understands it, the 16U and 18U will wear a jersey, shell, and socks. The 8U will only wear jerseys and socks. Zach confirmed that was correct.
  - Motion to adopt the PA Huntsmen's uniform was made by:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**
  - Motion seconded to adopt the PA Huntsmen's uniform by:  **Ice Hawks**
  - All in favor to adopt



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- Jay announced that if you would like to be a District representative, they'll be voted on at the March meeting. Jay stated that you can self-nominate or nominate someone else. Jay stated that he needs those nominations by February 15, 2025.
- The DVHL Board elections are also going to be conducted at the March meeting. The positions up for election are Executive Vice President, Vice President (6U) through (12U), Vice President of Legal Affairs, and Treasurer. Jay asked the membership if there were any nominations and added that the nominations need to be submitted by February 15, 2025. Jay added that Joe DeAngelo, Joe Spagnola and Beth Ritter have indicated they would like to stay. Jay added that he is unsure what Terry Wochok's plans are and that he is waiting to hear from him.
- Jay announced that Beth Ritter has been appointed the Treasurer for the Atlantic District, her predecessor decided to step down and enjoy retirement.
- Jay announced that the Susquehanna Selects and Reading Jr. Royals will be voted to go from probationary member to general member.
- Jay announced that Wil Younger will be doing the All-Star game again. Jay will be sending out the information via email.
- Jay called on Brian Peca regarding the alliance with New Jersey.
  - Brian stated that he believes that based on the discussions he's had with New Jersey Youth that next year we will combine the AA levels of DVHL and NJYHL into one (1) division. This is pending NJYHL's approval.

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#### Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the February meeting was made by:  **Ice Hawks**
  - The motion seconded by: **All**
  - All in favor to adopt carried.

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#### Next Meeting:

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The February meeting will be in-person on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:30pm.