



MINUTES

Delaware Valley Hockey League

Date | Time March 12, 2025, 7:30 PM | In-person Meeting at Ice Works 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
-  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 (Absent)
-  Secretary & SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose

Represented Member Clubs:

 Campus Wild,  Central Penn Panthers,  Chester County Cougars,  Delmarva Raptors,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,  Delco Phantoms,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  Genesis,  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 Coordinator – Lisa Silvotti (Absent)
-  DVHL Scheduler – Mike Wiercinski (Absent)

Members Absent:

 Hatfield Ice Hawks

Guests:

None





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DVHL Scholarship Award Presentation:



- Executive Vice-President, Joe D'Angelo. Executive Vice-President, Joe D'Angelo presented 18U A National  Chester County Cougars player #12 Cole Blackburn the DVHL 2024 / 2025 DVHL Scholarship award.
 - Cole has been a member of the  Chester County Cougars organization since 2011 and has stayed with that organization until his final season in 2025.
 - Cole is the captain of his team and by all accounts an exceptional player and true leader on his team.
 - Cole scored 44 goals with 15 assists in 28 games played in the DVHL this season.
 - Cole is a senior at Unionville High School and currently has a 3.6 GPA. Cole scored 1100 on his SATs and has been accepted to the University of Miami, Quinnipiac University, and West Chester University. Cole anticipates studying Business or Sports Management.
- On behalf of the DVHL, we wish Cole all of the best in his future endeavors.




Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **February 12, 2025**, DVHL monthly meeting was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
 - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by:  **Chester County Cougars**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the minutes by:  **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:



- The Treasurer's report for **February 2025**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by:  **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Delmarva Raptors**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
 - Joe reminded the membership to submit their organizations evaluations forms.



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1st Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
 - Dave stated that prior to the beginning of the season, he will be sending out the start of year suspension list. He will be correcting some issues in regard to the “Reports” page on the website.
 - Dave added that the DVHL will be working with the NJYHL due to the 14U AA, 16U, and 18U will be doing a combined season with them. Dave added that the NJYHL does not send out a weekly suspension list and due to that he will be attempting to ensure that the NJYHL reports as well as the DVHL reports the suspensions as well as their player movements.

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Joe addressed 8U players playing at 10U. Joe stated that in order for an organization to move the 8U player, the organization has to make a motion to the district in a timely fashion **before evaluations and must be forwarded to Maureen Thompson-Siegel.** The information is on the Atlantic District website on the “Programs” dropdown, click ADM Program, then click Roster Waiver Requests: <https://www.atlantic-district.org/page/show/4783760-roster-waiver-requests>. Submit the request to allow the 8U player to move up to 10U.
 - **Permission will only be granted to an 8U player who is in his last year of eligibility at 8U who will be a 10U player the following season. This is not for a player who is five (5) or six (6) years old. It is for a player who is turning eight (8) years old next year and will be playing for 10U.**
 - The form will be available in March.
 - Joe then discussed the Great 8 Shootout that is scheduled for March 15, 2025, 2:30 PM at Power Play Rinks.

Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry recognized Stephane Charbonneau and his team at Ice Works for the great work that they did with the playoffs.
 - Larry discussed Dick's Sporting Goods coupons. Larry stated this is Dicks sixth (6th) year with the DVHL. Larry also stated that the coupons are on the DVHL website. Larry asked that the organizations ensure that all of the members of their organizations are aware of the coupon and asked that they pass them along to their



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- friends and family and so on. Larry added that the more that coupon gets used, the more support the league will receive from Dicks.
- Larry went on to state that Dick's is looking to do more with the DVHL. Larry is currently in talks with Dick's regarding putting something together with the 10U, 12U, and 14U during the summer at Ice Works and the House of Sports in Wilmington. There is more to come on that.

President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
 - Jay thanked all of the organizations within the DVHL for a successful 24-25 season. Jay added that this season was one (1) of the smoothest seasons due to the cooperation that he received from all of the organizations. Jay added that the Championship weekend was very successful, he did not receive any complaints and everything proceeded very well. Jay went on to state that he has received great input from the organizations, particularly at the President's meeting back on January 8th. Jay further stated that some of the comments and discussions that were had at the meeting have been added into the updated DVHL Bylaws and DVHL Rules and Regulations. Jay also stated that there were some lessons learned regarding the way we (DVHL) handles playoffs and things of that nature. Jay finally added that the DVHL wouldn't be successful without all of the people (member organizations) and his fellow DVHL executive board members.
 - Jay stated that he tasked Dave Jackson with sending him a file with the statistics regarding penalties over the last four (4) years. Jay stated that upon reviewing the file, he observed that there has been a significant decrease in major penalties, which is a testament to the coaching and the organizations being supportive of the Rules and Regulations. Jay added that the biggest thing he noticed was that the fighting majors were down 8.6% from the previous year at the 14U, 16U, and 18U levels. Jay further added that it is a pretty good trend considering that the year before, we were down 7.2% which shows that the DVHL shows good sportsmanship and that the member organizations are instilling that in their players.
 - Jay addressed the DVHL election of offices on the executive board. The positions that were up for election are Executive Vice-President, Vice-President Commissioner (8U, 10U, 12U), Vice-President – Legal, and Treasurer. Executive Vice-President Joe D'Angelo, Vice-President Commissioner (8U, 10U, 12U) Joe Spagnolo, and Treasurer Beth Ritter have chosen to stay. Jay announced that Terry Wochok, Vice-President – Legal, would not be staying on and regrettably, the person who was going to run for that position, unfortunately had to opt out at the last minute. Jay asked the membership if they





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had anyone within their organizations with a legal background who wanted to possibly run for that position, to please get in touch with him.



- Jay had not received any nominations to run against the incumbents who were up for re-election and asked the membership if they had anyone that they wished to propose. Hearing none, the membership unanimously elected Joe D'Angelo as Executive Vice-President, Joe Spagnolo as Vice-President Commissioner (8U, 10U, 12U), and Beth Ritter as Treasurer.

- Motion to adopt the election results was made by:  **Chester County Cougars**
- Motion seconded to adopt the election results by:  **Little Flyers**
- All in favor to adopt carried.

- Jay announced the reappointment of Referee & Chief, Mike Campbell, the Player Safety Coordinator Lisa Silvotti, and DVHL Master Scheduler, Mike Wiercinski.

- Motion to adopt the reappointments was made by:  **Quakers**
- Motion seconded to adopt the reappointments by:  **Reading Jr. Royals**
- All in favor to adopt carried.

- DVHL Bylaw amendments

- Motion to adopt the Resolution to the updated DVHL bylaws was made by:  **Exton Kings**
- Motion seconded to adopt the Resolution to the updated DVHL bylaws:  **Snider Hockey**
- All in favor to adopt carried.



- DVHL Rules and Regulations



- There was discussion regarding the running clock if a team is leading by six (6) goals as well as ending a game if a team is leading by ten (10) goals in the 3rd Period. After much discussion the following will be amended into the Game Rules section of the DVHL Rules and Regulations:
 - **A running clock will be in effect in all levels except 8U in games where a team is leading by a minimum of six (6) goals going into or at any point in the third period. If the margin decreases to four (4) goals, play shall resume as stop time. The clock will be stopped at the start of any penalty assessed. At the 16U & 18U at any time in the 3rd period, a team shall reach a ten (10) goal lead, the game shall be considered final and ended.**



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- Motion to adopt the DVHL Rules and Regulations with the modifications that were discussed was made by:  **Delco Phantoms**
- Motion was second to adopt the DVHL Rules and Regulations with the modifications that were discussed by:  **Genesis**
- Thirteen (13) in favor to adopt with four (4) against; motion carried.

- Adoption of miscellaneous fees
 - Motion to adopt the miscellaneous fees made by:  **Quakers**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the miscellaneous fees by:  **Little Flyers**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

- Jay discussed projections. Jay noticed an error on the projection sheets that were distributed to the organizations. At the 10U and 12U levels the sheet just says A American, but it should read B American. This was done to help eliminate the huge disparity between the upper part of the level and the lower part of the level.
 - Jay added that as of the meeting, he has only received very few projection sheets from the organizations. Jay asked that the organizations get them to him as soon as possible.

- MAHA updates.
 - Jay stated that as of now, it appears that the DVHL will be doing a combined league schedule with the NJYHL at 14U, 16U, and 18U. The teams will then return to the DVHL and NJYHL respectively for playoffs and advancement to Districts.
 - The DVHL will continue to schedule at the other levels as we have this past season.
 - Scheduling
 - Mike Wiercinski would like to get the scheduling done sometime in July of 2025.
 - Brian Peca will have a follow-up with Kelly and the information he receives will be forthcoming.



- Jay stated that the club information sheet is available online on the “Forms” page. The club information sheet is due no later than May 1, 2025.

- DVHL Budget:
 - Jay stated that there were two (2) budgets sent out.



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- One (1) that was suggested at the January meeting, to include in the league fees the cost of playoffs next year. That was based on what the DVHL paid this year for playoffs and adding extra ice and referee time in based on the reformatted playoff structure, allowing more teams in, and also adding the B level at 10U and 12U.
 - The budget without the playoffs next year rather than do it the way the DVHL did it this past season, with a separate assessment for playoffs, the DVHL should have charged \$633.19 per team, and we charged \$460.00 When you add in what the teams pay for playoffs, the fee would have been \$633.19. If the organizations don't want to include playoffs in the installment, it would be \$462.29 at three (3) instalments which comes to \$1300.00 per team. Last season, it would have been \$1800.00 per team.
 - If you add in playoffs, instead of \$633.00 in three (3) instalments the way it previously was, it's \$609.55 in three (3) instalments per team. The league will save money on the cost of ice and things of that nature. Jay believes that we saved some money. Playoffs came in less than the amount which Jay added as a credit to next year's fees which helped adjust the fees down for next year's fees whether the membership includes playoffs and does not include playoffs. Jay stated that the consensus in January was that the membership would rather pay everything upfront one (1) time than receive another bill later on.
 - Adoption of including playoffs in the budget.
 - Motion to adopt to include playoffs in the budget made by:  **Campus Wild**
 - Motion seconded to adopt to include playoffs in the budget by:  **Genesis**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
 - The tentative season schedule has been distributed to the membership.
 - To help with crossover games with the NJYHL, the DVHL put the season begins August 16th, 2025, with Blackout weekend and Championship weekend being the same over, President's Day weekend, like it was this year.
 - The locations for the National Championships, the 18U AA is at Ice Line, the 16U AA is in Irvine, California, and the 14U AA is in Rochester, Michigan.
 - Jay reminded the membership that all of their teams have a locker room monitor.
 - Hazardous Weather Policy:




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- A motion was made to adopt the hazardous weather policy by:  **Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club**
- Motion seconded to adopt the hazardous weather policy by:  **Delmarva Raptors**
- All in favor to adopt carried.
- New Membership:
 -  **Susquehanna Selects**
 - A motion to adopt a Resolution allowing  **Susquehanna Selects** to be a full member of the DVHL by:  **Campus Wild**
 - Motion seconded to adopt a Resolution allowing  **Susquehanna Selects** to be a full member of the DVHL by:  **Wilmington Nighthawks**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.
 -  **Reading Jr. Royals**
 - A motion to adopt a Resolution allowing  **Reading Jr. Royals** to be a full member of the DVHL by:  **Delaware Jr. Blue Hens**
 - Motion seconded to adopt a Resolution allowing  **Reading Jr. Royals** to be a full member of the DVHL by:  **Genesis**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Adjournment:



- A motion to adjourn the February meeting was made by:  **Chester County Cougars** at 8:28 p.m.
 - The motion seconded by: **All**.
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, via Zoom at 7:00pm.



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Subsequent Events & Actions:

On March 13th the following email was sent to all DVHL Presidents and DVHL Representatives.

“All,

After the meeting last night, it was brought to our attention that the policy I instituted for the conclusion of games was not included in the Rules and Regulations.

I'm asking for permission to include the two highlighted areas in the Rules and Regulations as we Amended them last night on the attached document.

If you are OK with the addition, **do not reply**. If opposed, please let me know.

This statement will be added in Article 4 – GAME RULES, Section 2 Ice and Facility Responsibility G. and ARTICLE 7 -RULES FOR DVHL PLAYOFFS P.

“At the conclusion of a game and after the handshake, the away team shall exit the playing surface and return to their locker room while the home team is held at their bench.”

There weren't any opposed emails.