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Delaware Valley Hockey League

Date | time January 21, 2026, 7:30 PM | In-Person Meeting was called to order by Executive Vice-President Joe D'Angelo
















Respectfully Submitted by Michael DeRose, DVHL Secretary

Attendance:




Executive Committee Members Present:

-  President – Jay Finnigan (Absent)
-  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,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,  Delco Phantoms,  Delmarva Raptors,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  Hatfield Ice Hawks,  Hershey Jr. Bears,  Huntsmen,  Philadelphia Little Flyers,  Quakers,  Snider Hockey,  Susquehanna Valley Stampede,  Wilmington Nighthawks, and  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins

Associate Members:

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

Members Absent:

-  Genesis (Upon membership request)
-  Reading Jr. Royals

Guests:

None





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Approval of the DVHL Meeting Agenda:



- The DVHL meeting agenda for **January 21, 2026** was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Executive Vice-President, Joe D'Angelo
 - Motion to adopt the meeting agenda was made by:  **Central Penn Panthers**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the meeting agenda by:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.




Approval of Minutes:



- The minutes of **November 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:  **Central Penn Panthers**
 - 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 **November and December 2025**, were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
 - Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report was made by:  **Quakers**
 - Motion seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Hershey Jr. Bears**
 - All in favor to adopt carried.

Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
 - Joe touched informed the membership that as of the date of the meeting (01/21/2026), he has not received any applications for the DVHL Scholarship. Joe asked the organizations to please send the information out to their respective membership.
 - Joe informed the membership that there was an issue at the Midget 16 (16U) AA level regarding the Hersey JR. Bears. Joe stated that there were fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) games that were forfeited and will not be playoff bound.
 - A member asked for the reason why Hersey was being disciplined.
 - Dave Jackson stated that the reason was due to five (5) players on the Hershey U16 AA team were also playing for the Hershey JR. Cubs, a USPHL team. Dave stated that he imposed the ruling which was



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appealed by Hershey and was upheld by the Atlantic District. Dave further stated that there were thirteen (13) or fourteen (14) games that were forfeited because he took away the games that were played prior to the JR. Cubs season started. Dave went on to state that he understands that a forfeit is normally a one to nothing (1-0) loss, but to avoid the players losing their statistics, he will go in and add one (1) goal to the team that should be winning and mark the goal as “Bench Player”.

- Dave then asked the membership if they agreed with how he was going to proceed with scoring those games with no opposition.
- Joe called on Brian Peca to provide the membership with an update regarding MAHA (Mid Atlantic Hockey Alliance).
 - Brian stated that everything has been going well this year. Brian went on to state that once the split season ended with New Jersey Youth, he took the U16 out of the New Jersey Divisions and placed them in their own divisions for the playoffs.
 - Brian added that he believes that MAHA has done what everyone had hoped for giving the teams a variety of teams to play.
 - Stéphane Charbonneau from the Philadelphia Little Flyers stated that he coached a U16 AA team and that the division in MAHA was unbelievably good. Stéphane went on to state that the competition was outstanding.
 - Brian stated that at the 18U level each organization played each other one (1) time through the New Jersey circuit, which he believed was perfect. Brian believes that the 16U being split up into two (2) divisions needs to be discussed further for next year in terms of how that is worked out regarding National bound teams.
- Joe called on Wil Younger to provide the membership with an update on the league’s social media.
 - Wil stated that the numbers are continuing to grow. Wil added that the only issue of concern that he has is that he’s just not getting nearly enough submissions from the membership to showcase our players such as student of the month, players of the week, and plays of the week. Wil just asked that the membership push their teams to send in the information regarding that to help continue to promote the league and highlight our players achievements on and off of the ice.
- Joe stated that Jay will be sending out requests to the organizations regarding desk coverage for playoffs.
- Joe stated that Jay wanted him to remind the membership that team rosters are due prior to the first playoff game. Joe also stated that Jay received information from the Atlantic District regarding coaches and players who are red lined. Jay asked that the membership ensure that their coaches have all of their credentials up to date. Failure to comply will result in the coaches not being permitted on the bench during playoffs.



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- Joe stated that a few organizations have fallen behind on paying their required fees. Joe asked that those organizations who are in arrears, ensure that they are up to date before the start of playoffs.
- Joe then addressed the situation regarding Genesis. Joe stated that Dave Jackson and Joe Spagnolo have spoken to Genesis at length regarding their departure from the DVHL. The reason Genesis is leaving appears to have to do with game count. Joe stated to the membership that it is important to the DVHL to know if the league is not playing enough games. Joe stated that he has been part of several lengthy discussions with Henry Lazar from EJ (Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League). Joe stated that they have agreed to work with the DVHL to help us with whatever the league needs. Joe then stated that the DVHL needs input from the organizations regarding exactly what the membership wants.
 - A member stated that a lot of the EJ teams are NJYHL teams and believes that we're paying to play in a league just to prove the alliance.
 - Joe stated that there is a meeting set up with the NJYHL in order to see if it's possible to start doing some crossover games at the A and B level. Joe further stated that Kelly Coyle DiNorcia, the NJYHL president, unfortunately got sick and required surgery, that unfortunately had her out of commission for period of time. Joe went on to state that as soon as she is feeling better, the DVHL will talk to the NJYHL in order to advance the A and B levels to have some crossover games.
 - Brian Peca informed the membership that USA Hockey is starting a new league called the NDL (National Development League). Basically, they are selecting a few clubs at each district based on how many numbers they have. You'll have a 15U level and a 17U level, they would play within tier 1, but they would be more or less, above tier 1, they would play other NDL teams in the country, but they would still play within the tier 1 structure within the district. Brian believes that what we'll see will be two (2) clubs within our district will be selected for a 15U and a 17U team. Brian went on to state that the opposition from the Atlantic District's standpoint was regarding the fact that not enough of it was flushed out regarding the financial aspect as far as what it will cost, where the money is coming from to finance this because there are certain parameters that they want the teams to abide by, but USA Hockey has not even set those yet. USA Hockey has not set what exactly it's going to look like, what the logistics are, what the game count should be, how many tier 1 teams you are playing, or how many other non-league games are you playing. Brian further stated that USA Hockey's stance was "let's pass this and we'll figure it out later." Brian went on to state that no one within the Atlantic District is in support of this.
 - Joe revisited the conversation with the EJ and again stated that they are excited because, obviously, the EJ lost Genesis. Joe went on to state that the EJ wants to



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work with the DVHL, so that the membership isn't traveling so much for tournaments.

- Joe then announced that he and Jay have a Zoom meeting with the EJ set up for 01/22/2026 at 9:00 PM. Joe asked if the membership had any suggestions, they are welcome to email either him or Jay. Joe then stated that the DVHL would like all of the member organizations to join the EJ so that we have competitive games and so you're not playing the same teams four (4) or five (5) times. That said the game count can increase. Joe added that the teams have to play the same teams to an extent, so that it can be counted in the standings.
- Dave Jackson added that the EJ needs to understand that once a team is placed into a division, they cannot be flip flopped to another division, as has previously been done in the past within the EJ. The DVHL is also trying to ensure that the teams within the DVHL are playing more teams outside of the NJYHL and our immediate area to make it more appealing and more comfortable. Dave went on to state that the DVHL is attempting to avoid what has occurred in the past with teams going to play in EJ tournaments and they end up playing the same team three (3) times in the weekend.
- Joe circled back to the game count asking the membership what is the average home ice slots within their budget.
 - The Wilmington Nighthawks stated that they, on average, usually schedule fifteen (15) games. The Nighthawks added that through discussions with other organizations, the majority are not in favor of the loose games within the EJ.
 - The Philadelphia Little Flyers suggested that it should be explained to the EJ that the Showcase games should count as league games.
 - Brian Peca added that it is important for the DVHL membership to understand what the EJ schedules looks like, when their playoffs take place as well as when their showcases take place. That would intern help the DVHL membership to understand what their game counts need to be to meet with that kind of setup.
- Joe then polled the member organizations regarding whether the DVHL goes back to AA, A, and B from Squirt (10U) all the way up to Midget 18 (18U) rather than have approximately six (6) divisions.
 - Brian Peca stated that he believes that at the A level it's better to have an A National and A American. Brian went on to state that at the B level, it's a little different and believes that at the B level there should be a B National and B American. Brian further stated that as a coach, he would rather play four (4) or five (5) of the same skill level teams at the right competition so that they can develop as opposed to playing teams that are way above their skill level.



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- Snider Youth Hockey asked if it hurt scheduling partnerships with New Jersey if they keep their division split that way or at least make it harder to find what will be accurate competition.
- A question was asked if the DVHL had attempted to meet with the AHF (The Atlantic Hockey Federation) in order to attempt to set up crossover games with them.
 - Joe informed the membership that he and Jay sat down with John Graves about doing just that. Joe further stated that John Graves was fully behind doing that, however the AHF has no room in their schedule to participate in crossover games.
 - Joe Spagnolo informed the membership that the AHF plays a twenty-eight (28) league game schedule. Joe added that the teams in the AHF also play an additional twenty (20) to thirty (30) games under the AHF, so those teams are playing upwards of fifty (50) and in some cases sixty (60) games. Joe further stated that when you move to the AAA level, those teams are playing even more than that.
 - Chester County Cougars stated that the membership is talking about game counts and the AHF. Chester County went on to state that their club has noticed a large increase in players coming to their organization from the AHF to the point that they may have to turn players away. Chester County further stated that the reason for the players leaving the AHF and coming to them is due to their lack of interest in playing that many games.
 - Joe Spagnolo added to Chester County's point by stating that since the AHF was started, the DVHL, granted has lost organizations but each organization has grown and grown significantly to probably where you're at the point where you're at the highest number of players, then you've ever been before. Joe added that unlike the AHF, the membership decides, collectively, where the DVHL wants to go and where the game counts are to be set.
 - A suggestion was made to make the showcases more centric in order to make the travel less burdensome.
- Joe announced to the membership that Rizzo is going to apply to come back to the DVHL. Joe added that they will be starting with two (2) mite (8U) teams.
- Joe opened the floor to the membership.
 - Philadelphia Little Flyers asked if there was a timeline on when the membership will have the information regarding EJ as far as cost, sighting that the budgets are going to be released soon.
 - Joe stated that he will get that information to the membership as soon as possible.



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- A question was posed to see if there was any way to push the playoffs back in the future.
 - Brian Peca stated that we could possibly schedule playoffs for the younger / lower levels later, that would make it easier in the future for scheduling.
- A question was posed regarding bringing an All-Star game back and possibly having it on New Year's Day. After polling the membership, the membership unanimously agreed to bring back the All-Star game in the coming season at U16 and U18.
- Central Penn Panthers suggested possibly putting together a DVHL Select Team to play in the Chowder Cup in Boston to help our player get more exposure. Central Penn went on to suggest that a committee be put together to make the selections. Central Penn then asked if there was a way for the DVHL to possibly get some funds to help with the players expenses such as uniforms and fees.
- Joe informed the membership that teams from Delaware at the AA level will not participate in the DVHL playoffs due to their automatic bid to Districts.

1st Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Dave Jackson
 - Dave reminded the membership to ensure that all of the games are uploaded and completed into GameSheet. Dave added that he is currently changing all of the games regarding Princeton. Dave anticipates having the issue corrected shortly.
 - Joe D'Angelo touched on the issue with the Princeton Tigers. Joe informed the membership that Princeton informed him that their schedule comes out later than the DVHL's and they overbooked too many games and too many ice slots, as a result, that is the reason that they are forfeiting games, unfortunately Princeton does not have it in their budget or the time to fit all of the games in.
 - Joe added that if Princeton owes any of the organizations ice or referee bonds, Joe asked that the membership email him and Jay Finnigan on how much is owed and they will go after Princeton for the reimbursement
 - Dave stated that the playoff schedule is up in GameSheet and upon the completion of the season, he will begin to filter the teams into the appropriate slots.

2nd Vice President's Report:



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo
 - Joe stated that over the past month, he has handled several Match penalties. Joe further stated that every organization involved has been very cooperative regarding the discipline



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that has been handed down. Joe appreciates that the membership is all on the same page regarding how the players and coaches are to conduct themselves.

- Joe announced that the Great8 tournament in Exton will be Sunday, March 22, 2026, from 9:20 AM until 10:50 AM. This tournament is for players who are playing at the Mite (8U) who will be moving to the Squirt (10U) level. Joe asked that each organization provide him and Jeff Grable with two (2) of their best 2017 birth year players who fall into that parameter. Upon receiving the information, the players will be split up into two (2) divisions and they will play a game, just like a Squirt (10U) level game with three (3) twelve-minute periods. There will also be a skill session beforehand and a shootout afterward.
- Joe then reminded the membership that after December 31st, there are no player movements unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

Vice President Marketing Report:



- V.P. Larry Sechuk
 - Larry informed the membership that he is still in talks with Dick's sporting goods and Larry believes that Dick's will continue to sponsor the DVHL.
 - Larry reminded the membership of the importance of having a locker room monitor in the locker rooms.
 - Larry stated that the Ice Works Pub & Grill will be offering meals to go during playoffs. Larry added the price of the meals are yet to be determined.

DVHL Master Scheduler Report:



- DVHL Master Scheduler Mike Wiercinski
 - Mike stated that he sent out an email earlier in the week of 01/19/2026 regarding finalizing the games.
 - Mike also informed the membership that GameSheet has been having an issue regarding multiple games being added. Mike informed the membership that if you go into your system and observe on a certain date that you already input the information the required information regarding that date and then you discover that there is now an additional game, send him an email and he will make the necessary corrections to delete the game that was, for some unknown reason added.
 - Mike addressed the issue of the upcoming anticipated snow storm for the weekend of 01/24/2026. Mike sent the DVHL board a list of games that may potentially be impacted. The DVHL will monitor the weather and will cancel games in accordance with the hazardous weather policy. Mike went on to state that in the event that games were canceled, those games will have to be scheduled quickly due to possible playoff implications.



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- Brian Peca from the Hatfield Ice Hawks brought up that there may be an issue regarding the rescheduling of games between now and President's Day weekend due to the number of games that will need to be rescheduled.
 - A suggestion was made to possibly reschedule the games on a week night as long as it's within reason, taking into consideration travel distance for the teams.
 - Mike Wiercinski informed the membership that forty (40) games will be affected from Mite (8U) up to Midget 18 (18U). If you subtract the Mite (8U) games, seven (7), that leaves you with thirty-three (33) games.
 - Another suggestion was made to focus on the games regarding teams that would be affected for playoffs.
 - Joe D'Angelo stated that the DVHL will get the information out to the membership without delay regarding the weather.

President's Report:



- President Jay Finnigan
 - Jay was absent.

Adjournment:



- The January meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2025 via Zoom at 7:00pm.