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**Attendance:**




**Executive Committee Members Present:**

-  President – Jay Finnigan
-  Executive Vice-President – Joe D’Angelo
-  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:**

 Central Penn Panthers,  Chester County Cougars,  Delmarva Raptors,  Delaware Jr. Blue Hens,  Delco Phantoms,  Exton Kings Ice Hockey Club,  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

**Members Absent:**




 Hatfield Ice Hawks

**Guests:**

 Lady Patriots



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**Approval of Minutes:** 

- Note for the Record that the Minutes of March 12, 2025, were distributed per the Bylaws.
- **February 12, 2026**, DVHL monthly meeting Minutes were put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Secretary,  Michael DeRose.
  - Motion to adopt the minutes was made by:  **Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins**
  - Motion was 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 **February 2026**, was put to the floor for adoption by DVHL Treasurer,  Beth Ritter.
  - Motion to adopt the Treasurer’s report was made by:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**



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- Motion was seconded to adopt the Treasurer's report by:  **Huntsmen**
- All in favor to adopt carried.




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#### Executive Vice-President's Actions regarding Elections:

- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
  - Joe D'Angelo addressed the board elections. Joe stated that Jay sent out several emails asking for nominations for the positions that are up for election, President, Vice President 14U, 16U and 18U, Vice President Marketing, and Secretary. Joe announced that we have nominations for each position. They are: Wil Younger-Secretary, Larry Sechuk-Vice President Marketing, Dave Jackson-Vice President 14U, 16U and 18U and Jay Finnigan-President. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, he asked that the Secretary cast one vote for the election by acclamation of Wil Younger-Secretary, Larry Sechuk-Vice President Marketing, Dave Jackson-Vice President 14U, 16U and 18U and Jay Finnigan-President.



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#### President's Actions regarding Elections:

- Election of Zone Directors. We are allowed 6. We have six (6) nominations: Joe D'Angelo, Joe Spagnolo, Dave Jackson, Larry Sechuk, Stephane Charbonneau & Wil Younger. Jay asked for a motion to elect the six (6) by acclamation.
  - Motion to adopt elect by acclamation:  **Hershey Jr. Bears**
  - Motion seconded:  **Reading Jr. Royals**
  - All in favor to adopt carried.
- Jay asked for individuals to volunteer to be alternate Zone Directors. Griffin Helm, Bryce Whitman, Joe DiPierio and Jeff Grabel volunteered. Jay made a motion to elect the four (4) by acclamation.
  - Motion seconded:  **Central Penn Panthers**
  - All in favor to adopt carried.

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#### President's Actions regarding Bylaws

- Jay went over the Bylaw changes noted on the following pages.
  - Page 3 Article II – Membership, Section 1 Members, F. was added: A hockey organization, club and/or league that notifies the DVHL of their withdrawal immediately loses it right to vote and shall not attend any future DVHL general or special meetings.
  - Article V – Board of Directors added Safesport Coordinator and that positions job duties “L”
  - Motion to adopt Bylaw Amendments:  **Chester County Cougars,**
  - Motion seconded:  **Reading Jr. Royals**





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- All in favor to adopt carried.

#### President's Actions regarding Rules & Regulations



- Jay went over the Rules & Regulations changes in two parts. The first as presented by the Executive Board. The Rules & Regulations with changes highlighted in yellow are attached and made a part of these minutes.
  - Motion to adopt Rules & Regulations Amendments/Changes as suggested by the Executive Board:
    -  **Chester County Cougars,**
    - Motion seconded:  **Quakers**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
- Jay then went to the Rules and Regulations Amendments as suggested by individual members.

#### Proposal 1.

##### SECTION 1 — LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP, DVHL PLAYOFFS AND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The format for DVHL League Championship/Playoffs, and the method to determine teams going to the District Championship Tournament shall be selected by the Board of Directors each year by the September monthly meeting, or after District/Affiliate formats are announced and DVHL teams have been set. The possibilities are if two teams are to participate: 1st & 2nd place Regular Season, 1st place Regular Season and Championship/Playoff Champion, 1st and 2nd place Championship/Playoff Champion or any other combination as approved.

When the petition of any organization to play a team at a level lower than that assigned by the league is granted by the league, that team shall be ineligible to participate in post season district competition as well as DVHL Championship/Playoff competition.

Championship/Playoff format shall be as follows unless modified by Board of Directors:

- Divisions with eight (8) or less teams; three (3) team round robin.
- Divisions with nine (9) to eleven (11) teams; four (4) team standard double elimination format.
- Divisions with twelve (12) + teams; 4th place team plays 5th place team in a one game play in, followed by a team four (4) team standard double elimination format.

For all Divisional breakdowns:

- *All Divisions: NJYHL teams do not advance to the AAHA District Championship Qualifiers through the DVHL, and do not count toward Divisional team count.*
  - *Meaning: a division with 8 DVHL teams, plus 1 NJYHL team in the DVHL standings does not equal 9 teams, it is 8.*
- *AA Division: NJYHL and Delaware teams do not count toward for team count.*
  - *Meaning: a division with 7 DVHL teams, plus 2 Delaware teams in the DVHL standings does not equal 9 teams, it is 7.*



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- Combined AA divisions will omit the results of MAHA cross-over games, unless there is a balanced schedule played:
    - All Teams (National and American) play the same number of games against all teams, meaning the DVHL AA team plays equal games versus NJYHL AA National and American teams
    - If DVHL AA teams play an unbalanced schedule, MAHA cross-over game results will not count toward the DVHL Playoff Championship Standings, and only games played within the DVHL will count toward the DVHL Standings
  - If an equal number of games is played, the standard point system will be used.
  - If an unbalanced schedule is played, the points percentage earned will be used to determine divisional standings for DVHL Playoff Championship
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For Next year:

If we can move the current 53 games that are non-district/national levels in this playoff cycle to Feb 27-28, 2027. (Assuming Feb 13-14,2027 still DVHL AA/A playoffs.) Super Bowl LXI: Feb. 14, 2027

Then we can expand the playoffs and add another team or two in at each level. Giving more hope than 3 teams making the playoffs at one level.

Seems like AHF everyone makes playoffs, not saying we need that just add some more teams.

The season being so crunched it would allow the non-District/National teams to play longer into season and take pressure off schedulers.

The Schedulers try to jam in games in, and yes August is an option, but some schedulers won't schedule in August, we tried.

Next year we lose one more week with a later Labor Day. Next season we only have 20 weekends, (+oct 31 being on Saturday) to schedule, rather than the 24 weekends from the past.

Since we have less programs, it also gives teams a better chance of winning league championships, it may be more enticing for customers.

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### Proposal 2.

#### **Current Rule – Section 1: League Championship, DVHL Playoffs, and District Championships**

The DVHL rules currently state:

- The format for League Championships/Playoffs and the method to determine teams advancing to District Championships is selected by the DVHL Board of Directors each season by the September monthly meeting, or after District/Affiliate formats are announced and league teams are finalized.
  - Multiple options may be used for determining District representatives (e.g., regular-season standings, playoff results, or any combination approved by the Board).
  - Organizations granted a petition to play a team at a lower competitive level than originally assigned are ineligible for DVHL or District postseason play.
  - Standard playoff formats based on division size:
    - 8 or fewer teams: 3-team round robin
    - 9–11 teams: 4-team double elimination
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- 12+ teams: #4 vs #5 play-in, then 4-team double elimination

In practice—and stated verbally to our organization multiple times—the DVHL has implemented an unwritten rule that Delaware AA teams are not permitted to advance to the DVHL Championship, regardless of season performance.

#### Proposed Change

AA teams from Delaware shall be eligible to qualify for and participate in DVHL Playoffs and to compete for the DVHL Championship.

To address Pennsylvania's District qualification process while maintaining fairness, the following guidance applies in a 4-team playoff format when one team is from Delaware:

- If the Delaware team wins the DVHL Championship over a Pennsylvania opponent,  
→ the Pennsylvania opponent shall be considered the "1st Place DVHL" representative for District qualification purposes.
- The second Pennsylvania representative will be determined by a  
→ "PA Qualifier Play-In Game" played during the existing playoff timeframe.

This ensures equitable participation while preserving the district advancement structure for Pennsylvania clubs.

#### Reason for Change

1. Fairness & Competitive Integrity  
Excluding Delaware AA teams from DVHL playoffs—even when they compete all season within the league—creates an unfair and uneven playing field. Teams that meet all league requirements and complete a full league schedule reasonably expect to be eligible for postseason opportunities.
2. Consistency With Existing DVHL Rules  
The DVHL rules clearly state:

*"The format for DVHL League Championship/Playoffs, and the method to determine teams going to the District Championship Tournament shall be selected by the Board of Directors each year by the September monthly meeting."*

This language indicates that it is the DVHL Board's authority—not the District's—to determine:

- How DVHL playoffs operate, and
- How Pennsylvania teams advance to Districts.

Nothing in the rule suggests that Delaware teams must be excluded from participating in DVHL playoffs. The Board already has the authority to set whatever method is needed to determine Pennsylvania's District qualifiers, without removing Delaware teams from the postseason entirely.

3. A Practical and Balanced Solution

The proposed structure:

- Allows Delaware AA teams to play for the DVHL Championship they earn through regular-season performance.
  - Maintains a fully Pennsylvania-based qualifying pathway for Districts.
  - Prevents disruption to District selection rules while restoring fairness within the DVHL itself.
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#### **Proposal 3.**

Article 6- Section 1-

Current rule-

Divisions with eight (8) or less teams; three (3) team round robin.

Divisions with nine (9) to eleven (11) teams; four (4) team standard double elimination format.

Suggested change-

Divisions with seven (7) or less teams; three (3) team round robin.

Divisions with eight (8) to eleven (11) teams; four (4) team standard double elimination format.

Reason for the change:

Sending less than four teams to playoffs for a division should only be done in very small divisions where more than 50% of the teams. Increasing participation in playoffs is a great way to ensure meaningful games are played up to the final weekend. Given that we are likely to have smaller divisions moving forward, it makes sense that we should send 4 teams more often to playoffs at each level.

***Proposals 1, 2 & 3 were tabled and a subcommittee headed by Griffin Helm and Will Younger will “draft” a singular proposal to cover all three of these recommendations.***

#### **Proposals 4 & 5.**

Article 4- Section 2 A.1-

Currently reads-

1. A two-man referee system will be used at all levels.

Suggested change:

A two-man referee system will be used at all levels that includes at least one official 18 years or older.

Reason for the change:

Our club is in support of have minor aged referees and desires to support their training. We do feel that having two minors officiate a game is unfair to the referees, coaches and participants. Ensuring that at least one adult referee is present will help prevent abuse of the minor officials, undue influence of adults over referees and is an appropriate way to support the development of our future officials.

Article 8- Section 3-

Current rule-

1. C. The officials in a League game on the AA, A and B divisions, are recommended to be at least two (2) hockey age levels and four (4) years older than the team they are refereeing. The officials in a league game in the B AMERICAN division are recommended to follow the USA Hockey guidelines to be at least one (1) hockey age level and two (2) years older than the team they are referring.



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1. However, it remains the responsibility of the referee assignors to determine the qualifications and skill level of referees in the area, and to assure that officials assigned to a game have capabilities commensurate with the level of play in the assigned game.
2. Under no circumstances shall officials be assigned to a game at the same hockey age level at which they themselves would be eligible to play, unless approved by the DVHL Referee-in-Chief.

#### Suggested change-

C. At no time shall two minor aged (under 18) referees be assigned to work the same game. At least one official must be 18 years of age or older for all league games. The officials in a League game on the AA, A and B divisions, are recommended to be at least two (2) hockey age levels and four (4) years older than the team they are refereeing. The officials in a league game in the B AMERICAN division are recommended to follow the USA Hockey guidelines to be at least one (1) hockey age level and two (2) years older than the team they are referring.

1. However, it remains the responsibility of the referee assignors to determine the qualifications and skill level of referees in the area, and to assure that officials assigned to a game have capabilities commensurate with the level of play in the assigned game.
2. Under no circumstances shall officials be assigned to a game at the same hockey age level at which they themselves would be eligible to play, unless approved by the DVHL Referee-in-Chief.



#### Reason for the change:

Our club is in support of have minor aged referees and desires to support their training. We do feel that having two minors officiate a game is unfair to the referees, coaches and participants. Ensuring that at least one adult referee is present will help prevent abuse of the minor officials, undue influence of adults over referees and is an appropriate way to support the development of our future officials.

**These two items failed after a motion to approved was asked for 3 times and not received.**

#### Proposal 6.

Regarding DVHL Rules and Regulations, Section 3 - Rostering, Subsection N

1. The ineligible player who participated in any game will be suspended for ~~five (5)~~ one (1) – five (5) league games.
  - o Motion to approve:  **Chester County Cougars**
  - o Motion seconded:  **Central Penn Panthers**
  - o All in favor to adopt carried.

#### Proposal 7.

##### *Rules and Regulations*

##### Section 7 – Player Movements

Until December 31st, each team will be allowed ten (10) moves within an age division and/or between age divisions (goalies exempt). Movements are for the same club and DVHL teams only. This does not include assignment of a player to an In-House program, which must occur at the time of player evaluations per Section 3 of the Rules & Regulations.



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Player Additions/**Deletions and Movements** must be approved by the appropriate VP, or by any Executive member if that VP is not available, prior to the player participating in a league game. Failure to get approval prior to playing the player **will** result in a forfeit for playing an illegal player.

A player can be rostered on only one (1) DVHL club and cannot participate or be rostered **on any other club's roster** or another AAHA District tournament or USA Hockey National Tournament-bound roster.



### Section 4

No DVHL rostered player may participate with a Tier I team in any capacity, regardless of games, tournaments, practices, etc., without the prior written approval by their Tier II Club President and the **DVHL Executive board member**. Any player who is found not in compliance with this bylaw can be subject to suspension for the remainder of the season and the player must be removed from the Tier I roster before playing their next DVHL game.

Interleague games and schedules.

Any team that participates in a League other than the DVHL, for example, MAHA, EJPHL, must play each other at least twice in a season. The resulting games from each of the DVHL-scheduled games will be considered for playoff eligibility.

Any division that has an odd number of teams participating in a season, their eligibility for the playoffs will be based on winning percentage.

- Motion to approve:  **Central Penn Panthers**
- Motion seconded:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**
- All in favor to adopt carried.

### Executive Vice-President's Report:



- V.P. Joe D'Angelo
  - Joe indicated that the Terry Wochuk Scholarship winner will be announced at the April meeting.

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



- V.P. Dave Jackson
  - Nothing to report.

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



- V.P. Joe Spagnolo



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- Joe then discussed the Great 8 Shootout that is scheduled for March 22, 2026, 9:20 AM at Power Play Rinks.
- Placement tournament reminders (May 1-3 10U & 12U; May 15-17 14U)
- Mite waiver's due before tryouts. From available on AAHA Website.

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#### Vice President Marketing Report:







- V.P. Larry Sechuk
  - Larry recognized Stephane Charbonneau and his team at IceWorks for the great work that they did with the playoffs.
  - Larry also discussed the importance of getting information to Will Younger so he can maintain our social media presence.

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#### 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.
  - Huntsmen/Kings discussion and Uniform Approval
    - Motion to approve:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers**
    - Motion seconded:  **Hershey Jr. Bears**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
  - Note for Record – Wilmington Nighthawks 3<sup>rd</sup> Uniform Approved unanimously by electronic vote on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 2026/2027 Referee Fees distributed to the membership electronically.
  - Jay spoke about the SafeSport Audit that took place during the AAHA Championship last weekend in Hackensack.
  - Appointment of Commissioner[s] - Dave Jackson & Joe Spagnolo, SafeSport Coordinator – Mike DeRose, Referee-In-Chief – Mike Campbell & Master Scheduler – Mike Wiersinski
    - Motion to approve:  **Central Penn Panthers**
    - Motion seconded:  **Reading Jr. Royals**
    - All in favor to adopt carried.
  - Club Information – are Due May 15, 2026. input form will be available on the Website.
  - Budget Discussion – Adoption April based on playoff determination for 2026-2027 by the subcommittee.
  - Leave of Absence – Campus Wild



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- Motion to approve:  **Wilmington Nighthawks**
- Motion seconded:  **Delaware Jr. Blue**
- **Motion failed unanimously**
  
- Leave of Absence Continuance – Delmarva Raptors
- Motion to approve:  **Wilmington Nighthawks**
- Motion seconded:  **Reading Jr. Royals**
- All in favor to adopt carried with the exception of the  **Huntsmen** who voted nay.
  
- Initial Projections due April 15<sup>th</sup> – input form will be available on the Website.
- Locker Room Monitor Coordinator – Each Organization
- Locker Room Monitor – Each Team (not the Team Manager)



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#### New Business:

-  Wilkes-Barre Jr. Penguins suggested that by Tuesday each week team managers or organization schedulers confirm the games for the upcoming weekend to avoid any confusion.
  - Mike Weirsinski indicated that he could send a file to each president and DVHL Representative weekly and they could forward to their teams.

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#### Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn the February meeting made by:  **Philadelphia Little Flyers** at 8:28 p.m.
  - The motion seconded by:  **Central Penn Panthers**
  - All in favor to adopt carried.

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#### Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on May 13, 2026, at 7:30pm. At IceWorks.