



Location: Petrolia Arena

Date: Jan 20, 2026

Time: 6:30 pm

Attendees: Marcy Freer, Jessica DeBoer, Nathan Whiting, Justin Free, Melisa Johnson, Clarissa Bell, Thera Wagner (in part)

Absent: Tiffany Perrin, Sherry Banks, Evan McFadden

1. Call to Order 6:29pm
2. Approval of Previous Minutes and Agenda
 - a. December 16, 2025 regular meeting – Marcy Freer, Jessica Deboer – Carried.

3. Standing Items			
#	Standing Item	Person Responsible	Comments
1	Finance	Marcy Freer	Reviewed the November Treasurer Report Fundraising Summary: Turkey Dinner - 3915.79 profit Silverstick Kitchen – 905.50 profit Nothing significant to report from financial report. Discussion regarding the LAGHA held mutual funds. Motion to accept the Treasurer Report as presented – Clarissa Bell, Jessica Deboer – Carried.
2	OWHA	Sherry Banks/Clarissa Bell	Follow Up: Clarissa to draft a letter to OWHA and Hockey Canada expressing concerns that the upcoming changes regarding bench staff may make it hard to get volunteers.



			<p>Draft letter to be circulated to board for review. Anticipated the letter will be circulated prior to the February meeting.</p> <p>Last minute OWHA meeting in December – ‘We Rise as One’ campaign was the topic of discussion. This report paints OWHA in a negative manner as it highlights some of the restrictive rules that OWHA has. Feedback from Associations in attendance was that the associations do not feel they have a voice at the table.</p> <p>FYI - Updated OWHA Helmet Policy https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/waontario/files/Forms%20and%20Policies/2025-2026/OWHA%20Helmet%20Policy.pdf</p> <p>FYI - NEW OWHA Music Policy https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/waontario/files/Forms%20and%20Policies/2025-2026/OWHA%20MUSIC%20POLICY.pdf</p>
3	League	Clarissa Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U9 teams have transitioned to full-ice play, and their league season has officially begun. • The U18B team finished first in their league, posting an impressive record of 16-1-1. • WOGHL playoff rounds have now been scheduled. • At this time, no communication has been received regarding OWHA league playoffs or OWHA playdowns. • Topic of Discussion – Communication Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been instances of coaches and managers communicating directly with OWHA and WOGHL without following established association communication channels. ○ Additionally, while awaiting confirmation of playoff rounds from WOGHL, there was an increase in inquiries from coaches and managers seeking updates. ○ Once information was provided by the league, it was promptly forwarded to coaches and scheduling managers.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving forward, when WOGHL indicates that information will be released on a specific date (e.g., the 12th), coaches and managers are expected to wait for official league communication, including any instructions, before seeking clarification. ○ Nathan to send a reminder email to coaches and managers regarding the expectations for communication.
4	Registration	Sherry Banks/ Clarissa Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Head Coach was removed by the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association (OWHA) due to not holding the required coaching qualifications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An assistant coach who meets all OWHA qualifications has been promoted to the Head Coach position. • The U15A team submitted a request for re-categorization and has successfully been re-categorized to U15BB. • A re-categorization request was submitted to the OWHA for the Chatham Crush U11C team, based on their competitive performance (record of 16-0-0, with 100 goals for and 5 against). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At this time, no response has been received from the OWHA regarding this request. • An attempt was made to appeal the re-categorization of the Lakeshore U18BB team; however, the OWHA declined to accept the appeal.
5	Ice Scheduling/Referees	Evan McFadden	<p>The December Ice Allocation report was reviewed by the Board.</p> <p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Thursday, January 15th, the U9C, U9HL 1, and U9HL 2 teams all canceled their ice sessions due to inclement weather, this will affect their ice allocations. The U13B team kept their scheduled practice, and I was able to allocate an extra 30 minutes of ice time for them. <p>Coaches should prioritize player and family safety when assessing whether it is viable to drive to practice and arrive safely. Teams are requested to evaluate weather and road conditions early enough to give parents ample time to prepare or make alternate arrangements.</p>

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			Ice Scheduler missed booking the referee for one game. Fortunately, the coach of the affected team managed to book a referee last minute to ensure the game could proceed. The Coach was informed about the cost of referees and was instructed by the Ice Scheduler to pay them accordingly. The association will reimburse the coach for the payment.
6	Coaching and Player Development	Nathan Whiting	<p>Player injury concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An incident occurred at school to a player. That player continued to attend hockey. Parents expressed concerned about the player continued to play. Board reviewed the situation and did not note any concerns with the player attending hockey. The bench staff need to ensure we respect privacy and not ask personal medical information while balancing the safety of players. <p>Player attendance concern was highlighted but at this time, nothing the board can do regarding the situation.</p> <p>Completed a D1 certification evaluation and recommended the coach for certification.</p>
7	Equipment/Personal Requirements	Justin Free	<p>Discussed purchasing a small goalie stick for the U7 program.</p> <p>Motion – To purchase a small goalie stick for the U7 program – Jessica Deboer, Clarissa Bell – Carried.</p>
8	Website	Jessica Deboer	<p>Website is up to date.</p> <p>Will reclassify U15A team to BB on website.</p>
9	Fundraising/Sponsorship	Tiffany Perrin	<p>Follow Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiffany to investigate Chase the Ace and lottery license process for it. Thera has taken on this task. Tiffany to create a sub-committee to review/update sponsorship structure/packages (see Old Business Below) <p>50/50 Fundraiser (Tiff/Justin/Thera)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas on team incentive/structure – no team incentive since the draw will be at the year end banquet Lottery License will be needed, Thera has this in progress.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch in February as an online 50/50 draw • Thera is taking over this fundraiser.
10	Board Communication/Decisions since last meeting	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revised ice schedule circulated to Board for review. Board approved the proposed schedule for the remainder of the season. 2. PD Skate for January 30 was cancelled due to the number of teams away for tournaments. 3. 2026-27 Player Projections based on birth year of current rostered players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U7 – 45-50 U9 – 40 U11 – 53 U13 – 31 U15 – 27 U18 – 43 U22 - 12
11	Inquiry/Complaints/Protests/Suspension	All	Letter circulated to board prior to meeting regarding an incident. This will be reported to OWHA to investigate.

4. Old Business						
#	Date Opened	Raised By	Item	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status
	Summary			Minutes		
2025-2 2025-3 2025-18	May 6/25	Justin Free	Sponsorship Packages	Tiffany Perrin Thera Wagner Justin Free	March 15, 2025	Open
	Changing the wording in our sponsorship package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jersey sponsors - from one set to team set • Offering a long-term sponsorship commitment • Tiered sponsorship • Individual team sponsorship A sub-committee will be formed to update the sponsorship packages/wording.			Tabled		

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	Tabled from previous meeting.					
2025-7	June 5/25	Marcy Freer	Golf Tournament	Golf Committee		Open
	2026 Location: Kingswell Glen, Petrolia Date: June 27, 2026			2 people apply, will post on website to try and gather more volunteers.		
2025-14	July 3/25	Melisa Johnson	Constitution Update	Melisa Johnson		Open
	An updated LAGHA Constitution will be presented at 2026 AGM for consideration/approval. Draft version presented for consideration.			The updated constitution was circulated to the board for review prior to the meeting. Document to be circulated to the members for review by February 1. An online form will be created for feedback to be submitted. An in-person open house will also be planned to provide members the opportunity to discuss the proposed document. All feedback will be collected by February 28 th for review by the board in March. Motion – For the Board to approve the Updated Constitution to be circulated to the membership for review – Melisa Johnson, Jessica Deboer – Carried.		
2025-31	September 9, 2025	Jessica Deboer	Pinnies – Purchase of Set	Justin Free		Closed
	Should order 4 sets – 2 small, 2 large. Discussion regarding number of sets needed if there are try outs at multiple locations or back-to-back. Justin will look into this and order in advance of try outs. 2 sets ordered and received but not good quality or appropriate sizing. Will continue looking at other options.			Will not use pinnies. Will utilize old jerseys.		



2025-36	October 28, 2025	Thera Wagner	Silverstick Kitchen			Closed
			<p>Kitchen will be open Dec 27-30 from 7:30am – 7:30pm</p> <p>Egg farmers of Ontario will donate eggs for the kitchen</p> <p>Price list from last year approved.</p> <p>Marcy, Justin and Thera will be the main coordinators for the event.</p>	<p>Total profit made by association was \$905.50</p> <p>Some gaps in volunteers for shifts but much better than previous years. The reduction of the shifts from 3 volunteers to 2 volunteers per shift seemed to help.</p>		
2025-40	October 28, 2025	Justin Free	Registration 26-27			Open
			<p>Opening registration as soon as provincials are complete (Monday am).</p> <p>Offer a bit of a discount if players are registered prior to end of tryout – pick a cut off date.</p> <p>Everyone put some thought into how to better predict numbers for next year.</p>	Table		
2025-41	December 16, 2025	Evan McFadden	Travel Team Registration			Open
			<p>To propose that the board introduce an additional fee for travel teams next year. This fee would cover two sets of jerseys and two sets of matching socks, ordered through the board. (With pricing help from the equipment Rep) This approach would extend the life of our current jerseys, reduce future replacement costs for the association, and give teams the options for names and sponsors without continuous changes to the associations jerseys. The proposal includes a fitting night with the chosen supplier, with all payments and handling managed through the board (not directly with the supplier). Any surplus from these fees would go into the association to fund additional ice time, cover other</p>	<p>Alternate Motion Proposal: If original proposal does not pass, I propose that teams be allowed, at their own discretion, to purchase their own set of jerseys at their own expense through an association-approved supplier.</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams must notify the association no later than July 1 to allow sufficient time for arrangements. • No team will be permitted to purchase jerseys after the July 1 deadline. 		



	related expenses. Under this change, the organization would supply jerseys and socks only to house league teams, (open to input and discussion)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and players must acknowledge that purchased jerseys may not be usable year to year due to number conflicts, design changes, or other association requirements. The July 1 timeline will also allow the association to determine which jerseys need replacement for the upcoming season, helping maximize funds toward equipment upgrades. A decision will be required on how sponsorships will be handled for teams opting to purchase their own jerseys. <p>Concerns noted: July 1st deadline – not all teams are set ie. last tier team or U9 as well as sponsorship issues. Potential to create financial hardship on some players.</p> <p>Tabled</p>		
2025 - 42	December 16, 2025	Clarissa Bell	U7 Program			Open
	Pull together a committee to review our U7 program.			Discussion around the U7 program and the idea to develop a framework or manual of sorts to help guide the U7 program (similar to the Coaches manual).		
				Noted that we also need to roster our U7 teams.		
				Tabled.		

5. New Business						
#	Date Opened	Raised By	Item	Person Responsible	Due Date	Status
	Summary			Minutes		
2026-01	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Coach Applications			Open
	Timeline and Access: To be released by end of January			Evaluation – Change the class to Tier 1/Tier 2, etc.		

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	<p>Application Deadline: February 22</p> <p>Who should receive and review the applications? Suggestion: Justin, Thera, Nathan Or the Entire Board?</p> <p>Coaching committee recommendations to be presented to the Board at the March meeting for approval</p> <p>Coaches to be announced at the end of March after the season concludes so teams can focus on finishing the current season.</p>			<p>Include an application process for U22.</p> <p>Who will receive the submitted applications – all board members will receive applications. Note/Reminder – this must remain confidential.</p> <p>Board agrees that coaches will be announced March 30th – after WOGHL playoff weekend.</p> <p>Tier 2 coaches will not be communicated until it is known if their child has made the tier 1 team or not.</p>
2026-02	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Coaching & Staff Evaluations	<p>Evaluations to be released ASAP and close by February 22.</p> <p>Who should receive the evaluation results? Suggestion: Justin, Thera, Nathan Or the Entire Board?</p> <p>Should board members also complete evaluations to capture broader feedback (pros and cons) from past season?</p> <p>Action Needed: Someone to develop and distribute the evaluation survey. We need to approve or modify questionnaire (attached as a separate document in email)</p> <p>Board agrees to release evaluations ASAP and close on February 22.</p> <p>All board members will receive copies of the submitted evaluation results.</p> <p>Evaluations will be submitted anonymously</p> <p>A question will be added – Would you recommend this coach for Coaching staff of the Year award and Why. Will include a description of what the Coaching Staff of the Year award recognizes as outlined in 2026-04 below. Questionnaire was approved as presented with this addition.</p> <p>Note/Reminder – this must remain confidential.</p>
2026 - 03	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Coaching Committee Appointment	<p>Open</p>

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	<p>Coaching Committee to be appointed at the February board meeting.</p> <p>Committee composition: Includes 2 non-board members. (wondering if we could put this out to our membership and ask them if any of them would be interested in helping with this process.)</p> <p>Proposal to open this to the membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interested individuals submit a short bio outlining why they would be a good fit. o Members must be available during the first two weeks of March in the evenings. o Will need to keep all meeting discussions confidential o If applying for a top tier coaching position they are ineligible o We should also state that a strong hockey background is a must o Ultimately we have the final say in who we appoint. <p>Final committee selection to be decided by board vote.</p> <p>Optional: Conduct the vote electronically using submitted bios to avoid extended discussion time at the next board meeting.</p>			<p>Thera, Nathan will sit on the committee. Looking for at least one additional board member to sit on the committee. Clarissa said she would. Will put out a poll in the group chat to see if any of the members not present would be interested.</p> <p>Will put out an expression of interest to the public to gather interested individuals to participate in the committee as soon as possible and to close February 10th. This process will follow the following framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested individuals submit a short bio outlining why they would be a good fit. • Members must be available during the first two weeks of March in the evenings. • Will need to keep all meeting discussions confidential • If applying for a top tier coaching position they are ineligible • A strong hockey background is a must • The board will have the final say in who we appoint. 		
<p>2026-04</p>	<p>January 22, 2026</p>	<p>Justin Free</p>	<p>Coaching Staff of the Year Award</p>	<p>Will use the coaching evaluation to select this.</p> <p>Will only select one coaching staff.</p>		<p>Open</p>
	<p>Need to establish a standardized process for how this award is selected and presented going forward.</p> <p>Looking for board input and recommendations on criteria and selection process.</p>					



	<p>Below is an idea of what I think should be our process. The Coaching Staff of the Year Award recognizes a coaching group that best represents the association's values through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Player development <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsmanship and respect <input type="checkbox"/> Organization and professionalism <input type="checkbox"/> Positive team culture <input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to the association <p>This award is not based solely on wins or standings.</p>					
2026-05	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Tryout Ice Availability			Open
	<p>Aaron Brooks (WOGHL President) has indicated that AA and A tryouts should be completed by May 1.</p> <p>Given our limited ice availability, discussion needed on whether we are comfortable starting BB/B/C tryouts just before or after May 1.</p> <p>Ice Availability Notes (to confirm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Petrolia ice comes out around May 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Alvinston ice likely ends end of March <input type="checkbox"/> Watford ice likely similar timing <p>→ Need confirmation from Evan.</p>			<p>Look into availability of ice in other areas such as Mooretown, Sarnia, Strathroy, Forest, Bothwell, etc.</p> <p>Looking to start A (if any) to be completed prior to May 1 and start BB/B/C on or after May 1.</p> <p>Offer pre skates to the players that were displaced this year as well as current rostered player.</p> <p>Will discuss try out packages at the next board meeting.</p>		
2026-06	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Award Night			Closed
	<p>Awards information to be sent to coaches. Coach submissions due by TBD. Looking for a board member to manage ordering of plaques.</p> <p>Awards to be handed out: most coachable, most improved, most dedicated, most sportsmanlike, spirit</p>			<p>Thera will manage this process.</p> <p>Nathan will send out the email to coaches once we have timeline.</p>		

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	award.					
2026-07	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Registration Fee Refund			Closed
	<p>Motion Proposal: To review and return the remaining portion of Lee Charton's daughter's registration fee, assuming Evan is satisfied with the training provided this season.</p> <p>This motion is based on the decision from the June meeting.</p>			Marcie to process the refund.		
2026-08	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Association Logo/Jersey Crest Review			Closed
	<p>Given the age of the association, I would like to bring forward a motion to investigate a logo and/or jersey crest update.</p> <p>If the motion passes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A small committee or working group will be formed to gather ideas and develop concepts. <input type="checkbox"/> Concepts will be brought back to the board for review at a later date. 			<p>Concerns regarding the financial costs, specifically around jersey replacement.</p> <p>This is not something that Board wishes to explore further at this time.</p>		
2026-09	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	Ice Schedule Review Process			Closed
	<p>Motion Proposal: Move to approving only the September ice schedule a head of the month going forward so we can confirm adequate ice for u9 prep skate and tryouts.</p> <p>Also approve a layout to how the ice will tentatively be distributed October onward with what ice is available to us in August.</p> <p>Example below:</p>			<p>Motion – The Ice Scheduler has the authority to allocate ice to teams with the focus on ensure equitable distribution of ice and will provide a monthly summary of the ice allocation by team to the board. Marcy Freer, Nathan Whiting – Carried.</p>		



	<p>U13 B and U13 HL games will be scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays at 3:00 PM in Watford. The teams will alternate each week depending on which team has an away game.</p> <p>Both U13 teams will share ice time once every three weeks and will each receive two non-shared practice ice times per month. Once the season is underway and away-game schedules are clearer, we will make every effort to minimize shared ice time whenever possible. If it becomes apparent that one team is receiving significantly more practice ice than another within a given month, ice may be reallocated from a different age group to help maintain fairness and balance across teams.</p> <p>Proposed Process Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Board to review the previous month’s ice schedule with a brief explanation, similar to the financial report. <input type="checkbox"/> This allows flexibility due to frequent ice changes and avoids approving schedules far in advance. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly reviews would ensure fairness and transparency. <input type="checkbox"/> Any concerns could then be addressed with the ice scheduler for the following month. 					
2026-10	January 22, 2026	Justin Free	High School Player Bursary (2026-27 Season)			Closed
<p>Motion Proposal: Investigate establishing a \$500 annual bursary for a high school-aged player who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has high volunteer hours within the organization <input type="checkbox"/> Is a respectful teammate <input type="checkbox"/> Is viewed positively by coaching staff 				<p>Option – look for a sponsor for this.</p> <p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perception of financial situation • Administration including tax implication, issuing required tax form, reporting, tracking, etc. 		



	Further details and criteria to be developed if the motion passes.			Talk about it in the future, maybe consider an award rather than bursary		
2026-11	January 22, 2026	Clarissa Bell	Blueprint published for building women's and girls' hockey in Canada			Closed
	https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/news/rise-as-one-published-2025-news			For board member to review.		

6. Motion to Adjourn 9:15 – Thera Wagner, Nathan Whiting – Carried.
7. Next Meeting: February 18th @ 6:30 location TBD