

SYHC Board Meeting Minutes – February 2026
Strongsville Youth Hockey Club
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Strongsville Youth Hockey Club (SYHC)
Board Meeting Minutes
February 2026

Location: Strongsville, Ohio

Prepared by: Deborah Armstrong, Secretary

Board Roster - 2025-2026 Season

Executive Board

- **President:** Alaina Rutledge (Present/In Person)
- **Vice President:** Ana Hinchliffe (Present/In Person)
- **Secretary:** Deborah Armstrong (Present/In Person)
- **Treasurer:** Brad Culler (Present/In Person)

Trustees

- **14U Trustee:** Charlie St. Louis (Present/In Person)
- **12U Trustee:** Stephanie Hauk (Present/In Person)
- **10U Trustee:** Julie Duritza (Present/In Person)
- **8U Trustee:** Kate Burrows (Present/In Person)

Additional Roles

- **Hockey Director:** Craig Folger
 - **Registrar:** Samantha Brown (Present/Remote)
 - **Scheduler:** Kellis Hollis
 - **Social Media:** Crista Zufan
 - **Technology:** Eric Wahl
 - **CSHL Liaison:** Mindy Wahl
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SYHC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2026

Call to Order: 7:13 PM (Alaina Rutledge)

Adjournment: 8:33 PM

1. Attendance

A quorum was present.

Attendees listed on the Board Roster above/noted of attendance.

2. Call to Order & Agenda Review

President Alaina Rutledge called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions or changes.

3. Approval of Minutes - November 10, 2025

Minutes presented by Secretary Deborah Armstrong.

- **Motion to Approve:** Stephanie Hauk
 - o **Second:** Ana Hinchliffe
 - o **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously
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4. Treasurer's Report - Presented by Brad Culler

- Reviewed current account balances and financial status.
 - Discussed potential future spending opportunities.
 - Reminder regarding club responsibilities related to sales tax.
 - **Motion:** Approve financial assistance for one (1) family/player for tryout fees.
 - **Motion to Approve:** Ana Hinchliffe
 - **Second:** Stephanie Hauk
 - **Opposed:** None
 - **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously
 - Reviewed expenses for the 2025-2026 season.
 - Discussed forming a **Finance Committee** beginning Summer 2026.
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5. Hockey Director Updates - 2026-2027 Season

Presented by Alaina Rutledge on behalf of incoming directors. Hockey director selection committee narrowed down top 3 candidates. Top candidates given written questions, and live interviews with board. An anonymous vote was conducted with all voting board members. New Directors for 2026-7 are:

New Directors:

- **Matt Rutledge**, Hockey Director
- **Brian Sanzone**, Assistant Hockey Director

Submitted Updates:

- Formal program launch scheduled for **March 20, 2026**.
 - Emphasis on improved communication with all coaches.
 - Spring tryout structure and expectations outlined.
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6. 2026-2027 Board Elections

Presented by Alaina Rutledge.

- Reviewed current board positions and members.
 - Many current board members intend to run for another term.
 - President Alaina Rutledge announced she will step down from the presidency and seek the **Vice President** role to provide more opportunity for voice.
 - Proposal for Registrar Samantha Brown to serve in a **dual Co-VP role**.
 - Technology Chair position needs to be filled as soon as possible.
 - Social Chair to be added as a non-voting board position for the upcoming season.
 - Potential candidates for open roles were discussed; outreach will be initiated.
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7. Tryouts - Presented by Alaina Rutledge

- Tryouts scheduled earlier than in previous years, reflecting parent survey feedback.
 - Reviewed current skater and goalie numbers; discussed trends.
 - Tryout schedule reviewed, including volunteer needs.
 - **Player Evaluators:**
 - 6 external evaluators committed
 - 12 current SYHC coaches assisting on-ice
 - Tryout plan and process outlined.
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8. Survey Results

Presented by Alaina Rutledge and Ana Hinchliffe.

- Reviewed results of the recent family pulse survey.
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9. Competitive Analysis - Presented by Julie Duritza

- No CSHL club currently fields **three 14U teams**.
 - Majority of clubs rely on late-night practice slots.
 - Many clubs do not offer full-ice practices.
 - Mentor provides additional ice availability.
 - Strongsville remains highly competitive in both ice time and total player development hours.
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10. Season Highlights - Presented by Alaina Rutledge

- Three (3) SYHC teams qualified for the **2026 Playoffs**.
 - One (1) team advanced to the finals and **won the championship**.
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11. Open Discussion

- Registrar requested adding a registration widget requiring a USA Hockey number before submission.
 - o Renewal availability begins **April 1, 2026**.
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12. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn presented by Alaina Rutledge.
 - No opposition.
 - Meeting adjourned at **8:33 PM**.
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Appendix A - Season Summary (2025-2026)

Program Growth & Highlights

- Strong participation across all age groups.
- Continued competitive performance within the CSHL.
- Increased volunteer engagement and coaching support.

Competitive Achievements

- Three teams reached the playoffs.
- One team secured a championship win.

Operational Improvements

- Enhanced communication strategies.
 - Strengthened financial oversight and planning.
 - Ongoing evaluation of ice allocation and development opportunities.
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