

# Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

## 2019-2020 Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 28, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Minto Recreation Centre, Echo Room

**Present:** Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Jarrett Thompson, Wendy Baldin, Karla Clarke, Stephen Bent, Chad Chambers, Mike Speer

**Regrets:** Scott Boassaly, Tracey Gillies, Les Banks, Tony Matson

**Observer (first half of meeting):** Mabelle Giovagnoli (Head of Certification)

**1.0** Call to Order [President]: 7:10 pm

**2.0** Minutes from July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board meeting - motion to approve by Wendy Baldin (seconder – Stephen Bent)

**3.0** Introductions [President]

- Welcoming remarks and introductions.

**4.0** Policy, Safety and Risk [Director Policy, Risk and Safety and Head of Certification]

- Options for handling the new fee for the Ottawa Police Services' vulnerable sector screening/ criminal record checks (VSS/CRCs) were discussed including: 1) NGHA reimburse fees for all volunteers; 2) NGHA reimburse fees on a case by case basis depending on financial needs; 3) NGHA does not reimburse fees for any volunteer. Considerations of the following points were discussed: impact on volunteer interest; feasibility for teams to cover cost with team fees; and providing coverage for families based on financial need. A motion was put forward for volunteers to cover the cost of their VSS/CRCs, with the understanding that the NGHA could cover the costs on an exceptional basis due to financial hardship. Motion was approved.
- A vote was held to approve moving from a 2-year VSS/CRC renewal cycle to a 3 year cycle. Clarification was provided that the 2-year VSS/CRC cycle was implemented when there was no Criminal Offence Declaration Form (CODF) in place in between renewal years. The Board voted in favour (unanimous) of moving to the 3-year renewal cycle. It was agreed that the 3-year renewal will be back-dated for VSS/CRCs that will be expiring in a year to extend the validation period to 3 years in total.
- It was reported that Members were notified via email about the new fees imposed by the Ottawa Police Services for VSS/CRCs and that approximately 50% of people renewed their VSS/CRCs to date. The Board discussed whether it would make sense to renew all volunteers on a set date so expirations occur at the same time but it was decided that logistically this was not feasible.

- The importance of obtaining current team volunteer certifications was discussed with acknowledgement that this has been emphasized to teams.
- The requirements for a DEV1 certified head coach was discussed as OWHA will not accept team waivers unless the DEV1 certification is met. Assistant coaches will have some time to get their Coach1 certification in place for this year. OWHA checks with Hockey Canada to confirm certifications but there may be some delays with updating the website.
- Implementation of Rowan's Law requirements was discussed. The requirements have been communicated to Members and teams have been instructed to collect the signed waivers and send to the Registrar. The Registrar will maintain folders by team and sends the required information to OWHA. The records will be stored for the hockey season and destroyed after the season is through. Coaches/trainers are encouraged to talk to their teams about the importance of Rowan's Law to ensure players and parents fully understand. The mandatory trainers' sessions (Dates: September 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>/October 1<sup>st</sup>) will also discuss Rowan's Law including the significance of the trainer's role in this regard. Clarification was provided that a hard copy of the Signed Rowan's Law form is required so cannot be submitted electronically.

## 5.0 Registration [Registrar]

- An update on registration numbers was provided as follows: Midget 195 players; Bantam 192 players; Pee wee 185 players; Atom 172 players; Novice 112 players; and FUNdamentals 51 players. Clarification was provided that these numbers are slightly lower than previous years but expected to increase.
- An update on the Senior level was provided indicating that there has been a lot of inquiries and interest including two present registrations. Clarification was made that Senior registration often occurs later because of the players' focus being on the start of school early in the registration period. The cost was estimated to be approximately \$400-500. It was mentioned that despite some interest from former house league players, it is being made clear that the level of hockey at the Senior level is quite competitive (e.g. university level hockey players).
- The new Midget C team was raised as requiring registration with OWHA to date. The tryout fee, proposed at \$125 for the 2 hr tryout was discussed to determine if the fee could be reduced. While recovery of the associated costs of running the tryout was mentioned as important, it was agreed that the fee may be lowered.
- An update was provided that not all of the competitive team signed waivers have been handed in to date (missing 8 waivers). The teams have been notified and the OWHA sent reminders that they cannot play without signed waivers.
- Notification was provided that the upcoming Oakville tournament organizers contacted the NGHA Registrar concerning wrong OWHA team numbers submitted for 6 teams. The situation has been corrected with the updated OWHA numbers provided.

## **6.0** House league [House League Directors, Vice-President Operations, President]

- An update was provided regarding the house league regular season as follows:
  - Ice times have been set for the weekend of September 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Peewee-Bantam teams will be rostered within the next couple of days.
  - Given the recent decision to have a Midget C team, numbers for Midget house league have yet to be verified and will have to wait until after the tryout. This includes whether there will be 5 or 6 midget house league teams.
- An update on the NGHA Tournament was provided as follows:
  - Ice has been locked down
  - Registration is open
  - Competitive registrations are full and the OWHA link is working (a reminder should be sent to competitive teams to register for the NGHA tournament asap)
  - No house league teams are registered to date
  - Novice will be full ice with a 4 game guarantee and a medal for all.
- It was announced that the Managers' meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> and the Coaches' meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The mandatory trainers' session dates are booked with 3 sessions to allow for flexibility in attendance. All 36 sets of jerseys will be brought to the coaches meeting for coaches to pick up.
- It was clarified that the Referee clinic is booked for September 15<sup>th</sup>

## **7.0** Finance

- N/A

## **8.0** Competitive [Vice President of Programs]

- The addition of the Midget C team was discussed including the basis for the decision to form the team. Several players from the Goulbourn Girls Hockey Association (GGHA) approached the NGHA seeking interest in a C team at the midget level given opportunities to play within the GGHA were limited due to the elimination of the competitive C team. Consideration of the feasibility of adding a team, the policy surrounding import rules, and implications on the NGHA house league were discussed. It was determined that a midget competitive C team would be added for the upcoming 2019-20 season. It was clarified that the Goulbourn players must be released from the GGHA and register with the NGHA to tryout. The tryout was confirmed to be scheduled for a two-hour time slot on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and will be run like all other tryouts.
- Concerns over potential implications for the bantam players moving up to midget for next year's competitive teams (due to the potential new Goulbourn players taking places in midget) were discussed and it was determined not to be a concern since the Goulbourn players are mostly third year players and will not be playing in the NGHA next year.

- An update was provided regarding the division of responsibilities for the competitive directors. One of the competitive directors will be responsible for Novice, Atom and Peewee and the other for Bantam and Midget.
- An update on jerseys was provided indicating that all competitive jerseys have been handed out.
- A proposal was discussed regarding affiliation in order to make it easier to call up players. Specifically the feasibility of establishing a list of interested and eligible players ready to affiliate was considered as a means of avoiding delays with having to contact for permission on a short notice. It was raised that the same players should not be affiliated continuously in order to give a broad range of players the opportunity to play up. This proposal will be given further consideration.
- A reminder was given that the deadline for clothing order is August 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9.0 Ice

- N/A

#### Round table items

- None

Motion to close the board meeting by Gerard Gagnon (seconder: Chad Chambers)

Meeting closed 8:36pm