

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2019-2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 10th, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Minto Recreation Centre, Echo Room

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Jarrett Thompson, Wendy Baldin, Stephen Bent, Chad Chambers, Les Banks

Regrets: Karla Clarke, Tony Matson, Mike Speer, Scott Boassaly

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

2.0 Minutes from August 28th, 2019 Board meeting - motion to approve by Wendy Baldin (seconder – Stephen Bent)

3.0 Introductions [President]

- Welcoming remarks

4.0 Policy, Safety and Risk [Director of Policy, Risk and Safety]

- The NGHA Dressing Room policy was discussed with respect to den moms, cell phones, and music. It was determined that a reminder message concerning the importance of adhering to this policy should be sent out to teams. It was discussed that while the policy does not require den moms at the Midget level, a reminder of dressing room rules (e.g. no cell phone usage, appropriate use of music) should be sent to midget teams to ensure rules are being followed. Communication should clarify that the coach is ultimately responsible for ensuring the team is in compliance with the policy.
- A discussion took place regarding music played for team dryland/dressing rooms etc,.. A reminder should be sent to all teams that any music must be radio-approved and appropriate to ensure a safe environment. Music that is offensive, racist or uses inappropriate language will not be permitted at any time.
- A discussion took place regarding player suspensions, the OWHA Discipline/Suspension Policy, and the NGHA Suspension Reporting Policy. The importance of communication with a suspended player and their family concerning the suspension and consequential discipline was raised to ensure transparency in the process. Implications of multiple suspensions were discussed (see OWHA Handbook). It was clarified that after the OWHA Discipline Review Committee makes a ruling on a suspension, the NGHA Discipline Review Committee may impose additional sanctions.

5.0 Registration [Registrar]

- An update was provided indicating that there are a lot of teams waiting on roster. This reflects a lot of new volunteers (particularly in Novice), new players, and the requirement for coach/trainer certifications. It is anticipated that teams will be receiving their waivers soon. A discussion took place regarding the high number of volunteers with relevant education/background (e.g. physios, nurses, physicians) and that they should be encouraged to obtain their Level 2 certification. The feasibility of implementing a condensed version of the trainer course (emergency action plan, equipment etc,..) to encourage greater Level 2 certification for volunteers with relevant backgrounds was discussed.
- A request from a goalie wanting to raise money for cancer through making saves during NGHA games was discussed. It was determined that while it is understood that this is a well intentioned charitable fund-raiser, it is not feasible for the NGHA to endorse a specific fund-raising activity for one member without entertaining for all.
- An update was provided that one inter provincial transfer was performed.
- An update on registration numbers was provided with approximately 981 registered, not including Senior girls.
- It was reported that the OWSA sent approximately 100 Handbooks and thus they will be distributed to teams.

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

- An update was provided on Novice teams as follows:
 - They played their first games and all went really well.
 - Bumper pads bought and Carleton University (CU)/NGHA working together to refine process for removing and storing during ice floods. CU staff have been very helpful and accommodating. Process has been working very well so far with Novice coaches having the first games responsible for putting bumper pads on the ice and the zamboni drivers put them away afterwards.
 - Lots of positive feedback and everyone was in the game and very happy. On each end there is an on- ice parent helping to ensure the pads are in place. The pads are broken into three sections so easy to set up and no time is lost between games. There is no score being kept and not using game sheets.
- A discussion took place regarding the rebalancing of teams from atom to midget. Clarification was provided that while rebalancing can occur up until October 31st 2019, as communicated to all house league members, rebalancing teams sooner was prioritized to avoid disruption as much as possible. It was reported that there were a lot of expressed complaints about rebalancing, relative to previous years, and the Convenors and House League Directors received a considerable amount of emails. A potential reason for the increase in complaints was discussed as being the potential perception that the absence of sort-out weekends meant the teams were not evenly distributed based on player skill levels. It was acknowledged that there has been more rebalancing required this year but that great attention was paid to ensuring the teams were fairly

constructed and in some cases this meant that player movements were required. Given the large amount of volunteer hours dedicated to ensuring a successful house league season, the importance was emphasized on ensuring Convenors are always treated with respect and are supported (by the Board members assuming a greater role) in cases where escalation of complaints/questions are required.

- Shortage of house league goalies (in many cases due to movement up to competitive) was raised as an issue of concern. Options for addressing the shortage were discussed such as affiliating lower level competitive goalies when house league options have been exhausted. The option of allowing house league teams to back out of the NGHA house league tournament if a goalie is unable to play, was also discussed. The house league directors requested \$610 to cover the expenses for two ice times (one being at Amped with instructors) to give opportunities for players to try the goalie position outside of a game with instruction provided. The motion to approve spending this money on the two goalie ice times was approved unanimously.
- Tournament update was provided indicating we are full at midget, bantam and peewee with a few more spots open at novice and atom.
- An update was provided regarding the mandatory trainer sessions (mandatory for both house league and competitive but organized and run by the House League Directors) as follows:
 - All three sessions went very well with a lot of good discussion and questions. Very positive feedback received.
 - There may be a need for an additional one or two sessions to accommodate trainers who were not listed as attending. Prior to arranging another session, confirmation of who did not attend is being assessed.
 - The importance of all trainers wearing their helmets on the ice was communicated at trainers meetings.

7.0 Finance [Treasurer]

- N/A

8.0 Competitive [Competitive Directors]

- The following updates were provided:
 - There has been a lot of player movement due to player injuries including from house league to competitive (e.g. MCC required house league player) and within competitive (e.g. ACA to ACAA, BCAA injury requiring absence for the season). Options for affiliation to cover multiple injuries on MCC were discussed recognizing limitations of extracting more players from midget house league. A discussion of affiliation for regular season games, versus the requirement for rostering in order to play in playdown and playoff games, took place.
 - The first Program of Excellence (POE) meeting took place in September and went well. The utility of the TeamGenius tool to locate players was discussed.

- Coach mentorship was discussed including what is working well, needs for improvement, conduct, and roles. The competitive and house league directors are planning to discuss compensation for their respective coach mentors.

9.0 Ice

- N/A

10.0 Round table items

- Importance of ensuring that the “Ngha suspensions list” email is going to the correct Board Members was raised.

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

Meeting closed 8:25pm