

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2019-2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Minto Recreation Centre, Echo Room

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Les Banks, Mike Speer, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers

Regrets: Tony Matson, Wendy Baldin, Stephen Bent, Jarrett Thompson

1.0 Call to Order [Vice-President of Operations]: 7:10 pm

2.0 Minutes from December 9th, 2019 Board meeting - motion to approve by Les Banks (seconder – Gerard Gagnon)

3.0 Introductions [Vice-President of Operations]

- Welcoming remarks

4.0 Policy, Safety and Risk [Director of Policy, Risk and Safety – in advance of meeting]

- An update was provided indicating that the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) has asked all associations to review their constitutions to align with a standard format. It was acknowledged that this may require some adjustments and also present the opportunity to consider other changes (i.e. NGHA Board of Directors' positions and descriptions). This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting with the recognition that any changes require approval at the NGHA Annual General Meeting.
- All NGHA documentation will be revised in alignment with the new division name designations (Fundamentals Open Age, U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, and U22), as directed by Hockey Canada effective for the 2020-21 season. The internal timeframe for these revisions was provided as Spring 2020.
- No major certification issues are outstanding with the exception of the requirement for follow-up with one Midget competitive team. The Competitive Director is ensuring the appropriate certification requirements are in place.

5.0 Registration [Registrar]

- The new division names for next season were discussed with respect to impact on registration. The applicable information pertaining to the new division names will require updating on the NGHA website to ensure members are aware.

- The decision regarding the recategorization request decision for the current Bantam A team (request to be recategorized to AA) has not been determined to date.
- The schedule for Playdowns will be released soon after the recategorization decisions are finalized by the OWHA.
- The new OWHA rules for atom competitive tryouts dictate that players cannot start tryouts until after the 2020-21 school-year begins. It is also required that all players and all kids are required to have four ice times prior to cuts.
- A discussion took place regarding how Powerup Sports may be used to improve house league sort outs (e.g. using the field for 'position' to assist with player dispersion to teams)

6.0 House league [House League Director, Vice-President of Operations]

- An update was provided indicating that all is running well and that there are no issues to report. There was discussion concerning that at each level from peewee to midget, there is one team that is struggling (no wins).
- The importance of all Board Members' attendance and contribution to helping with the upcoming NGHA house league tournament was raised. An update on the tournament was provided as follows:
 - It is full in every level in competitive and house league.
 - Games sheets are ready to go
 - Player of game pucks will arrive this week
- An update was provided on the championship weekend including that planning is well underway, the weekend will take place at the Bell Sensplex (instead of Minto Recreation Centre, as in previous years), and that the medals have been ordered.
- The Development Stream (DS) teams were reported to be up and running with the following updates:
 - In the atom and peewee divisions, player cuts were required.
 - In the bantam division, the team included all 25 players who attended tryouts so no cuts were required. It was agreed that the bantam non-parent coach, a former Wildcats player, will be supported by the NGHA in booking tournaments so that she is not required to use her own money to pay upfront for tournament registration prior to reimbursement by team fees.
 - The DS team budgets are in the process of being reviewed and there are no identified concerns.
- Ice invoices are going out this week for house league teams
- House league coach applications will be opening up soon

7.0 Finance

N/A

8.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs, Competitive Directors]

- The Bantam A team recategorization request was discussed with clarification provided regarding the process
- It was reported that OWHA fines were issued to one team due to team game sheets not filed within designated time requirements. The OWHA process for warning teams prior to fining was discussed as being unclear regarding the applicable game in question and the specific process for how to pay fines.
- An update was provided that there have been 23 coaching applications received to date for the 2020/21 season and that the competitive directors and Vice President of Programs are meeting to review the applications. The absence of an email accompanying the NGHA website notice for coach applications was raised as a reason why there may have been fewer applications received. It was agreed that interested individuals who missed the December 31st, 2019 deadline, could contact the Vice President of Programs should they wish to apply but did not see the posted notice. Coach selections post try-outs for lower levels within divisions was discussed with further consideration to follow.
- Given the new process for atom competitive tryouts for the 2020/21 season, the following items were discussed: lots of emails received inquiring about the process; atom competitive tryouts will be running after the 2020/21 school year has begun; all kids have to tryout for four sessions before cuts are made.
- Feedback on half ice novice hockey was provided indicating a lot of positive reception with all kids getting involved and touching the puck. Clarification was provided while half ice is running all year in boys, girls (OWHA) switched to full ice on January 15th, 2020.
- Potential interest in a lower ice time commitment midget team was discussed. Determination of interest will be solicited.
- An update on the Provincial Women's (PW) team was provided. The team has rostered Maddie Wheeler as an alternate skater, and thus she will not be able to play in playoff or playdown games as per OWHA rules.
- At present there is a shortage of ice for spring tryouts with no May ice times to date. Atom tryouts will be in fall as per Hockey Canada direction. The schedule is almost finished.
- An update on team budgets was provided with no issues reported. Invoices are going out this week.

9.0 Round table items

- For next year, a proposal was made by the House League Director to not invoice ice to house league teams
- Feedback from DS parents was shared indicating that they are happy to not have four ice times (in total) over a weekend with weekday ice times appreciated.

Motion to close the Board meeting by Chad Chambers (seconder: Tracey Gillies)

Meeting closed 7:55 pm