

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2019-2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 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, Wendy Baldin, Jarrett Thompson, Stephen Bent (by phone)

Regrets: Tony Matson

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

2.0 Minutes from January 14th, 2019 Board meeting - motion to approve by Les banks
(seconder – Gerard Gagnon)

3.0 Introductions [President]

- Welcoming remarks

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

The Board position regarding the return of released players was discussed. The issue was summarized as follows:

There is a need to provide greater clarity regarding eligibility of returning players who have been granted a release to play for another OWHA Association.

It was noted that the NGHA is not obligated to accept the registration of any player, import or returning, and registration can be denied if there have been prior player or parent discipline issues or actions inconsistent with the NGHA's Constitution or OWHA Code of Conduct.

It was noted that the Common Import Policy is intended to reduce the unnecessary movement of players between signatory Associations. This policy has been incorporated into the NGHA Formation of Competitive Teams Policy, and provides a framework for decision making on imports.

It was agreed that when a player release has been granted by the NGHA before or during the tryout process, this player is eligible to submit a registration request to try out the following season as an import player. Each import registration request will be reviewed by the Registrar to ensure there are no prior discipline or Code of Conduct considerations prior to accepting the registration.

However, if a player requests a release after having been offered a position on a team, or during the season, that player is ineligible to return for the remainder of the season and the following season, in accordance with the NGHA Formation of Competitive Teams Policy.

2) An update on the 'Dressing Room Policy' was provided as follows:

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) recently instructed all Ontario hockey associations to revise their dressing room policy to convey that Den Moms are now required at the Midget level. The NGHA's previous policy, which was in compliance with the OWHA policy prior to this update, specified that Den Moms were optional at Midget but required coaches to put in place certain measures to ensure minimal supervision.

The NGHA website has been updated with the revised policy to align with the new OWHA policy requirements.

The logistics of implementation of this policy change were discussed. In particular, while the policy change will be communicated to all Members immediately, enforcement and certification requirements at this late point in the season were discussed. It was agreed that the strategy will be determined over the next week to ensure consistency in approach across the Association. The importance of this policy revision was acknowledged by the Board.

There was also some question surrounding the updated OWHA policy as their website lists September 2019 as the latest policy date, which does not reflect this recent change. The OWHA will be contacted to seek clarification as to when they are posting the update on their website to ensure the NGHA revised policy adequately conveys the OWHA revisions.

5.0 Registration [Registrar]

The following updates were provided:

- All updated rosters have been sent out as per the new OWHA mandate requiring a copy of the approved roster to be shown to opposing teams for all playdown games.
- The OWHA recategorization process has been completed and playdowns have begun
- The OWHA new division classifications will be set up in the system in preparation for registration. The registration process was discussed with respect to timing, late fees, email reminders and date by which players spots are guaranteed.

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

An update on the NGHA tournament was provided indicating all went extremely well. The weekend was well run with no major incidents or issues. A number of participants (visiting teams and Members) were very complementary and positive about the tournament. The large amount of work put into preparation and organization of the tournament was credited as the reason for the tournament's great success. It was also reported that there were several compliments paid regarding a specific young referee who was exceptional, especially with the novice games.

It was announced that the coach application process will be opened up soon and will be posted on the website with an email going out to Members at the same time. Encouraging news was provided that a lot of moms have expressed interest in coaching. While the current House League Directors will not be returning in their position next year, assurance was provided that all house league coaches will be in place prior to their departure.

An update was provided on the end-of-year Championship weekend including:

- The Bell Sensplex has been confirmed as the venue.
- A Novice skills competition will be held on the large Mattamy ice pad.
- All brackets are completed.

It was reported that a few families had not paid their team fees (one resolved and one still outstanding) and in one case the required certifications were not in place for the volunteer role. Reassurance was provided that these issues are being addressed immediately.

An update was provided that coach evaluations will go out soon. Procedures to obtain useful feedback will be examined to ensure that coaches receive constructive feedback while maintaining confidentiality of the evaluations.

7.0 Ice

An update was provided indicating the number of hours of NGHA ice times is up but not all times have been allocated. It was recognized that it is important to ensure the ice allocation connects with assigned ice to ensure more ice is not allocated in order to balance team budgets (particularly with house league teams).

It was acknowledged that the ice allocation process needs refining to ensure that ice is fairly distributed. Allocation of ice currently occurs two weeks out but it was suggested that it may be better to do the entire season and modify as needed.

The best timing for advertising for the new Ice Scheduler position was discussed. A vote at the Annual General Meeting will be required to officially remove the Ice Director position. Interviews will be required for the new Ice Scheduler position. It was clarified that anyone can apply for it and that once details are ready, the position will be posted as open for applications (timeframe: next meeting on March 10th).

Two issues were discussed. First, there was an excessive amount of city assigned ice to us on the weekend of the competitive tournament. This was due to an oversight in notifying the city that the ice was not needed. Second, a competitive surcharge issue was identified in which we charged some teams for referees when they pay the referees themselves (PW team for home games). Both issues have been resolved.

8.0 Finance

Finance will be updated at the next meeting.

9.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs, Competitive Directors]

An update was provided that the NGHA tournament went well. There was one suspension on one of the participating NGHA teams. In this case, a 6 game suspension was handed out (4 games for kicking and 2 games because the injured player was unable to return to the game). There was some discussion around a potential appeal to the 2 extra games added

to the 4 game suspension given the player ended up being able to return to play but in the end it was decided it was not worth it to appeal.

An update on the 2020-21 season tryouts was provided including the following:

- Ice all set. April 14th -15th (all goalies). AA starting thereafter (invite only).
- The tryouts will be completed by May 2nd.
- Atom tryout start dates will be after the 2020-21 school year starts (A reminder that the impact on house league needs to be considered with respect to Atom tryouts).
- Midget tryouts- considering 6 teams at midget (could add another team depending on numbers and skill level). The benefit of having a C team with one game/one practice per week was discussed as it provides an option for players with busy schedules and has been well received this year. The benefits of planning this 'light team' concept early were presented as: it may facilitate tournament registrations since it can be a challenge to get into tournaments if left until September; and may have a higher caliber team.
- Bantam – number of teams same as this year
- Pee wee – number of teams same as this year
- Atom – number of teams same as this year
- Interviews for coaching positions were conducted this past week. There were a lot of strong applications for coaching for next year. There are a couple of divisions with fewer strong candidates. Consideration of whether to delay making decisions on Atom coaches was considered since tryouts are not until the fall. It was recognized that it is considerably harder to announce coaches after teams are made.
- The structure of teams for one division was discussed as requiring further examination by a broader coach selection committee to ensure teams are calibrated properly. The best interest of the players was emphasized as being the primary consideration in this process. Criteria to define what is needed for teams at each level should be clear.

10.0 Round table items

- *Mar 10 – next board meeting*

Motion to close the Board meeting by Wendy Baldin (seconded: Karla Clarke)

Meeting closed 8:20 pm