

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: August 10th 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Videoconferencing

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Stephen Bent, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers, Wendy Baldin, Les Banks, Mike Speer, Lisa Camilucci, Karine Tremblay (Guest)

Regrets: Tony Matson

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 7:06 pm

2.0 Minutes from the July 6th 2020 Board of Directors meeting approved by Wendy Baldin (seconder: Gerard Gagnon)

3.0 Welcoming remarks [President]

The new President opened the meeting and set forth the expected tone for the upcoming season as prioritizing the following three pillars of focus: safety, respect, and integrity. The importance of transparent and honest interaction was recognized as critical for success as a Board. The Board members were asked to review the NGHA Constitution, especially with respect to their specific roles and responsibilities and the importance of following rules and NGHA policies was emphasized. A reminder was provided to respect confidentiality and professionalism at all times, including not discussing Board-related content in front of Board Members' children, players or to Members.

To facilitate productive Board meetings, it was requested that agenda items be submitted prior to the meetings, when possible, to enable preparation for the meetings and provide time for information gathering and questions in advance. The importance of reviewing the previous Board meeting minutes prior to each meeting was emphasized.

The possibility of switching Board email accounts to 'gmail' was raised as being considered. This is to facilitate the use of document sharing through 'Google Docs'.

An overview of all of the Board committees was provided, including the new one for this year, specifically the 'Covid-19 committee'.

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

Details (as follows) were provided on the 'Covid-19 committee', which has been formed under Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) policy requirements for the 2020-21 season based on current Ontario regulations and public health requirements and directives:

- Committee includes the Policy, Risk and Safety Director, Members with public health backgrounds and experienced trainers.
- The purpose is to oversee the Covid-19 response plan and facilitate compliance with the protocols and safety precautions required for the season under the OWHA Return to Hockey Protocols (see www.owha.on.ca).
- Committee is working out the details and will seek Board approval for decisions, as needed. It was also noted that the approaches will evolve, as needed, based on the current situation and any OWHA updates to the Return to Hockey Protocols. The committee has already met and worked through some pragmatic approaches to comply with the protocols.
- Members with players in the younger divisions who also have relevant experience, should be considered for participation on the committee given the unique considerations for younger players (such as less independence than with older players).

A call was made to consider any policy issues or changes required so a plan can be devised to update the policy documents for the year.

5.0 Registration [Registrar]

The following update was provided:

- Registration numbers include 822 players registered to date. It was noted that the novice and FUNDamentals divisions have been left open to receive further registrations.
- Further work is required to determine number of players per level within each division.
- Communication to Members regarding details of the season, including cost, should be sent within the week. Further information from the OWHA is required before email is sent.

6.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs]

It was reported that there is a 'Programs Committee' meeting being planned this week. After this meeting, there will be sufficient details worked out to communicate to Members. The need for identified coaches to be listed for the Certification Coordinator was expressed so required certifications can be confirmed.

7.0 House League [House League Directors]

The following updates were provided regarding the upcoming 2020-21 house league season start:

- Slightly over 400 kids registered to date.
- Proposed start date: September 26th/27th weekend
- First term of house league would run until the Christmas break (weekend before Christmas). There would be two ice times per week (practices and controlled scrimmage).
- Proposed cost would be \$425-450 (based on allotted ice times and added covid-19 associated costs and coaches equipment) for the Sept-Dec session and then offering again for the second half of the season. There would be no team fees permitted.
- Refund policy is being considered with respect to differing scenarios.

- An email communication will be sent to registered Members within a week providing the details of the upcoming house league season.

8.0 Operations [Vice President of Programs]

The following updates were provided:

- The NGHA is awaiting further direction from the OWHA to determine specifics about how hockey will look to start the season. While the official details have not been provided, it was reported that they are expected to be similar to what has been communicated to the boys' associations thus far.
- The NGHA is awaiting further communication regarding current player suspensions. Given the current situation, players who are in the middle of a suspension period may be allowed to return to hockey taking into consideration the abrupt end to the 2019-20 hockey season.
- The NGHA is waiting to hear from the city of Ottawa concerning their protocols under Covid-19 restrictions. It was stressed that in scenarios where there are differences in protocols between the city and the OWHA, the NGHA must conform with the strictest (OWHA or city) rules in following the more stringent directive. The need to be prepared to change and be flexibility was also emphasized.
- The NGHA has received the ice allotment for the season. Determination of requirements is being worked through to assess needs and what ice may be returned. It was noted that the city is now accepting a 30 day return ice policy. It was also noted that for this season, ice usage numbers will not be held against the Association for future planning (i.e. there will be no penalties if there is a reduction in ice usage this year given the current situation).

9.0 Finance [Finance Administrator]

- A financial update was provided indicating that all is in order with no concerns. It was reported that all teams' invoices are settled. It was recommended that improvements to the ice invoicing system should be considered to facilitate an easier process.
- It was pointed out that there have been requests from some Members to see our financial statements. It was confirmed that the proposed budget and the last audited financial update would be provided.

10.0 Round table items

- A regular meeting schedule was proposed with the same day each month set aside for Board meetings. For the first several weeks of return to hockey, it was proposed that the Board meet biweekly.
- An update was provided that in-person room bookings are not available through the city of Ottawa and if meetings outside of the Board meeting are required, Zoom meetings could be set up by the Secretary.

Motion to close the Board meeting by Mike Speer (seconder: Chad Chambers)

Meeting closed 7:57 pm

