

# Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

## 2020-2021 Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Time:** 7:45 pm

**Location:** Videoconferencing

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

**Regrets:** Wendy Baldin

**1.0** Call to Order [President]: 7:47 pm

**2.0** Approval of minutes from the August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board of Directors meeting deferred to next meeting.

**3.0** Updates [President, Vice President of Operations]

An update on the season planning and registration was provided, as follows:

- Registration is planned to open this week with an email to Members. Contacts (House League and Competitive directors) will be listed in the email to answer any Member questions about the season.
- There will be two sessions: Session 1 September 19<sup>th</sup> 2020-December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020; and Session 2 will run from January 2021 until March 2021 (exact dates to be determined).
- The proposed fee structure for Session 1 was presented for:
  - House League: \$450 (includes two 50-minute ice times per week) and no team fees.
  - Competitive: \$450 initially and an additional \$200 once groups are formed (includes three 50-minute ice times per week) and no team fees. An additional competitive surcharge for some groups may apply.
  - FUNDamentals (Session 1 will run October 17/18 – December 12/13): \$150 (includes one 50-minute ice time per week). It was noted that the FUNDamentals Head Coach has been contacted to discuss the season and what is feasible under the current restrictions due to the pandemic.
- Fees for Session 1 include costs for insurance (7 insured people per team) and additional costs (coach materials etc,..) that won't need to be included in Session 2 fees. Players registering for the first time for the 2020-21 season starting in January, will be subject to the fee structure outlined for Session 1 (note: teams will not be reforming in January so new players joining in January will only be permitted if there is space).
- Session 2 will run from January to March and will either be a continuation of the development format of Session 1, or a transition to a more traditional program, if permitted under regulations set out by the province, the city and the Ontario

Women's Hockey Association (OWHA). Fees will be determined once the program details are solidified based on the province, city and OWHA directives.

- Clear messaging surrounding refunds will be included in the email to Members
- It was reported that for the 2020-21 season, the groups will be formed with an extra player to each competitive team (18 players instead of 17 players, as in previous years).

A motion was put forward to approve the registration fees for Session 1 of the 2020-21 season. Voting results indicated all in favour of approval.

A discussion on player imports took place. It was explained that within our current Import Rule policy, three imports are permitted at the AA levels and 3 imports (in total) are permitted across the A-C levels. The caveat to the import allowance is that the import players must demonstrate that they are in the top 6 players trying out for the forward positions and top 4 trying out for the defence positions. It was recognized that accepting imports into the NGHA is important, and encouraged by the OWHA. Given the 2020-21 season restrictions with no tryouts permitted, the criteria of accepting import players had to be examined. The Programs Committee met to determine how to address the acceptance of player imports without tryouts. It was proposed that a reasonable and fair approach to accepting imports, while ensuring that they are among the top ranked players, would be to evaluate imports based on collective rankings and feedback from coaches (past/current coaches) and Associations (past/current Associations). This would aim to provide a comprehensive and thorough assessment (from multiple sources) for each import player. Instead of requiring that the import players rank within the top 6 forward players/ top 4 defence players, a more stringent criteria would be applied requiring that they place in the top 4 forward players/top 3 defence players. It was clarified that the collective evaluation of the prospective import player must demonstrate that this player will be a difference maker on the team and that in the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will always favour the player from the NGHA (if applicable). It was also clarified that the number of imports permitted will be the same for the 2020-21 season as in past seasons. Transparency in the new process for the upcoming season was emphasized as being important.

Motion was put forward to approve the adaptations to the criteria for accepting player imports for the 2020-21 season (given the current Covid-19 pandemic). Motion was approved by all.

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

An update on the safety procedures under the Covid-19 Return to Play Protocols (OWHA, July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020) was provided. It was reported that with the ice times underway for the Program of Excellence, the safety procedures have been working well and the trainers are extremely prepared. A brief discussion took place regarding permitting players to tie skates within the rink (while coming to the rink fully dressed) rather than requiring skates to be put on outside of the rink (as per the Return to Play Protocols, OWHA July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020). The procedures regarding skates will be followed-up with the OWHA indicating that modifications to the protocol allowing for skates to be tied inside the arena have been working well.

The entire OWHA Return to Play Protocols are being reviewed within the Covid-19 Working Group with implementation strategy planning well underway. Specific scenarios are being worked through to help facilitate safe implementation of the protocols during the season. It

was reported that the open-registration email to Members will include a paragraph on the Covid-19 Working Group so membership is aware of the safety planning underway and to provide contact information for any questions.

#### **5.0 Finance [Treasurer]**

A brief update was provided as follows:

- The NGHHA is in good financial standing.
- Money has been allocated in the budget to cover the costs of personal protective equipment (PPE) and that trainers should not be spending out of pocket for these expenses.
- The NGHHA is looking into good quality PPE at competitive prices

#### **6.0 Round table items**

The President announced that she will be meeting with the OWHHA on Wednesday and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Motion to close the Board meeting by Mike Speer (seconder: Les Banks)

Meeting closed 9:05 pm