

NEPEAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF MEETING COVER SHEET

THE NEPEAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DRAFT

Meeting - May 9, 2012

Nepean Sportsplex - Hall A 7p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Karen Russell, Craig Shouldice, Janet Shouldice, Greg Clarke, Nikki Lothian, Brent Caves and Gail Wistaff

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Amy Smith Arlene Cameron Caise Chandler Chris Woodcock Dale Booth Hart Wolf Jane Shepherd John Murray (regrets) Arlene Thiessen Karla Clarke Kim Johnson Joanne Diotte Marilyn Hargreaves Mark Hargreaves Nicole Kingsbury Mark Kingsbury Vicki Sens Patricia Steele Steve Brush Terry Martin Valerie Paul

Motion:

First order of business to appoint the auditor WGP Professional Corp.
Moved by Chris Woodcock and seconded by Greg Bright motion carried

Karen Russell, president of the Nepean Minor Hockey Association introduced the Board of Directors to the members.

AWARDS:

House League

Coach

A Dan Cheney

B Ken Major

C Brian Thiessen

Manager - Dennis Gratton

Trainer - Dan Berrea

Competitive

AA Coach - Rob Aubry

A Coach - John Consentino

B Coach- Sylvain Bertrion

Trainer - Mike O'Reilly

Manager - Jane Fault

Presidents Award - Dan O'Brien

District Award presented by Craig Shouldice to Karla Clarke

Volunteer of the Year - Amy Smith

Parent of the Year - Joanna Nicoletta

Retiring Directors - Mark Hargreaves, Chris Woodcock, Dale Booth, and Caise Chandler

MINUTES

Brad Lindahl moved and Steve Powell seconded the approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of May 12, 2010

Presidents Report – Karen Russell

Karen thanked the board of directors for all there help during the season. She also gave a special thanks to the following who are not on the board but whose dedication to the association is commendable.

Mary Lou Zwicky for her work with ice allocation for competitive, house league and Initiation.

Linda Pietrantonio who is the competitive manager liaison.

Michelle Low for her help with membership feedback

Graham Hughes and Greg Scott for their work with competitive goalies

Alex Sperberg, the house league coach mentor who also runs our conditioning camps, and power skating clinics

Ken Lothian for his work with the house league goalies. Ken also runs the goalie conditioning camp

Peter Daigle for his outstanding work on our web site.

Dan O'Brien who is in charge of all goalie equipment for the NMHA.

And

Carole-Ann Fenning for doing such a great job running the NMHA bingo.

Karen also gave an extra thank you to Greg Clarke for all his help during the season.

The floor is now open if anyone has any questions they would like to ask.

Paul Knowlton presented a motion:

That the NMHA retain Body Checking at the Peewee, Bantam and Midget levels in House league this motion is discussed below.

Paul Knowlton is a Bantam A Coach.

Paul notes that the NMHA decided to eliminate body checking/contact at all levels of House League this fall and that the board did not consult with their members re this decision. He states that Kanata and Stittsville polled their members and the NMHA did not and that the NMHA should reconsider our decision at the A levels in Peewee, Bantam and Midget.

Paul did a survey and 60% voted in favor of retaining body checking and 35% against.

The NMHA has removed body checking because of injuries. Paul feels that better equipment, referees and more contact clinics would be a better solution.

He also feels that eliminating will also eliminate the possibility of House players moving up to competitive as they will not be trained in contact. Paul notes that many of our A players will quit due to this decision. Ben Huff supported Paul in his motion and agrees with his rational.

Chris Woodcock noted that as an association we interlock with Kanata and that he has seen at least 10 players injured and he supports the removal of body checking.

Steve Maccock feels body contact is dangerous and also supports the removal of it.

Ken Major spoke in favor of non contact as well. He said it caused hard feelings. The competitive group will take players and teach them contact when required.

Greg Clark will offer contact for players next year. This year it is not required because contact has not been removed yet.

Gary Renaud said players at this level like contact so it should be taught better.

Rob Aubry is in favor as well and feels that contact is a fundamental part of hockey. Jim Sourges also spoke in favor of contact.

Wayne Biofoli felt the whole membership should have been contacted.

Craig Shouldice feels that the members should come to the AGM so they are familiar with what they are voting for rather than sign proxies.

Ben Huff put in a new motion:

That the NMHA association conduct a member survey among contact members to retain Body Checking in the Peewee A, Bantam A and Midget A levels.

Moved by Ben Huff and seconded by Gary Renaud motion not carried

Below is the rationale behind the NMHA decision presented by Craig Shouldice:

Earlier this season, the NMHA Board of Directors passed a motion to eliminate body checking from all House Divisions, effective the 2012-2013 season. With the AGM on May 9, it is the right time to explain that decision.

The Board did so for the following reasons:

1. Lack of interest by NMHA members: Unlike prior years, in 2011-2012, in Bantam and Midget, it was very difficult to find enough players for body checking teams. Some of these teams fell to 11 or 12 skaters on their roster. With the amount of ice available, all House teams must have at least 15 skaters per team. By contrast, the non-body checking divisions at these age levels were overfull.
2. Lack of House body checking programs within the ODMHA: Only two Districts out of 10 maintain body checking at House and there is a motion under consideration in one of them to remove all body checking divisions in their House League. On top of that, Kanata has eliminated body checking, so the interlock agreement with them must not include any of our body checking divisions.
3. Removal of House body checking outside of the ODMHA: The OHF, with almost half of the hockey players in Canada, banned body checking in all of their House Leagues, affecting nearly 200,000 players.

4. Lack of body checking tournaments: These tournaments have been hard to find, due to the changes noted above. Within the ODMHA, a number of tournaments switched from body checking to non-body checking during the season, due to lack of interest.

The NMHA has tried different configurations of body checking divisions with little success over the past 5 years. These included A divisions only, A and B divisions, and split A and B divisions. This has been very difficult and stressful for our volunteers, making it all that much harder to find conveners and directors. It was time to make a decision and establish some stability in our Bantam and Midget House divisions. It is the unquestioned right of any member to bring a motion to the floor of the AGM to change our rules and regulations. It is also important that the NMHA Board ensures that decisions on any motion are well-informed.

REPORT/DISTRICT CHAIR – CRAIG SHOULDICE

At the ODHA AGM in June a motion was put forward to change the voting structure to vote by population. Right now minor hockey is at a huge disadvantage compared to the Juniors.

Craig also noted that there have been a few changes in suspensions and the code of discipline.

Transfer rules for AAA AA will also change. We transfer between 50-60 players a year.

Minor Peewee AAA has only four teams and minor council said it must have five. Novice B competitive has been approved, however ice is still a large issue.

Coaches should read the new ODHA hand book when it comes out or go to the web site and read the new rules.

CORRESPONDENCE - NIL

VICE PRESIDENT/COMPETITIVE CHAIR – GREG CLARKE

Program highlights – NMHA Competitive Program 2011-2012

Before I begin my report, I would like to thank the members of the Competitive program. A lot of time and effort goes into managing the program and I would like to recognize then efforts of the following Board members:

Anne Marie Muldoon – Midget Director

Steve Brush – Peewee Director

Linda Pietrantonio – Manager Liaison

Bob Byrnes - Technical Director

I would also like to thank Chris Woodcock and Dale Booth who left the Board this past season. In addition, I'd like to note the contributions of Karen Russell, Shail Paliwal and Brian McDivitt to help with the coach selections, Michelle Low with the coach evaluations and Linda Pietrantonio who was again indispensable as our manager liaison.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers, our 23 coaches, assistant coaches, managers and trainers in helping to make 2011-2012 a success and a positive experience for the kids.

AAA Hockey

I'd like to offer our congratulations to the following NMHA player that was drafted in the 2012 OHL draft last Saturday.

- Cameron Hughes - Windsor Spitfires 8th round, 148th overall

After attending rookie camp a few weeks ago, Cameron has been invited by the Spitfires to attend their main camp in the fall which is a remarkable achievement for someone drafted so late. Good luck to him in Windsor.

Major Peewee AAA - There has been much discussion with Major Peewee AAA hockey in the ODMHA. Currently the Senators AAA has decided not to field a team but the other four AAA Associations are committed to moving ahead. This will be discussed at the ODMHA's Minor Council in the week and we will have a better picture of where the NMHA stands in this regard.

NMHA

Technical Director

This was Bob's first year as our Technical Director and this year was very much a learning experience for him on how the NMHA is organized and assessing needs and objectives for the upcoming year. Bob was indispensable in helping us with the tryouts last year.

However, Bob was instrumental in organizing and running our camps, despite starting in May. His work resulted in a net profit to the NMHA of just over \$14,000.

Turkey Tournament

Our third edition of the Turkey Tournament was a success and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Karen Russell, the tournament Chair, who was instrumental in this achievement. We modified the format of the tournament to only B teams and we had over 40 teams and returned a net profit of over \$13000.

Novice Hockey

After much effort on the part of Craig Shouldice and with a lot of urging from the Competitive Committee, we were able to implement a number of changes to the ODMHA regulations this year as it pertains to the Novice program.

- Effective in 2011-2012, Novice players were allowed to affiliate to competitive teams; and
- Effective in 2012-2013, there will be competitive Novice hockey.

2011-2012 Season Summary

This season saw continued improvement in playoff performance from all our NMHA teams. 20 of our 23 teams made the playoffs and made for some exciting hockey as a number of teams had good playoff runs.

Special note of congratulations goes to our championship teams

- Mike Killingsworth's Major Bantam AA
- Rob Aubry's Major Midget AA

And to the NMHA teams that were finalists in their respective divisions

- Todd Paterson's Minor Bantam AA team (League Champions)
- Garry Galley's Minor Peewee AA team
- John Cosentino's Minor Atom A team
- Wayne Bifulchi's Minor Atom B team
- Len Damiano's Minor Midget B team

We had lots of tournament wins that are far too numerous to mention here but are listed on the NMHA website. We want to carry this success forward to next year.

Coaches for 2010-2011

B coaches

Novice B - Jeff Drost and Steve Moore

Minor Atom B - Kevin Rooney and Derek Oey

Major Atom B - We are searching for candidates

Minor Peewee B - Pending a decision with Major Peewee AAA

Major Peewee B - Pending a decision with Major Peewee AAA

Minor Bantam B - Grahame Hughes and Sylvain Berthiaume

REGISTRAR - JANET SHOULDICE

As of today we have 2,885 players' members. Ice allocation has not changed therefore we can't add any more teams at this time. We have kept the fees the same for this season. This year we have waiting lists which we expect to rise next year again.

TREASURER - BRENT CAVES

Brent noted that the financials will be available from the auditor shortly and posted on the web site. Anyone with questions should email Brent.

HOUSELEAGUE - NIKKI LOTHIAN

2011-2012 House League Report

Volunteers

I would like to thank the countless volunteers for all the help this season. Without volunteers that step forward each year we could not run such a large organization.

Novice through to Juvenile consisted of 132 teams, which equates to over 650 parent/non parent volunteers that give their time to insure the team is structured, organized and maintained throughout the season. Their level of commitment is a true asset to our organization and we could not operate without these volunteers each year.

The NMHA also greatly appreciates all the student volunteers that came out to help each season with the sort outs, tournaments and really anything that was asked of them. Many of these volunteers will become the future of the NMHA.

Directors/Conveners

Thank-you to the Directors and Conveners.

It is truly not an easy task to run a division but year after year, we have dedicated members that put forth a great deal of effort as well as their family time to make sure all the teams in their division are organized in order to provide our members a organized and enjoyable season. I commend them for their dedication to the NMHA.

HL Mentors

I would also like to thank Alex Sperberg and Ken Lothian our HL mentors for all their efforts and hard work this season with our HL teams. We are looking forward to another successful season to come. We will continue our focus on player development at the Novice and Atom level.

Kanata Interlock

NMHA House has been interlocked with Kanata at the A level for 5 years now, this year we included the non contact C level into the Kanata/Nepean interlock. From the feedback received the interlock was a welcome addition. We look forward to continuing next season.

Championship Teams

I would like to congratulate all the championship teams. Thanks to all teams for such exciting hockey during the round robin, finals and championship games.

House League Awards

Coach A Dan Cheney

Dan is an excellent coach, dedicated and promotes the game of hockey through player development and seeing that the players are having fun while learning. He instills excellent team spirit and very attentive to needs of all the kids.

Coach Ken Major

Ken has volunteered with Nepean for many years, he exemplifies the best qualities: great hockey knowledge, incredible sportsmanship, □ the kids respect him, the parents respect him and he coaches for the betterment of the players, Ken is a positive influence to all. □

Coach C Brian Thiessen

Brian has coached with Nepean for many years and at many different levels. Each year Brian dedicates his time by taking on this role. It's Brian's extensive knowledge of the game, focus on player development and teamwork values that make Brian an asset to the NMHA.

Manager Denis Gratton

Denis' efforts and support was a big part of in making a successful and fun season for the players, parents and the bench staff. Denis kept his team informed and organized. He is an excellent example of the perfect manager.

Trainer Dan Berrea

As a trainer Dan is held at the highest standard, he demonstrates his passion for the game and care for all players. The NMHA is very fortunate to have a volunteer like Dan.

Parent Volunteer of the Year Johanna Nicoletta

Johanna was instrumental in assisting the Midget Director with maintaining their division website, tracking game sheet and keeping the division up to date with scheduling.

Volunteer of the year Amy Smith

I am very honored to present the Volunteer of the year award to Amy Smith. Amy's unbelievable dedication to the NMHA is commendable. Beyond her role as Technical Director organizing clinics, you will always see Amy stepping up to help out when needed and always with smile.

INITIATION - MARK HARGRAVES - NIL

REFEREE IN CHIEF - CAISE CHANDLER

Caise is stepping down this year after four years as Referee in Chief. Cameron Watts will be joining the NMHA board as the new Referee in Chief.

VOLUNTEERS - KARLA CLARKE-NIL

RISK AND SAFETY- JANE SHEPHERD-NIL

SWEATERS - JOHANNE DIOTTE-NIL

SUSPENSTIONS - HOUSE LEAGUE - KIM JOHNSON-NIL

GENERAL BUSINESS - Richard Sennott was introduced

Elections - There is no election this year

ELECTION TO THE 2012-13 NMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following directors are returning:

Past President: John Murray

Life Time Board Member: Hart Wolf

Board members returning to complete the second year of their two-year term are as follows:

Amy Smith, Nikki Lothian, Valerie Paul, Gail Wistaff, Karla Clarke, Marilyn Hargreaves Patricia Steele, Johanne Diotte and Arlene Thiessen

Directors starting a new two year term as of May 9th, 2012:

President: Karen Russell

Vice President: 1) Steve Brush

District Chair: Craig Shouldice

Directors:

Janet Shouldice, Jane Shepherd, Arlene Cameron, Kim Johnson, Brent Caves, Nicole Kingsbury, Greg Clarke, Terry Martin, Mark Kingsbury, Patricia Steele and Vicki Sen

New members starting a two year term on May 9, 2012:

Brian McDivitt, Shail Paliwal Anne Marie Muldoon

A motion to agree to the appointments was moved by Chris Woodcock and seconded by Steve Powell carried

FREE REGISTRATIONS - Leo Cater, Joanne Rumig and Steve Powell

ADJOURNMENT

Craig Shouldice moved and Greg Clarke seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting carried

DRAFT