



Northern Alberta Interlock
Annual General Meeting
Saturday May 5, 2018
Family Connection Centre
Stony Plain, Alberta

Called to order at 11:04 AM

Attendance recorded with 39 of 44 associations represented (lost Sangudo and Maskwacis)

Absent was Calmar, Fox Creek, Lamont, Ponoka, and Vegreville.

Agenda reviewed. No additions.

Minutes from the 2017 1660 Hockey League AGM were available on the website for review.

Winfield moved for adoption. Barrhead seconded. Carried.

Chair's Report:

2017-18 was a successful year thanks to:

The Executive:

Brad, Jim, Paul, Neil, Karen, and Dody
with additional thanks to Tina and Stacy

Senior Governors:

Randy, Tina, Drew, Neil, and Julie

Tiering and Scheduling:

Nick and Jesse and additional thanks to Marie

30 hard working governors and all the numerous Local Minor Hockey Association volunteers. First full year of NAI was very successful. Not all travel was perfect, but majority was within tolerances. Plenty of positive feedback on all aspects, want to build on this, but changes are inevitable. Hockey Alberta's changes will require creative thinking in the future. Also want to mention a thank you to Drew Hiltz for his long service as Tier and Senior Governor. As well, special thank you to Tina Warawa who was our Governor Liaison and then stepped into the role of Atom Senior governor when she was needed.

Treasurer Report:

Year end is April 30th. Last year's financials were reviewed by Devon and Lamont. Motion to accept the 2017-17 financials was made by Camrose, seconded by Redwater, carried.

Reviewed 2017-18 financial details. Motion to increase the team registration for 2018-19 season from \$200 to \$225 per team moved by Stony Plain, seconded by Devon, carried.

Two NAI members to review the financial statements for the 2017-18 season - Whitecourt and Smoky Lake.

Administration Report:

- Great job considering the hurdles of editing the two-tier game changes. Improvement still needed on loading team contact information onto the website as well as keeping HCR's up to date. Need to work on game sheet copies being uploaded and penalty input being done properly but overall a great job done by teams and the governors for staying on top



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of them. Guidelines on the website were used and referred to and will be updated to reflect website changes.

- Karen researched other website platforms and the costs for them are higher. We did not want a new system to learn. The majority of our associations use RAMP and those that use a different platform have not expressed any issues with uploading their information to their website. RAMP is the preferred company NAI will use for the next season.
- Banner distribution was good this year. Everyone had a banner at their final game. It is always a struggle to get the banners to the games, but thanks to Chuck Hunter and a few others who grabbed some banners and dropped them off on their way past, every banner made it to the final destination. Karen looked into a cost for shipping the banners and due to their size and weight, they would cost as much as \$25 per banner to ship so that is why we rely on volunteers to pick them up and get them to the governors or league reps to present.
- Reviewed final standings. Note that banner winners were well spread out throughout our league and Leduc and Whitecourt each had 9 banners - 2 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze, and 3 consolations.

Discipline Report:

- Both Jim and Paul want to express a thank-you to everyone for the great communication this year. The calls and e-mails were much appreciated and things were handled much better than in the past. Thanks to all the referees as we couldn't do this without them.
- Emphasized the need to send in compliments as well as complaints. There were not many compliments this year and they are great opportunity for positive feedback to associations and referee committee and Ref-in-chiefs for development of the young people reffing our future. All complaints and compliments are passed on to associations, ref committee and zone.
- Want to stress that the league cannot do anything about referees not showing up to a game, perceived referee bias, or any other referee issues. This is between the association and the Referee in Chief and the referee association.
- Hockey Alberta guidelines are what we follow with our discipline. There was only one case where we added an extra suspension onto a player and that was because the association asked our guidance on disciplining this player.
- There will be changes for next year but the changes from Hockey Alberta and the new Referee Casebook isn't released until after we start our season next year. Watch for communication regarding any significant changes.
- Abuse of Official penalty went way up this year at every level. Not good.
- Question - regarding the tracking of suspensions, it was hard to track who had the suspension and when / if it was served because suspensions don't just come from the league - they are from tournaments and Provincials as well as league and can be served in any of these so it is hard for a governor or anyone to track.



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Answer - Governors do not need to track anything with suspensions. We will change the wording in our guidelines and instructions to reflect this. The association should know what the player has received and when it was served. Hockey Alberta and the league are working on a better line of communication to monitor and inform everyone of these. Our DC's have asked for permission to have access to the HCR information attached to each player to look up the penalties, suspensions and serve time for a player, not edit, but for monitoring and information purposes. Hopefully this will get resolved this upcoming year.

- Discussion held regarding the high penalty minutes some teams/players had and if it was an issue. This will be brought up later because there is a motion on the table for it, however, the DC feel they handled any excessive accumulation of penalty minutes by having a phone call with the offending association giving them a warning and that seemed to clear things up quickly as they were dealt with.

Vice-Chair Report:

The Vice-Chair roles were not properly utilized this year. Both of the Vice-Chairs had other roles so they did not perform much of a VC role.

Proposed changes to the role will see that nobody serves a dual role and the VC's will perform roles that will benefit the league and take pressure off of others.

Governor's Report:

The list of governors from this year was shared. Stats from each level from Novice to Midget were shown. Emphasis on the need for governors to attend the training at the beginning of the year as that helps cut down on the questions and hurdles at the beginning of the year and again at playoffs. We will try to host two meetings this year in different locations but stagger the dates and times to aid in getting better attendance.

Tiering and Scheduling:

46 Associations, 361 teams, 5274 games.

- Nick, Jesse, Marie and Karen work for many hours on a very tight schedule to get the games scheduled and posted for all the teams. It really helps when associations have their ice slots and black out dates in to us early so we can start looking at the match ups.
- Team placement was monitored throughout the season and though there were a few teams that did not end up in the proper tier, the majority were placed in the correct spots. Nick strives for at least a 95% success rate at tiering and that was achieved again this year.
- For next season we will have to work extra hard to make sure the PeeWee teams are placed in the correct spots because of the Alberta One trial. The league may have to be a bit more strict with appeals and requests to move if there is any suspicion of sandbagging tiering games.



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- Provincial Results were shown. Congratulations to these teams from our league who won in Provincials : Barrhead - Silver in Midget B, Winfield - Gold in PeeWee C, Athabasca - Gold in Bantam B, Westlock - Gold in Bantam C, and New Sarepta - Silver in Atom C.

Bylaws and Regulations:

Revisions to the Bylaws and Regulations were distributed to each association through e-mail for review prior to the meeting.

Motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws, which includes new definitions of roles and job descriptions, moved by Redwater, seconded by New Sarepta, Carried.

Motion to accept the changes to the Regulations moved by Westlock, seconded by Bruderheim, Carried.

New Association:

Holden has asked to join the NAI for the upcoming season. They will only have one team and it will be in Novice. Leduc motioned for Holden to be accepted as an NAI member association for the 2018-19 season, seconded by Bashaw, Carried.

Lisa Francioli Scholarship:

NAI will be continuing the scholarship honoring past 1660 President Lisa Francioli which gives \$250 to a graduating Midget player who will be attending College or University in the fall and who demonstrates good sportsmanship and team spirit on and off the ice. In the past this has been awarded to up to 3 players in a season who are chosen based on their letters of recommendation and their hockey statistics showing low penalty minutes. This year the award will be given to a graduating player out of Westlock. We hope that next year there are more applicants. We will advertise and ensure all our midget teams know that their graduating players can apply for this scholarship.

Next Season in NAI:

Discussion was held regarding the changes Hockey Alberta is making with the development of the standardized tiering model and the Alberta One project as well as the Intro to Hockey program. We thank Barry Brost from Zone 3 Minor Regulation Committee and Michelle Malbeuf for attending today to help answer questions.

- Next season NAI will be using the tiering model recommended by Hockey Alberta which means 6 tiers in divisions that have enough teams to do that. Bantam and Midget levels will be more difficult to have 6 tiers but there are allowances built into the model to allow flexibility in those circumstances.
- Next season Novice in NAI will be the same as it was in 2017-18. The Novice program will be scheduled by NAI, will be run using full ice, game sheets, stats - nothing changes from the way we have done it. What will affect novice greatly this upcoming season is



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that many of the larger associations are pulling out of the league and running in-house, so that will affect our teams. We will NOT make anyone travel further distances, but teams must realize there may be changes in the number of times you play versus a team or in the number of games we schedule in the season, or other changes depending on what it looks like. The membership of the league needs to let us know as soon as possible what their intentions are so that we can plan the year accordingly. If you are not going to be registering your novice teams in the NAI for the upcoming season, please let us know by May 30th. We will send out a message to all associations.

- In 2019-20 Novice will be mandated to change to the half ice Intro to Hockey Program. What that looks like for the league is up to the membership. We think as a league we can help with scheduling games if that is what associations want. Of course there will be a registration fee and certain league commitments that go along with that. Tabled for next year's discussion.
- President of Fort McMurray Association, Travis Galenzoski, addressed the members asking if Fort McMurray could add a top tier team in not just Midget next year but also to have one team in Bantam, PeeWee, and Atom as well. Currently they only have an in-city league and they would like an opportunity to play outside. The NAI has worked well for their midget program and they feel that success can be carried on to other levels. Discussion held about travel. The NAI will not change the travel expectation from what it is currently. If a team is in that tier and they are going to play Fort McMurray, they will go on a weekend, play two games, and not have to travel there again. Fort McMurray will travel in to the NAI associations to play games as well. The NAI will get creative with the schedule so that maybe two of Fort McMurray teams can travel on the bus together and play in the same town - a bantam game then a midget game - something like that, and same goes for any of our teams heading up to Fort Mac. We will be able to look at this more in depth when we know who and how many teams will be in each division. Travis motioned for Fort McMurray to add an Atom, PeeWee and Bantam tier 1 (or top tier) team to the NAI, seconded by Stony Plain. Carried.
- For the last few years, we have had a person who has worked in the background with the scheduling and tiering committee. Marie has spent many hours assisting these people in double checking, verifying, and keeping things up to date. As a part of this group of people who are contracted services of the NAI, we wish to give her an honorarium of \$500. This job will be added to the Bylaws as an Administrative Assistant role and the executive will review the honorarium annually. Moved by Randy Mak, seconded by Leduc, carried.

Season Timeline:

A draft of next year's timeline was shown on screen. Once we know the registration numbers it will be easier for us to firm up dates for each division. We want to start the tiering for group one in September. Draft of the timeline for next season will be available soon.



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- There was a comment that some association's ice is not in that early. NAI will accommodate those teams as much as we can, with emphasis on the need for the league to know the dates from the association as soon as possible.
- There will be two Governor's meetings for training at the beginning of the year. Governors and league reps are encouraged to do everything they can to attend. The dates will stagger so if one day does not work for you, hopefully the other one does.
- We are looking at a regular season end in the beginning of February, with playoffs ending mid-March for the PeeWee group to allow us to have representatives from each tier go on to Provincials.
- We are undecided yet as to when the rest of the groups will finish - if they will follow the PeeWee group or if they will go another week longer. Discussion held as to who might be hosting Provincials and the advantages / disadvantages of having the end date the for all the same. Some associations will have to have a meeting with their ice scheduler and user groups soon so they will know more. Associations will let us know their preference when they tell us about their Novice intentions. Right now, the final date we have for hockey to finish by is Sunday March 24 as the 25th marks Spring Break for most school divisions.
- Playoff formats will be released in December. Every association should look at the formats carefully and give us feedback before the formats are finalized.

Notice of Motion

From Jack Dawbin President Bashaw Minor Hockey

We would like to propose that there be a minimum of one ice flood for every game involving Atom and older players. We would also like to see an official form that is to be signed off by both teams before the game specifying the length of the periods and whether the game will be stop time for the duration or at what point will it be switched to run time.

Motion made by Bashaw, seconded by Viking. Discussion.

Motion is really two parts. Decided to change it into:

1) We would like to propose that there be a minimum of one ice flood for every game involving Atom and older players. Moved by Bashaw, seconded by Viking, Discussion. Counted 21 for, 12 against, remainder abstained. Carried.

2) We would also like to see an official form that is to be signed off by both teams before the game specifying the length of the periods and whether the game will be stop time for the duration or at what point will it be switched to run time. Moved by Bashaw, seconded by Viking, defeated.

More discussion was held and it was pointed out that by having the flood we are taking away game time from players in order to allow for a flood because some arenas are strict on their start and end times. Discussion emphasized the recommendation that teams talk to one another



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before hand and that if associations are strict on their ice slot times, to include an end time when submitting to the league so that it will be included in the schedule. There was a request to vote again but Bashaw made a motion to Rescind motion 1) regarding minimum ice flood.

From Jack Dawbin President Bashaw Minor Hockey

We would like to propose that any player with a cumulative penalty minute total of 60 minutes receive a one game suspension.

Motion made by Bashaw, seconded by Leduc. Discussion held. Motion Defeated.

From Westlock and District Minor Hockey

In Regulations, section 13) Playoffs b)..... the league schedulers shall schedule all playoff rounds be a 2 game series with the exception of the final series (gold, silver or bronze) where it can be a 2 game total points or best of 3 games

Motion made by Westlock, seconded by Stony Plain. Discussion held. Two main points mentioned were : 1) Having a two game total points series up until the final helps ice schedulers and associations with the sometimes expensive prime time unused ice a three game series can leave. 2) Sometimes a two game total points series is not the best way to go because teams can have an off day and a 7-1 deficit is hard to recover from. Motion Carried.

From Westlock and District Minor Hockey

We propose that the NAI get rid of consolation rounds in playoffs. We feel that the kids don't really care about playing for the consolation banner, they extend the length of the season for bottom end teams and adds unnecessary costs for travel and ice when it means nothing.

Motion made by Westlock, seconded by Whitecourt. Discussion held. Motion Defeated.

From NAI President and Executive

As part of the Alberta One strategy adopted by Hockey Alberta, the new 6 tier grid is being proposed for adoption in all 6 minor hockey leagues in Alberta. The NAI will follow this grid to the best of our ability.

Motion made by Randy Mak, seconded by Devon, Carried.

From NAI President and Executive

To re-name some of the Executive members, combine two roles, and better define and separate the Vice-Chairs from other roles. Chair becomes President, Vice-Chair becomes Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer roles become combined, Governor Liaison role becomes absorbed by the Vice-Presidents, Coach/manager Liaison becomes part of the 1st Discipline Co-ordinator's role.

Motion made by Randy Mak, seconded by Pembina, Carried.



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Elections:

President

Brad Sakowich nominated Randy Mak to remain President. Randy agreed to let his name stand, seconded by Pembina. Other nominations from the floor was asked for three times. No other nominations. Randy Mak is President.

1st Vice-President

Jim Wood nominated Neil Rogers to 1st Vice-President role. Seconded by Paul Elun. Other nominations from the floor was asked for three times. No other nominations. Neil Rogers is 1st Vice-President.

2nd Vice-President (1 year term)

Paul Elun nominated Wendy Richards to 2nd Vice-President. Seconded by ThunderStars. Other nominations from the floor was asked for three times. No other nominations. Wendy Richards is 2nd Vice-President for a one year term.

1st Discipline Co-ordinator

Jim Wood nominated Paul Elun to 1st Discipline Co-ordinator. Paul agreed to let his name stand. Seconded by Stony Plain. Other nominations from the floor was asked for three times. No other nominations. Paul Elun is 1st Discipline Co-ordinator.

Secretary - Treasurer

Jim Wood nominated Dody Kluttig to Secretary-Treasurer. Seconded by Bruderheim. Other nominations from the floor was asked for three times. No other nominations. Dody Kluttig is Secretary-Treasurer.

Next meeting will be the Fall Registration Meeting. Time and place, TBA, though we'd like it to remain in Stony Plain as it is a pretty central location. Request from Associations to have the start of the Registration meeting at 11 am so as to allow time for further distance to travel for some.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM