



**Attendees:**

Connie Stang	Chris March	John Putters
Angela – SHC	April MacKinnon – EGHA	Brad Butterfield – SWZ
Carmen – DC Programs	Christy Rake	Dan Szoo
Dylan – NEZ	Elton Davidge	Jane Sedo – St. Albert MHA
Jennifer	Joe Spatafora	Curtis Ferguson – LMHA
Sharlene Cook	Melissa – Confed Hockey	Mike Watt SGMHA
Natalie Williams	Monte – MWA	Miranda Niebergall – SPMHA
Pauline Hughes – NWZ	Ray Saruk	Ray Vigneau – Hockey Edm
Rhea	Rob Buchanan	Robert Stecyk – FSMH
Sharlene - Discipline	Michelle - Discipline	

Ask that only the delegate or alternate delegate vote in favour of any motions.

### Call to Order

John Putters called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and Connie Stang, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

### Adoption of Agenda

Mike Watt moved acceptance of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Robert Stecyk.  
Approved by majority (virtual) vote and carried unanimously.

### Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (as circulated)

Miranda Niebergall moved acceptance of the 2022 AGM minutes. Seconded by Angela.  
Approved by majority (virtual) vote and carried unanimously.

### New Business

#### i) Elections – 2023

##### President

John Putters has let his name stand for President.

No nominations put forward for President

April MacKinnon put forward a motion to accept John Putters as President of EFHL for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 years, seconded by Brad Butterfield. Carried unanimously.

##### Secretary

Connie Stang has let his name stand for Secretary.

No nominations put forward for Secretary

April MacKinnon put forward a motion to accept Connie Stang as Secretary of EFHL for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 years, seconded by Brad Butterfield. Carried unanimously.

ii) Recommendations from EFHL Operations Committee



EFHL Operations Committee  
 Recommendations for EFHL Board of Directors: May 10, 2023  
 EFHL Operations Committee Recommendations for EFHL Board Approval

1. The EFHL Operations Committees recommend the following number of games for each division and tier of the EFHL League for U9 to U18 for the 2023-2024 season.

Division/Tiers	# of Tiering Games	# of Regular Season Games	Total Games
U9 Tiers 1-6	6	12	18
U9 Female B	6	12	18
U11 Tier 1	6	18	24
U11 Tiers 2-5	6	12	18
U11 Female A+B	6	12	18
U11 HADP	8	16	24
U13 Tiers 1-6	6	14	20
U13 Female A+B	6	14	20
U15 Tiers 1-6	6	14	20
U15 Female A+B	6	14	20
U18 Tiers 1-6	6	14	20
U18 Female A+B	6	14	20

2. All Divisions and tiers except for U11 HADP will play a six-game tiering round beginning in October 2023, followed by the remaining games played during the regular season phase. Tiering review will be completed for all divisions and tiers after the tiering round.
3. The EFHL Operations Committee recommends that we continue using the regional scheduling approach for the following Divisions and Tiers of Play:
  - a. U9 Tiers 3-6
  - b. U11 Tiers 2-5
  - c. U13 Tiers 5-6

Additional flexibility will be provided following tiering round and regular season round to determine if competitiveness can be improved by reducing regional play were warranted and determined by the tiering committee in order to create the best experiences for our players and teams. Where regional conferences are in place, a final playoff game will be played between the two conference champions to complete the season.

4. Operations Committee recommends that all team fees as well as blackout and league game change fees remain unchanged for the 2023-2024 season.



EFHL Operations Committee  
Recommendations for EFHL Board of Directors: May 10, 2023

5. Recommendation to reduce the EFHL Individual Penalty Minute Accumulations to the following:

Division	Penalty Minute Threshold
U11 tiers 2-5	40
U11 HADP +Tier 1	50
U13 Tiers 1-6	50
U15 Tiers 1-6	75
U18 Tiers 1-6	100

6. Due to events that occurred during the 2022-2023 playoffs, in order to protect the integrity of the EFHL and commit to improving player safety, the EFHL Board of Directors will evaluate moving the handshake to the beginning of the game for playoff games where one of the teams will be eliminated at U18 Division. Following elimination games, both teams will immediately exit the ice.
7. EFHL Operations will continue to work With Referee in Chief to identify ways to reduce inappropriate conduct by players at the U9 category of play to create a safer environment for players in the upcoming season. Additions to the rules of play will be discussed and approved prior to the start of the 2023-2024 season. Penalties would result in immediate whistle and player removed from the ice surface and faceoff re-starts the game. If coach does not comply with sitting player, they will be removed from the bench.
8. EFHL Operations will work with associations interested in providing recreational level programming within the EFHL to determine associations interest and team numbers for the specific divisions of play. A separate committee will be established including those associations running recreational hockey programming during the 2023-2024 season.
9. EFHL will post information on our website detailing the procedures for maltreatment complaints made through Hockey Alberta to ensure all stakeholders understand the process and timelines associated with such complaints. We will work with Hockey Alberta so more information is provided up front which should reduce the miscommunication and expectations during the process.
- Motion put forward by Elton Davidge to accept recommendations of EFHL Operations Committee, seconded by Brad Butterfield. Carried unanimously.

## Reports

### a) Committee and Executive Reports

#### i. President

- I sit through the operations committee meetings and the quality of the people at that table is exceptional. The recommendations going back to the operations committee really reflects the transparency and openness of this organization.
- Missed last female committee but my intention is to attend those as well.
- Keep up the great work.

#### ii. Treasurer

- Revenue is relatively the same as last year
- Game changes from last year gave us a cushion in our account
- Expenses relatively the same as last year – contacts under expenses

Q: any change in cost related to moving to online gamesheets?

A: essentially the cost savings – no cost to the league because Hockey Alberta covered the cost of the electronic gamesheets. Savings is from associations not having to purchase gamesheets. Hockey Alberta will be covering this cost for the foreseeable future.

Q: do we have banners or just medals for championships?

A: the board voted last year that gold and silver medals would be provided for every championship game and also voted banners would only be provided to those levels of play attending provincials tournaments. Required to carry them at the opening ceremonies.

#### iii. League Commissioner/Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues

- Report circulated.

#### iv. Referee

v. Nothing to report other than rates need to be confirmed for next season.

#### vi. Scheduling

- Carmen Linman, DC Programs will be taking over for David Linman.
- Will be looking to hire some help during the fall season to assist with the communications and with all the allocators so things continue smoothly.
- Going over the database to ensure it meets the current recommendations that have been approved.
- Chris – great working with Carmen and happy she will be continuing in that role. Work well together as a team and as a league, excited to keep that moving forward into the upcoming season.

#### vii. Discipline

- Sharlene/Michelle – enjoyed working with the league, hope we were fair and just in our decisions.
- Still in the process of the EFHL teams carry over the suspension reports. We will have those as soon as possible.
- John – extremely lucky to have you with the league with your competence. Thank you, appreciate everything you've done.
- Chris – probably the only league that has essentially 2 members of the Hockey Alberta discipline committee in that role acting on behalf of our league.

### b) Division Directors

- i. U9 – nothing to report
- ii. U11 – nothing to report
- iii. U13 – nothing to report
- iv. U15 – nothing to report
- v. U18 – nothing to report
- vi. U21 – nothing to report
- vii. Female – there are changes because of Hockey Edmonton taking over all female hockey teams within the Edmonton region. Over time we will see if there is any adjustments that EFHL needs to make to make sure there is fair play for all associations in the region.

### **Update**

We will be having operations committee meetings over the course of the summer to address/start any dialogue for the 2024-2025 season. As suggested, those things should be discussed and ready for approval in the late fall prior to the season.

Looking at dates to send out to the group on the manager/coach meetings, the season ready meetings so we can get dates booked ahead of time.

### **Next Meeting**

EFHL – August 9, 2023, 6:30pm

EFHL AGM – May 15, 2024, 6:30pm

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm by Robert Stecyk and seconded by April Mackinnon.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Stang, Secretary