



Attendees: Connie Stang – EFHL
Rob Buchanan
Brad – NEZ
Andrew – Confed
Duncan MacDougall – Referees
Jenn – SGMHA
John Putters - EFHL
Marvin Heise – Northstars
Linda H - NSH
Carmen – EFHL Scheduler
Joe Spatafora – KC
Sam Pathirana – Confed
Morgan
Shawn Melnyk
Roxanne Robb – BAHA
KC South
Chris March – EFHL
Andy Connelly – Seera
Charlene – SMHA
Don Chanski – SAMHA
Pam – FSMH
Jennifer Poyser – Whitemud West
Marc Aubee – KC
Michelle – Discipline
Ray Saruk – Stony Plain
Curtis Ferguson - Leduc
Gene Connors – Sturgeon Hockey
Brad Benwood
Sharlene Cook – Discipline
Ray Vigneau – Hockey Edmonton
Paul Brown – KC

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 8:02pm and Connie Stang, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

Andy Connelly moved acceptance of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Don Chanski.
Carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (as circulated)

Don Chanski moved acceptance of the previous minutes. Seconded by Jenn - SGMHA.
Carried unanimously.

League Correspondence

The main correspondence from the hockey association was about changes to registration and boundaries, which was shared with all EFHL member contacts. There were no comments or questions about this correspondence.

Ray and Chris discussed the implications of a new policy from Hockey Alberta, which allows new registrants to choose their association without restrictions. Chris clarified that existing registrants would continue to be under their current association's jurisdiction unless they requested a move through the Hockey Alberta Player Movement Committee. However, the specifics of how requests would be handled, particularly if an association denied a player's request to move, remained unclear. Rob suggested that the policy would have a greater impact on female hockey, while Don clarified that the policy would allow players to move to a new association if the receiving association was willing to accept them, regardless of the current association's stance.

New Business

- i. U9-U13 Operations Committee Update
 - Met Nov 26, 2024 – meeting revolved around meeting and regulations around U9 full ice
 - Decided we would have communication in early January that Jan 15 would be deadline to move tiers up and down
 - Schedule a coach meeting to explain the rules for full ice hockey
 - Discuss process on scheduling (by league) – because board systems no longer requires some games may fall during the week.
 - Also talked about U11 – U13 – Jan 28 tiering meeting
 - Talked about EFHL championship game night – no change to length of game / 15 minutes added for presentations
 - Ice in general and how to improve scheduling and make things better for EFHL scheduler (needs to be discussed at the ops committee level)

- ii. U15-U18 Operations Committee Update
 - U15 – U18 met Monday night – talked about standing issues with non-body checking hockey at community level
 - AB hockey committee meeting on this
 - Current tiering system – different opinions on how we should be tiering. Some associations looked at entering teams
 - Game statistics – put out communication before Friday to send out to associations on current policy for updating game sheets. Allowed some changes to be made, intention was not to start adding assists and second assists but to correct players and goal scorers to be reflected accurately.
 - Looking to gain consistency with goalie statistics – suggested might be a good opportunity to rollout mandatory goal statistics – discussion around that and come up with a game plan

- iii. Female Operations Committee Update
 - The Female Operations Committee discussed plans for the upcoming interleague play weekends with Calgary on February 1st and 2nd. They evaluated feedback from the first round in November and determined which teams would participate in Calgary versus staying in Edmonton.
 - The committee also explored ways to grow the female game, including cross-play between female-only and co-ed teams to attract more girls.
 - Additionally, Chris is part of a committee looking at introducing more interleague play with other leagues across the province to provide more variety for female teams.

- iv. Tiering Meetings
 - Chris updated on the completion of tiering meetings and the upcoming ones in January.
 - Chris also mentioned that he would be reaching out to associations regarding unpaid fees.

- v. Hockey Alberta Committee Updates
 - 3 committees
 - Non-body checking committee
 - Ideal structure of hockey committee
 - Female leagues committee

Reports

a) Committee and Executive

i. President:

- John expressed satisfaction with the Commissioner's contract and the League's progress.
- Chris discussed his involvement in various hockey committees and the positive feedback from the vote of confidence for the Commissioner's contract.

ii. Treasurer:

- Christy is unable to make the meeting.
- Chris has report – good shape with fees collected, several not collected so will be reaching out to see if something was put in the mail (and stuck due to the strike)
- Only 5 or 6 left to collect – Chris will be working with them to get the payment

iii. League Commissioner/Hockey Alberta Minor:

- Report circulated

iv. Referee:

- Duncan expressed concerns about the lack of officials in rural communities, particularly in Alberta, and suggested a meeting with Carmen to discuss potential solutions. He also mentioned that the scheduling of games is becoming increasingly difficult. Rob asked for a regional list of certified officials, but Duncan clarified that there is a provincial roster, but it doesn't necessarily indicate their capabilities. Duncan also mentioned that Hockey Alberta's instructional program could worsen the situation in rural areas. John agreed to facilitate a meeting between Duncan and Carmen to address these issues. Chris acknowledged the complexity of the issue and the need for a larger discussion involving multiple stakeholders.

v. Scheduling:

- Report circulated
- Carmen discussed the challenges faced in scheduling due to the high volume of Saturday and Sunday games, lack of weekday ice, and program changes. She highlighted the impact of blackouts on scheduling and suggested limiting the number of blackouts allowed per team. She also proposed stricter deadlines for blackout and calendar requests, and suggested meeting with Duncan and Ray to discuss these issues further. Chris agreed to discuss the maximum number of blackouts allowed per team in the Operations group. Carmen also expressed a desire to involve herself more in coaches' meetings to help new coaches understand the system better.
- Duncan discussed the challenges with scheduling, particularly with the U15 League play round and the high concentration of games in Northeast Edmonton arenas.
- Duncan highlighted the problem of assigning games on Saturdays at the upper levels, particularly U18, and the lack of weekday hockey games. He suggested that spreading games over the week could alleviate some of these issues.

vi. Discipline:

- Michelle and Sharlene discussed issues with referees and incorrect infraction entries.
- Duncan expressed concerns about the difficulties faced by some officials in completing game incident reports and the issues with the referee app.

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. Chris reported on a disciplinary action taken against a player for misbehavior, emphasizing the seriousness of the issue.
- vii. Female – nothing to report

Action Items

- Chris to communicate with associations about the January 15th deadline for U9 teams to request tier changes for full ice play.
- Operations Committees to develop a policy on game statistics changes and goalie statistics for next season.
- Chris to reach out to remaining associations regarding outstanding fee payments.
- Carmen to meet with Duncan, Ray, and ice allocators to discuss scheduling challenges and potential solutions.
- League to consider enforcing stricter blackout request limits and deadlines for next season

Next Meeting

EFHL General Meeting – February 12, 2025

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm by Andy Connelly and seconded by Don Chanski. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Stang, Secretary