



Attendees: Connie Stang – EFHL
Mike Watt – SGMHA
John Putters – EFHL President
Dylan – NEZ
Stephen Avivi - SWAT
Elton Davidge
Michelle - Discipline
Pam – Fort Sask
Don Vigneau – Hockey Edmonton
Ray Saruk – Stony Plain Hockey

Chris March – EFHL
Carmen – EFHL Scheduler
Curtis Ferguson – Leduc
Brad Benwood – EGHA
Marcus Morin
Codie Richard
Gene – SHC
Natalie Williams - Strathcona
Mikaul - DMHA
Barbara – EFHL U15 Director

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 7:05pm and Connie Stang, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

Curtis Ferguson moved acceptance of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mike Watt.
Carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (as circulated)

Elton Davidge moved acceptance of the previous minutes. Seconded by Dylan - NEZ.
Carried unanimously.

League Correspondence

None received since last meeting

New Business

1. Team Fees all paid by all Associations
 - Send out a thank you to all the associations for getting their payments in paid on time, greatly appreciated.

2. Female Operations Committee Update
 - As a pilot this year, we are partnering with Hockey Calgary and we have implemented interleague games between the U18 and U15 A category.
 - Hockey Calgary will be hosting our 10 teams the last weekend in January 2024 for 2 games in Calgary.
 - EFHL will be hosting the 10 Calgary teams the last weekend in February 2024 for 2 games in Edmonton.

3. Operations Committee Update

- U9 / U13 age divisions
 - Looking at a policy review of lop-sided games.
 - Suggestions from the U9 / U13 committee to include some cooperation from the officials.
- Enhancements being considered for the 2024 – 2025 season
 - Nothing approved or voted on but looking to maybe front loading the first part of season with more practices
 - Looking at recommendations for the 2024 – 2025 calendar now.
 - One of the items for discussion is the possibility of adding another tiering round.
 - Feedback for U9 – announcement from Hockey Alberta permitting some full ice hockey the second part of the season.
 - Edmonton Association brought up issue with move from 6 to 8 teams, what sort of leeway we would have to help support that. Ongoing conversation. A lot of flexibility.
- U15 / U18 age divisions
 - Support for moratorium
 - No appetite to travel outside the EFHL boundaries
 - Suggestion moving tiering meeting up in the schedule, however then you may not be able to take into account all the games to use for tiering.
 - Looking at lopsided games and tiering policy review
 - Discussed removing of body checking from all non-elite levels. Some concern with removal of body checking it is may move kids to non-sanctioned hockey clubs.

4. Deadline for changes to the 2024-2025 season for consideration for BOD

- Just a reminder to get across to the Board of Directors, February 7th the operations committees will be working on suggestions/proposals that they want to bring forward.

5. Final Tiering Meeting January 30, 2024

- Just a reminder – this is new this year, stipulations in place last year. Associations will have the opportunity to ask to be moved and voted on.
- All teams will finish where they are for the remainder of the season, will determine where they play for playoffs

6. Vote on extending moratorium on accepting new associations for application into the EFHL until the 2028/2029 season as recommended by both U9-U13 and U15-U18 Operations Committees

- Anticipating we would get a bunch of applications, already have applications from 3 associations
- At this stage the league is big enough, don't want to add the travel
- What impact does it have on the other leagues? What does it do to them?
- The committee felt three more years to see where the landscape falls is appropriate.
- No consideration for membership will be made for another 3 years

Motion put forward by Curtis Ferguson to extend the moratorium on accepting new associations for application into the EFHL until the 2028 – 2029 season as recommended by the operations committee. Seconded by Dylan – NEZ.

Roll call vote:

Beaumont – not in attendance

Confederation – not in attendance

Devon – In favor
EGHA – In favor
Female Hockey Alliance – not in attendance
ENOCH – In favor
Fort Sask – In favor
Hawks Athletic Club – not in attendance
KC – not in attendance
Leduc – In favor
Millwoods – not in attendance
NEZ – In favor
North Seera – not in attendance
NWZ – In favor
Seera – not in attendance
Sherwood Park – In favor
Sherwood Park Fusion – not in attendance
Spruce Grove – In favor
Stony Plain – In favor
St. Albert – not in attendance
Strathcona – In favor
Sturgeon – In favor
SWAT – In favor
WMW – In favor

Unanimous of the associations in attendance. 474 in favor / 0 against.

Reports

a) Committee and Executive

- i. President – not a lot to report. Sit in on operations meeting, quality is extremely high, very impressed with how things are moving along. Waiting anxiously on what we will be doing with full ice for U9
- ii. Treasurer - Chris March speaking on Christy Rakes' behalf - thanking all associations for payment. Blackout dates continue to be very popular, some cancellations and some didn't go through; other expenditures will be for the medals for this year.
- iii. League Commissioner/Hockey Alberta Minor – report circulated
 - Q: Why would Calgary hold out on that?
 - A: Calgary has already prepared a letter to send to Hockey Alberta when announcement is made.
- iv. Referee – Duncan sent regrets that he was not able to make it. He will have a full report for the next meeting
- v. Scheduling – blackouts are extremely popular, teams are loving it. Ones that miss the deadline are the ones who are scrambling. Turned my attention to playoffs, have had a couple reach out and ask what I need, working on that now. Going to schedule a brainstorming session on how to handle changes and how we will respond to them. Recommendations for Feb meeting. Any special request, want to make sure we work with them. Want to also have a better handle on when the contracts are signed. Fine tune a little bit to do the best job we can.
 - Q: getting ice next year for the season, HSL buys primetime ice at many rinks, is the

re a plan to work with the City to get that ice before HSL gets it

A: see if we can find some way to get better ice slot. Recommend associations use the further out rinks for practices

Comment: registered group just like all groups, meet every year, allocation of ice,

vi. Discipline – things going well, hiccup with RAMP system – managers are having problems, referees are still having problems sending discipline reports on RAMP, increase in maltreatment and discrimination

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 – nothing to report

Action Items

Next Meeting

EFHL – February 7, 2024, 7:00pm

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm by Curtis Ferguson and seconded by Stephen Avivi. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Stang, Secretary