



Attendees: Connie Stang – EFHL
John Putters - EFHL
Chris – Leduc
Charlene – SMHA
Sharlene Cook Discipline
Andrew Westervelt
Carmen – Scheduler
Dan – Spruce Grove
Elton Davidge – EFHL
James Hackett – SGMHA
Kumail Moledina – U9
Mike Watt – SGMHA
Ray Saruk – Stony Plain
Rob Buchanan
Stephen Avivi – SWAT
Tyler Hennessey – KCN
Lisa Magera
Chris March – EFHL
Jennifer - NWZ
Brad Hunka
Marvin Heise – Northstars
Aimee Skye
Brad Benwood – EFHA
Chris Holmes
Duncan MacDougall
Gene – SHC
Kristina Rowland – DMHA
Michelle – Discipline
Monte – MWAH
Ray Vigneau – Hockey Edmonton
Sam Pathirana – Confed
Trish Sadoway
Curtis Ferguson – Leduc

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 8:01pm and Connie Stang, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

Aimee Skye moved acceptance of the agenda as presented. Seconded by Ray Saruk.
Carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting (as circulated)

Elton Davidge moved acceptance of the previous minutes. Seconded by Aimee Skye.
Carried unanimously.

League Correspondence

None

New Business

- i. Motion to Permit EFHL Executive to Negotiate Contract Extensions with Commissioner and Ice Scheduler based on 2022-2025 terms and conditions. Contracts terminate May 31, 2025.
 - John Putters highlighted the significant increase in league revenues, reaching 250,000 over two seasons, and the financial stability this has brought to the league. He also praised Chris March for his year-round commitment to the league, including attending numerous meetings and handling various issues. John acknowledged the exceptional work of Carmen, the ice allocator, who has enabled the league to offer additional services and flexibility, such as cross-pool play and game changes. Chris March agreed, emphasizing the importance of Carmen's work in improving the league's efficiency and flexibility.
 - Motion put forward by Steven Avivi to approve the EFHL Executive to negotiate contract extensions with Chris March - Commissioner and Carmen - Scheduler based on current terms and conditions. Carried Unanimously.

- ii. U9-U13 Operations Committee Update
 - The decision has been made to end the regular season on January 31st and introduce a six-week exhibition period for U9 teams. This change would allow teams to participate in tournaments while still receiving six full ice games. Chris March also mentioned that the two U9 directors, himself and Duncan MacDougall, would be discussing officiating in the coming weeks to provide growth opportunities for officials transitioning from half ice to full ice. The operations committee will meet again in December to discuss any changes and enhancements for the upcoming season.

- iii. U15-U18 Operations Committee Update
 - Chris March reports that the U15 - U18 Operations Committee met earlier in the week and discussed body checking regulations. Most associations feel the current offering is appropriate but are aware of potential changes from higher governing bodies.
 - The committee encouraged associations to volunteer for Hockey Alberta's committees to provide input.
 - Southwest zone applied to host both the U18 non-body checking and body checking provincial championships, which Chris March supported as a showcase opportunity.
 - The U15 season has started smoothly, while U18 just began. The committee will discuss enhancements for next season in their December meeting.

- iv. Female Operations Committee Update
 - Chris March discussed the upcoming interleague games with Hockey, Calgary, scheduled for November 16th and 17th. He mentioned that most U18 teams would be traveling to Calgary to play against girls' hockey teams, while the girls' teams would be traveling to Edmonton. Chris March also noted that not all teams could be included due to the number of B teams, and suggested bringing in another league, such as the Rocky Mountain Female League, to ensure all teams get the experience. He praised the flexibility of the female divisions and the growth in the female game.

- v. Hockey Alberta Memo on Committee Participation
 - Chris March reminded the associations to apply for the Hockey Alberta's Coach Mentorship Program.

Reports

a) Committee and Executive

i. President:

- John Putters is looking forward to the contract negotiations and updates from Hockey Alberta, which Chris March confirmed were running smoothly.

ii. Treasurer:

- Chris March reported on behalf of Christy Rake that half of the league fees have been received and urged those who haven't paid to do so by the end of October. He also mentioned that they are looking to make payments for medals and other items following the tearing rounds.

iii. League Commissioner/Hockey Alberta Minor:

- Report circulated
- Chris also reminded the team to update their contact information and be aware of blackout dates.

iv. Referee:

- Report circulated
- Duncan MacDougall made a comment about the conclusion of their clinic program. He discussed the province-wide shortage of experienced officials, particularly on weekends due to increased hockey and officiating demands. He mentioned that Hockey Alberta is pushing for a 4-official system for U18 tiers, which he opposes, preferring 2 competent officials. Chris March agreed with Duncan MacDougall's concerns, noting the minor leagues' discussion on the same issue. Duncan MacDougall also highlighted the stress this issue is causing their group and the difficulty smaller communities face in accommodating the 4-official system.
- Duncan MacDougall discussed the challenges faced by hockey officials, particularly those in smaller communities, due to the lack of support from Hockey Alberta. He mentioned that some officials quit due to the lack of registration support and the difficulty of balancing multiple leagues. Duncan MacDougall also addressed a question from Rob Buchanan about Hockey Alberta's stance on officials working in sanctioned and unsanctioned hockey, revealing that Hockey Alberta had reversed their stance after facing potential legal action. Chris March asked about sharing officials between associations, to which Duncan MacDougall responded that it could create more competition in the pool.
- Dan expressed concerns about the difficulty for officials to officiate in multiple communities, as it was hard for them to cross borders and work in different areas. Duncan MacDougall clarified that any official registered with Hockey Alberta can referee anywhere in Alberta, and that there was no issue with officials crossing boundaries. However, he also noted that some areas, like Southwest Edmonton, had capped their entry-level officials at 30, while others, like Northwest Edmonton, had a larger number of officials. The group discussed the challenges of keeping officials interested and entertained, especially in areas with a large number of experienced officials.
- Duncan MacDougall expressed gratitude for the feedback and acknowledged the challenges faced.

v. Scheduling:

- Report circulated
- Carmen reported a low error rate in scheduling and requested contact information for certain teams. She also mentioned the upcoming regular season and thanked the allocators.
- Kumail Moledina asked about the listing of blackouts on the website, to which Carmen confirmed they would be listed under the season blackout.

vi. Discipline:

- Sharlene Cook reported a good start to discipline, with a few indefinite suspensions, and reminded the team to mark games as finished for review. Michelle praised Sharlene Cook's report.

b) Division Directors

- i. U9 – Kumail Moledina reminded the team about the responsibility of moving the boards, emphasizing that it's the home team's responsibility in Edmonton and the rink attendants in other locations. Chris March added that coaches should wear helmets when moving the boards. There was a discussion about the necessity of wearing helmets and being on the hard card when moving the boards. It was decided that a communication should be sent to the associations and coaches as a reminder. Chris March agreed to follow up on this. Trish Sadoway raised a concern about timekeepers needing to cross the ice to reach the bench, and Sharlene Cook clarified that they should wear helmets only when crossing the ice, not when moving the boards.
- 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

- Chris to send out a reminder about the October 28th blackout deadline for U9-U13 teams.
- Chris and Kumail to prepare and send communication to associations regarding helmet requirements and hard card rules for coaches moving boards at U9 games.
- Associations to ensure their teams update contact information in the system for game changes and communications.
- Associations to submit league fee payments by the end of October.
- Chris to commence contract negotiations with Carmen and report back to the board.

Next Meeting

EFHL AGM – December 11, 2024

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm by Monte – MWHA and seconded by Trish Sadoway. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Stang, Secretary