**LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

 **OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex Community Room**

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

**April 16, 2025**

**Call to Order. 706pm**

**Attendees:** Alyssa Dinter, Dylan Little, Curtis Goulet, Casey Callihoo, Jeremy Dreise, Kurtis Baehl, Joanne Day, Jordi Stewart, Erin Fuller, Dave Saretsky, Mike Labonte, Robbin Nikiforuk, Ashley Klessens, Angela Wymann Richter, Sarah Ritten, Amy Richter

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
	1. Approval of LMH Operating Committee Meeting from March 12, 2025. Motion to approve by Dylan Little, seconded by Kurtis Baehl. All in favour. Carried.
2. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
	1. Additions to Unfinished Business.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
	1. Additions to New Business
	2. Approval of Agenda Motion to approve by Dave Saretsky, seconded by Erin Fuller. All in favour. Carried.
4. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**
	1. **President –Amy Richter**
* Administrative Review of paid positions and Bylaw updates - this has become a much larger and more complicated review. Review and updates have been tabled to the 25/26 year with the new Executive to review and strike a Committee.
* Update: Amy is resigning her position a year early for personal reasons - will be seeking one year interim to ensure alignment to bylaws.
	1. **Vice-President – Dave Saretsky**
* CAHL budget audit is underway.
* President, VP of Operations, Treasurer, GIC and 2 VP positions were re-nominated for their positions and accepted.
	+ Not much change in the executive for next season.
* 88 carryover suspensions going into next season
* 1135 suspensions given this season. Up from 1077 last season.
* CAHL is expecting changes with AB One for next season.
	+ Most leagues like CAHL have some issues with AB One and HA in general.
	+ Timelines for next season are expected from HA next week.
	+ Discussions with HA around playoffs are continuing.
* U15 NBC
	+ Have reached out to local surrounding associations. Roughly half of them replied - 6 associations - all expressed interest in U15 NBC for next season and most expressed frustration from past experiences with U15 NBC. Hoping to reduce injuries and look at having NBC season next year
* Position is up for election at Spring AGM - Dave not returning
	1. **Administration- Alison Stangeland**
* Equipment returns still coming in, 5 outstanding teams
* Team numbers for next season looking like 2xU18; 3xU15; 3xU13; 2xU11;3xU9; 3xU7. May see some changes in U15 but will depend on female teams.
* Some goalie concerns - some divisions may have too many and one group may not have enough (U13).
* Registration is opening May 1 and preparing for that
* Supporting preparations for AGM May 22 and Awards Night April 23
* Preparing ice schedule for next year
* For tournaments - looking to add a female hockey tournament beginning of February with CAW in Blackfalds
	1. **Secretary (Interim) – Alyssa Dinter**
* Prepping for Spring AGM and bylaw updates will be part of broader Admin and Bylaw review mentioned by Amy. Small bylaw updates for CAS, potentially CAW to table at AGM.
* Position is up for election at Spring AGM - Alyssa considering letting her name stand
	1. **Treasurer – Mike Labonte**
* 2025/26 Budget started, following the 5 year plan and modifying slightly based on actuals this year.
* Over budget in some areas like ice rental, referees, jerseys (CAW)
* Sponsorship: 6 paid for 3-yr terms so looks good this year but needs to be spread over the years - will need more sponsorship next year
* Registration was up ~9k but awaiting final Awards banquet and March ice costs
* About $200 outstanding in payments



* 1. **Game & Conduct (Interim) – Dylan Little**
* Working on wrapping up 24/25 season issues - a number of issues have come through post-season conclusion and reminder for next year the importance of reminding about the statute of limitations that was put in place earlier this year.
* Preparing transition materials for next G&C to monitor outstanding items.
* Reinforced importance of engaging Hockey Alberta (Drew Dixon) for support and guidance
* Position is up for election at Spring AGM - Dylan not returning
	1. **Past President – Lori**
1. **DIRECTOR REPORTS**
	1. **Intro to Hockey (U5, U7 and Rocket Launchers) – Alyssa Dinter**
		* Finalizing an Intro to Director Handbook to help next Director
		* Compiled all U7 lesson plans into one document and added to the Director Google Drive
		* Recent issue highlighted need to share updated LMHA apparel policy with Team Managers, TBS and Reds who provide or order LMHA apparel as it relates to logos and association colours.
		* Not returning to role
	2. **U9 – Kurtis Baehl**
		* Good season, minimal issues - had some travel issues
		* Post meeting update - not returning to role
	3. **U11 – Brandon Maier**
		* Nothing to report
		* Not returning next year
	4. **U13 – Erin Fuller**
		* U13A Provincials winner
		* Provincials was run well - great job to Shannon for running it. Some questions regarding why there was no banquet however that required funds.
		* Unsure if returning to position
	5. **U15 – Angela Wymann-Richter**
		* No update
		* Not returning to position
	6. **U18 – Joanne Day**
		* No update
		* Willing to return
	7. **Female Director/CAW Governor - Kevin Henderson/Ashley Klessens/Robbin Nikiforuk**
		* U15 won Gold at last tournament at Grande Prairie - funds raised went to Children’s Mental Health
		* BMHA - planning fundraiser end of June/beginning of May - golf fundraiser and working on a bowling fundraiser.
		* Working on next season’s budget - considerations to jerseys, difficult to plan as it will depend what people decide to do in U11, U13 and U15. U18 may be toughest to form a team.
		* Almost all things are paid
		* Rocky Mountain Female Hockey League AGM coming up and will have some positions open. Some things on the AGM agenda include update on travel, time box volunteers (team managers not in time box, opposing team to have one in time box); expansion potential - e.g. a U18 team from Sedgewick and a team from U13/U15 from Golden. See what happens at the AGM.
		* New “Warrior of the Year” award in memory of Lyndon Fischer

CAW specific, not associated to a specific division, team funds used for trophy and CAW will pay for award plate and individual plaque each year.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
	1. **CAHL Governor - Jordi Stewart / Angela Wymann-Richter**
		* Angela and Jordi willing to stay as CAHL Governors. Angela will be U15 Lead Governor
	2. **Referee in Chief – Jody Blokland**
		* Willing to stay
	3. **Referee Assignor - Priscilla Blokland**
		* Willing to accept position if accepted
	4. **Fundraising Convenor – Tara Worobetz**
		* Western Dairy Processing (new facility in Lacombe County) contacted us regarding a fundraiser to collect bottles. Tara will take this on and will revisit an approach with teams in the fall. .
	5. **Sponsorship Chair – Corey Rintoul/Jerilee Wilson**
		* Corey and Jerilee are not returning
		* Sponsorship goal was reached
		* Mr Mikes has been sent an email with sponsorship letter and we are hopeful they will sponsor next year, however have not heard back yet
		* Generalized sponsorship letter has been prepared, shared with President, will need to be finalized.
	6. **Safety Officer - Sarah Ritten**
		* Pilot of the online injury reporting form resulted in too little participation to carry forward Individual feedback from families of affected players was positive - will be something to share with safety parents next year and keeping connection alive
		* Potentially willing to return next year
	7. **Social Media Coordinator - Melanie Callihoo**
		* No update
	8. **Development Director- Jeremy Dreise**
		* Willing to stay on
		* Some plans for next year - more space to grow.
		* Coaches wrapup at Blindman went well.
	9. **Coach Mentor – Rick Maclise / Joe Bouvier / Casey Calihoo / Jon Sydenham**
		* Jeremy will reach out to other Coach mentors before AGM if they want to stay on and how many we may need. 5 is a good number.
	10. **AEHL and Central Alberta Selects Representative – Brent Talsma**
		* CAS U15AA Coach Jeff MacDonald was named Coach of the Year for South Conference
		* Coaches for U13AA & U18AA have been chosen and will be announced this week. U11AA will be done soon. U15AA still accepting applicants but interviews will start shortly.
		* U13AAA will be out of Sylvan & Red Deer, Lacombe players to go to Sylvan following U16AA boundaries. Not sure where Ponoka will go - depends on your home association.
		* Tryout fees are increased to $150 per player
		* Met with CAS Hub Last night, passed the following:
			+ Paid evaluators for next season
			+ Request to increase cash call for CAS in the Team Budget Policy to up to $800
			+ Registration fees increased by $50 per player
		* Evaluation policy - this is being updated and will be posted on the LMHA website
		* Table new bylaws for the AGM as discussed at the CAS Hub committee meeting
	11. **CAS Treasurer - Shelley Vickery**
		* Request to reduce fees from $150 to $125 per player to reflect that bookkeeping is now done mainly through CAS treasurer including registration fees, ID skates, and some of the ref pay.
		* Operating Committee discussion:
			+ Reduction of admin fees needs to be tabled as part of the broader Administrative review.
			+ CAS currently sends etransfers with one signature - LMHA recommends they consider dual signatures from a risk management perspective.
	12. **Tournament Coordinator - Alyssa Dinter**
		* No updates
		* Unsure on whether will return - would like to transition to somebody else now that groundwork is completed this year
	13. **Special Events Coordinator- Prisilla Blokland**
		* Willing to continue with position
		* U11 Awards Night seemed quite successful; kids enjoyed the food, dessert and pool. Awards & speeches moved quite quickly leaving a lul which seemed to be one of the only negative aspects of the event. Noted to address the timeline for next year.
		* Special Events Reps did an AMAZING job with decorating. Shout out to them as it takes many hands and many hands showed up!
		* U13-U18 Awards Night - everything is in order, waiting for the 23rd to put it all together.
		* End of Year Volunteer Appreciation - scarcely attended last year; seems that ball, lacrosse, etc interfere.
			+ Operating Committee feedback: Consider volunteer appreciation night mid-year (e.g. with Alumni Night or at a Generals Game)
	14. **Rockets Give Back Coordinator - Tamara Cox**
		* Unsure on status
2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
	1. **Affiliation, Evaluation of Injured Players, and Elite Stream Cuts Policies** (Angela, Joanne, Brent)
		* Recommend that the evaluation committee should be changed from two impartial executive members to two impartial members of the association, as appointed by the executive.
		* Motion to approve the Affiliation, Evaluation of Injured Players, and Elite Stream Cuts policies as presented with the edits noted made by Jeremy Dreise, seconded by Casey Callihoo. 14 in favour, 1 abstention. Carried.
	2. **Player Eligibility, Registration, Movement and Refund Policy** (Alison, Joanne, Angela)
		* elite playres are considered a hub by HA and have set rules - females are a hub but not a hub in HA so couldnt affiliate players.
		* Female hockey - CAW 3 Presidents signed a regulation amendment to update the HA policy for next season and hoping affiliation will be easier
		* Resident Players - leave it as two years. For the criteria - item c “in good standing with LMHA” should be part of the main sentence - “Resident Player - players are eligible to register with LMHA as a Resident Player if they are in good standing with LMHA and one of the following is met”
		* Import registrations - leave it as July 1 to align to other local MHAs - if families don’t have a computer for July 1 - can contact Registrar in advance/make other plans.
		* Refund policy - needs to include injured players, have a $150 non-refundable deposit (not “admin fee”); and only 50% refund after September 1. This policy was removed from approval at meeting - will be updated and re-circulated for email approval.
		* Motion to approve the Player Eligibility, Registration and Movement Policy made by Sarah Ritten, seconded by Erin Fuller. All in favour.
		* Note: Refund Policy was approved via email by Operating Committee on April 23, 2025 as emailed.
	3. LMHA U18 Driving Waiver and Policy Updates (Joanne, Sarah)
		* Motion to approve the following made by Joanne Day, seconded by Ashley Klessens - all in favour:
			+ Remove the LMHA Driving Waiver
			+ Remove “*Players are not permitted to drive any of their teammates.”* where it refers to players driving other players to practice within the allowed radius.
			+ Replace “By signing below, I acknowledge that LMHA will not be held responsible if my son/daughter chooses not to follow the U18 Driving Policy as stated above.” with the acknowledgement “*LMHA members agree to adhere to all conditions set forth within the LMHA U18 Driving Policy. It is understood that violating the guidelines set forth within the policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action against both parents and/or child/player.”*
	4. LMHA Boundary Policy (Executive)
		* Motion to accept Option 1 - remain with HA boundary map - made by Dave Saretsky, seconded by Jordi Stewart. All in favour.
	5. Special Events - Volunteer Appreciation (Priscilla, Alison)
		* See previous update
	6. LMHA Development Excess Funds (Jeremy)
		* Motion to use excess funds from player development sessions to support coach development or equipment as needed by Dave Saretsky, seconded by Jordi Stewart. 14 in favour, 1 abstained. Carried.
	7. Rocket Launchers (Alyssa)
		* Tabled to Executive decision
	8. Tabled to 2025/26 season
		* Ref Course Reimbursement
		* Referee Awards
		* Admin Fees Review
		* Safety Updates - Concussion Protocol/Return to Play and Liability Considerations (TBC for 25/26 if required)
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
	1. **U9 Banking Updates**
		* Motion to approve the change of bank account names for the following made by Erin Fuller, seconded by Dave Saretsky. All in favour.
			+ Lacombe U9 Red Rockets to Lacombe U9A Rockets
			+ Lacombe U9 Blue Rockets to Lacombe U9B Rockets
			+ Lacombe U9 Black Rocket to Lacombe U9C Rockets
			+ Lacombe U9 Silver Rockets to Lacombe U9D Rockets
	2. **Evaluation Software**
		* **Motion**: LMHA adopt use of Team Genius to manage evaluations; CAS and CAW can use it at their discretion made by Jeremy Dresie, seconded by Jordi Stewart, all in favour.
		* **Action** to reduce the number of blocks before the contract renews in June.
	3. **CAS Bylaw Amendments**
		* Update from CAS Hub Committee - this will move forward at Spring AGM

J) Central Alberta Selects committee shall consist of CAS Governor, CAS Treasurer, CAS Parent Liaison, ~~LMHA President,~~ and Divisional Directors as appropriate and Hub Association Representatives. All committee members have one vote. The LMHA Registrar may attend meetings as a non-voting member.

 i. CAS Committee will meet as needed.

 ii. Hub Associations include Lacombe Minor Hockey, Blackfalds Minor Hockey, Ponoka Minor Hockey, Clive Minor Hockey, Stettler Minor hockey, Delburne Minor hockey, Big Valley Minor Hockey and Byemoor Minor Hockey.

iii. Each association will provide one volunteer to sit on the CAS committee.

iii. Quorum will be set at 8 voting members.

 iv. CAS Committee will meet with Hub Associations bi-annually

 v. CAS will follow the by-laws, policies, and procedures of LMHA. Any modifications to the policies and procedures of LMHA will be passed by 75% motion by the CAS committee and differences noted in the LMHA policies and procedures. CAS policies will supersede LMHA policies.

vi. CAS will offer to have teams in U11, U13, U15 and U18 divisions.

* 1. **Timebox Training**
		+ **Action:** Jordi to prepare a tipsheet for inclusion in next year’s Manager Handbook
	2. **Adjustment to Team Budget Policy for CAS**
		+ Note - Update the policy to add CAS slush fund can be up to $800 maximum.
	3. **2025-26 Tournaments**
		+ Request for first weekend of Feb for female teams in Blackfalds
		+ U9 full ice tournament post Feb 1

**Adjourn. 906pm Next meeting date Spring AGM May 22, 2025 7-9pm LMC**