**LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex Community Room**

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

**February 5, 2025**

**Call to Order. 19:06**

**Attendees:** Amy Richter, Alison Stangeland, Stacy Christensen, Priscilla Blokland, Erin Fuller, Brandon Maier, Brent Talsma, Angela Wymann-Richter, Joanne Day, Alyssa Dinter, Dylan Little, Mike Labonte, erin, brandon, angela Wymann-Richter, joanne Day, Alyssa Dinter, Dylan Little, Mike Labonte

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   1. Approval of LMH Operating Committee Meeting from December 10, 2024. Minor amendments to include deferral of Tournament Motions and outcome of Team Budget. Motion to approve with amendments byAlyssa Dinter, seconded by Joanne Day.
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 Joanne Day, seconded by Dylan Little.
4. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**
   1. President –Amy Richter

* Generals - security not successful, skaters are great (U7 for first round playoffs)
* U18 Games - Teams to manage fans - if unmanageable, to call non-emergent Lacombe Policy. Security may be required at team expense.
  1. Vice-President – Dave Saretsky
* January CAHL meeting was cancelled but the league sent a few notes:
  + Suspensions are way up, almost 900 to date
  + “Incidents” are way up.
  + CAHL reminds all associations to adhere to the code of conduct; players, coaches and parents.
  + Repeat and “serial” offenders are being dealt with more severely this season.
  + Reminder to follow CAHL communication flow chart and to adhere to formal process for registering complaints.
* General playoff information has been sent to Division Directors.
  1. Administration- Alison Stangeland
* Awards Night & Graduating Gifts
  + With increase in number of players, LMC will be over capacity for U11-U18.
  + Graduating players - 13 players including 5 Lacombe, 8 CAS and 2 Referees.
  + Referees who are not also graduating players should be recognized but need to discuss further.
  + Both items tabled to new business
* New Boundary Rules
  + If you have never registered for minor hockey in Alberta, you can register wherever you want and up to the association to accept it.
  + Lacombe, Blackfalds, Ponoka and Sylvan met to discuss - they are planning to stay with regular boundaries and won’t accept players other than special exceptions.
  + Action: LMHA Executive to create new boundary policy for LMHA and include consideration to AA
* Equipment Purchases
  + Jerseys to be replaced for U15A, U13 A, B and C (4 teams total). Will get 20 jerseys per set. Pricing and approval to come back
* Jersey Sale
  + Pop-up sales going well - over $400
  1. Secretary – Dylan Little
* As regular season and playoffs wind down, more exhibition requests are coming in.
  + Action: Directors to remind teams that we need at least 48 hours for an approval and travel permits are not required unless attending a tournament or out of province event
  1. Treasurer – Mike Labonte
* Chasing down final few late payments
  + $1,265 for LMHA (3 players)
  + $900 for CAS
* Budget is starting to come into shape and show true costs as season progresses.
  1. Game & Conduct – Vacant (Dylan Little acting)
* Have had two suspension and one coach investigation in last 10 days. Findings and path forward shared with 2 of three families. Last meeting proposed for Thursday night.
* Observations include complaints coming in late and not following proper communication pathways.
* Communications include 3 key parts: notice of investigation, letter of completed result, and minutes, including path forward, with family and Discipline Committee.
* Actions
  + Directors to remind teams of the appropriate communication pathways
  + LMHA Executive to consider policy for “statute of limitations” to submit complaints
  1. Past President – Lori
* No items

1. **DIRECTOR REPORTS**
   1. **Intro to Hockey (U5, U7 and Rocket Launchers) – Alyssa Dinter**

* U5 and Rocket Launchers hosted Sylvan Lake during U9 Festival for exhibition games - reciprocal invite for March 21 during their U9 Festival
* U5 - made some coaching approach adjustments for more effective practices - Jr Coaches used only if there are less than 4 adults
* U7 Festival Sat Feb 8 - planning going well, committee doing great
* RL Transfers
  + 2 more players transferred to Lacombe U7 Black
  + Total player transfers: 6 - 3 U7 and 3 U9
* RL Coaching
  + Thanks to teams for stepping up - majority of teams have sponsored a practice, some are sponsoring a second
* Generals Skating first round playoffs
* Opportunity for second year U7 development (March) - similar to U9 year-end prep - table with Jeremy
* Action: Bring recommendations for future of Rocket Launchers program and structure
  1. **Novice U9 – Kurtis Baehl**
* Tournament was held a few weekends ago and was a great success. The committee did and excellent job and got great feedback from visiting teams.
* Teams are starting to play some full ice exhibition games - if at home, need to ensure Ref Assignor is notified.
* Noticed a lot of progress in the development of these young players, hats off to the coaching staff on all 3 teams.
  1. **Atom U11 – Brandon Maier**
* Teams doing fine, no issues, tournament went well
  1. **Pee Wee U13 – Erin Fuller**
* A- attended 2 tournaments, gold and lost in semifinals. Preparing for Provincials-LMHA donation (tabled to new business)? Help from volunteers
* B-doing well, preparing for playoffs.
* C-has had a few development sessions, won gold at away tournament.
* Action: Erin to contact Jeremy regarding U13 development session (checking for second years)
  1. **Bantam U15 – Angela Wymann-Richter**
* U15A - currently second in Tier 2 Red
* U15B - currently second in T3W Gold
  1. **Midget U18 – Joanne Day**
* U18A had a Outdoor League game with Blindman in January that went very well. Joe encourages other teams to consider it in the future.
* U18B was at a tournament in Lethbridge area last weekend.
* Both teams are middle of the pack heading into the last few weeks of league play.
* No one has signed the U18 Driving Policy. I do feel it needs some work.
* Action: Joanne and Sarah to connect to provide feedback and discuss what consequences are of not signing. If there are amendments or recommendations, bring back.
  1. **Female Director - Kevin Henderson/Ashley Klessens**
* Female Hockey Day - Feb 2 in Ponoka - well attended with 50 players; had an alumni vs U15 game, Mel Davidson speaker (former Olympic Coach); 2 ice sessions, BBQ
* Action: Stacy to provide Ashley Klessens (CAW Treasurer) key to LMHA Rockets Office.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **CAHL Governor - Jordie Stewart / Angela Wymann-Richter**

* No report
  1. **Referee in Chief – Jody Blokland**
* All is going well - if there has been any complaints I have not received them. Rumblings heard but nothing formal has been received.
* Will continue to try and get some more evaluations done before end of year
  1. **Referee Assignor - Priscilla Blokland**
* February 10 deadline for assigning officials for Provincials
  1. **Fundraising Convenor – Tara Worobetz**
* Raffle draw happened January 8, 2025
  1. **Sponsorship Chair – Corey Rintoul**
* No report
  1. **Safety Officer - Sarah Ritten**
* No Report
  1. **Social Media Coordinator - Melanie Calihoo**
* No report
  1. **Female Director - Kevin Henders**o**n**
* No report
  1. **Development Coordinator- Jeremy Dreise**
* Have had conversations with lots of coaches about ideas they have and things they need ideas for.
* Continuing to watch practices and make notes on things I am seeing that we could improve.
* Goalie development going well - U9s now invited to Friday sessions. Sports Psychologist speaker Thursday evening.
* I will reach out to Dave and Alison and figure out what things we need to offer as our year starts to wrap up and also what things we will have coming end of summer and start or next year.
  1. **Coach Mentor – Rick Maclise / Joe Bouvier / Casey Calihoo / Jon Sydenham**
* Mentors have been asked to help with a few different things but basically just feedback or questions on how to improve specific team areas.
* Hoping to still have at least one more coach night before end of year.
  1. **South Central League Representative – Brent Talsma**
* Busy season - attended zone meeting that was well attended
* Discussion on raising dues next year
* Considering some jersey items but waiting for decisions from Hockey Alberta
* Spring ID camps likely for U11, U13, U15; U18 will have fall ID camp
* U13 is getting better; U15 is strong in our area and U18s doing well
* U13AAA - discussions with Sylvan, Olds, Red Deer and Hockey Alberta
* CAS Admin Fees - CAS and LMHA agreed to take on fees for U18 - no changes
  1. **Central Alberta Selects Representative – Brent Talsma**
  2. **Tournament Coordinator - Alyssa Dinter**
* 4 motions for new business
* Lessons learned and future enhancement recommendations underway - anticipating March/April
  1. **Special Events Coordinator- Prisilla Blokland**

Awards Night - booked for April 23rd (U13-U18)

* Venue capacity is 450
* Recommended to have U11’s separate with pool party and community room. Choice of dates for pool party are:
  + - Sat, Apr 5, 3:30-5:30 pm
    - Sat, Apr 12, 3:30-5:30 pm
    - Sat, Apr 19, 9:00-1:00 pm and 3:30-5:30 pm
    - Sun, Apr 20, 9:00-1:00 pm (Easter Sunday)
      * Need to confirm community room capacity for pizza/snacks/presentations after pool
* Ref’s being invited to Awards night - roughly 20 that aren’t already players/coaches. They will pay a subsidized rate to attend.
* 13 Graduating Players this year - budget and ideas for their year end gifts.
* Tabled for New business
* Action: Bring forward volunteer appreciation as future new business
  1. **Rockets Give Back coordinator - Tamara Cox**
* No report

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**
   1. Affiliation Process

* Look at the affiliation process. Consider that all players will be affiliated before tiering based on evaluations and Grid the players accordingly. This eliminates ambiguity.
* Action: Joanne Day, Alison Stangeland, Brent Talsma to draft recommendations, seek input from Coach Mentors, and bring to upcoming meeting
  1. Injured Players, Evaluations with Elite Stream Cuts
* Need to look at a policy for players injured and or missed evaluations due to Elite stream cuts. Need something more concrete to solidify where players land after evaluations. What qualifies as a qualified skate?... practice with each team. Look at the policy from Olds.
* Action: Joanne, Alison, Brent to review and draft recommendations and bring with Affiliation process. Also to look at previous policy for people joining after evaluations to ensure consistency and alignment.
  1. Tournament Policy Review
* To bring forward at year end when tournaments completed

1. **NEW BUSINESS.**
   1. Tournament Policy - Team Fundraising

* Motion 1: Tournament Registration Fees
  + Any surplus from Tournament Registration fees remains as per the new policy and is returned to LMHA
* Motion 2: Player Contributions
  + Player contributions are returned to teams (as a slush fund) for reimbursement back to families who submitted cash. If this was part of the original slush fund call, parents don’t receive any additional back on top - if it was a second cash call - it would be reimbursed back on top of slush funds at end of year with slush funds.
  + Families who donated an item in lieu of $50 won’t receive additional funds back
* Motion 3: Funds Raised
  + Once player contributions are returned, LMHA will receive 20% of funds raised and rest distributed evenly amongst teams. Funds returned to teams will not exceed $1,000 or the tournament entry fee - whichever is more. This means $1000 for U7 and U9 teams, $1,750 for U11 teams and $1,850 for U13 teams

Motion to approve Motions 1-3 by Joanne Day, seconded by Brandon Maier, all in favour.

* Motion 4: To use up to $600 in surplus tournament registration fees to purchase a photo backdrop for future tournaments.

Motion to approve by Dylan Little, seconded by Erin Fuller, all in favour.

Action: Alyssa to bring back designs for approval - may include CAW and CAS logos

* 1. Executive Positions
* Motion for Dylan Little to move from Secretary to Game and Conduct on an interim basis until the Spring AGM by Priscilla Blokland and seconded by Angela Wymann-Richter. Passed 8-1-1
* Motion for Alyssa Dinter to become Secretary on an interim basis until the Spring AGM by Priscilla Blokland seconded by Mike Labonte. Passed 9-0-1
  1. Player Retention (U18)
* Looking for a way to promote player retention for U18. Sylvan has a zero refund policy after September 1; Ponoka, Blackfalds and Stettler are 50% refund after September 1.
* Action: Alison and Joanne to draft wording and bring back for approval.
  1. U7/U9 Year End Wrap-Up
* Year-end awards are budgeted as part of player registration fees for U11+; nothing budgeted for U7/U9.
* Decision: LMHA support mid-year Christmas skate and party; teams to manage year-end wrap-up events.
* Action: LMHA Executive/Treasurer to identify budget for next year events.
  1. U13 Provincials
* There is a Provincials Legacy Fund - extra funds raised are going to a future legacy item.
* Can’t charge people to attend provincials - so if teams earn a spot at Provincials, they have to pay; if LMHA hosts, must fundraise to cover the costs.
* Motion to provide U13A with $1,000 for provincial costs as well as any LMHA team who will go to provincials in another community will also receive $1,000 for the 2024-25 season by Priscilla Blockland, seconded by Erin Fuller, 8-0-2.
* Motion to approve provincial jersey design as presented by Erin Fuller, seconded by Priscilla Blokland, 8-0-2.
* Action: Add this to the Spring AGM so it becomes policy.
  1. October AGM
* Require special meeting to approve Bylaws, pass 25/26 budget. Requires 25 signatures and 20 people for quorum. 21 days notice is required. To be completed in March.
  1. Budget Approval for Referee Awards
* Action: Priscilla to come with recommendations for Ref awards/categories and associated plaque requirements for approval at next meeting prior to Awards night.
  1. Awards Night & Graduating Gifts
* U11 will do pool night and community room - date TBC with Director
* Committee to discuss graduating gifts, including refs.
* Action: Committee reps to come back with recommendations for next meeting.
  1. Refund Policy
* Tabled to future meeting
  1. Registration Deadlines
* Recommendation: Registration to close June 30 for new and resident players. Import players who register before June 30 will be accepted if there is room when general registration opens July 1.
* Further discussion required on registration deadlines and late registration fees.
* Action: Alison to bring back recommendations and motion for next meeting.

**Adjourned at 9:12pm. Next meeting dates:**

* March 12, 2025 7-9pm Special General Meeting with Operating Committee to follow
* April 16, 2025 7-9pm
* May 22, 2025 AGM LMC