



## LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex Community Room

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

March 12, 2025

Call to Order. 7:53 pm

**Attendees:** Amy Richter, Dave Saretsky, Alyssa Dinter, Mike Labonte, Dylan Little, Brandon Maier, Erin Fuller, Angela Wymann-Richter, Joanne Day, Jordi Stewart, Tara Worobetz, Sarah Ritten, Casey Callihoo, Robbin Nikiforik, Nicky deVrij, Curtis Goulet

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1.1 Approval of LMH Operating Committee Meeting from February 25, 2025. [Motion to approve by Casey, seconded by Brandon. All in favour. Carried.](#)

#### 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 2.1 Additions to Unfinished Business.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 3.1 Additions to New Business - U15 NBC (Curtis Goulet)  
3.2 Approval of Agenda [motion to approve by Mike, seconded by Dave. All in favour. Carried](#)

#### 4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- 4.1 President –Amy Richter
- Focus has been on bylaw changes.
  - Continuing skaters for Generals as they continue their playoff run.
  - There has been a committee for paid positions but hasn't met yet - Exec is gathering documents and information on how other associations do it that are similar in size and structure - is a lot of information to compile and hoping to have the group meet soon.
- 4.2 Vice-President – Dave Saretsky
- Not much news from CAHL - there were a number of incidents and complaints during playoff (e.g. overage players, affiliates). Felt there was support from CAHL but perhaps not as much from HA.
- 4.3 Administration- Alison Stangeland
- Equipment for next season is being ordered and equipment return dates sent out to managers.
  - Jersey sales went great - thanks to Stacy for help
  - Last days of ice for LMHA is March 21 and 22
  - Teams were pretty good at using extra weekend ice this season - a few still open for March 21 weekend.
  - Volunteer and Coach of the Year as well as Lifetime Achievement nomination forms went out this week.
  - Year-end season survey also went out this week.
  - Busy time of year
- 4.4 Secretary (Interim) – Alyssa Dinter
- Focus has been on Special General Meeting preparation - Spring 2024 AGM minutes and Bylaw updates
  - LMHA Handbook has been updated and posted.
- 4.5 Treasurer – Mike Labonte
- 2024-25 budget outcome starting to come into picture, with 2 months of Ref and ice payments remaining but no concerns. Anticipating we may have about \$5,000 surplus that would be related to higher registration numbers - have also had higher equipment and ref costs as well as extra ice costs with CAW and out of town arenas.
- 4.6 Game & Conduct (Interim) – Dylan Little
- Been a really busy end of season finish.
- 4.7 Past President – Lori

## 5. DIRECTOR REPORTS

- 5.1. Intro to Hockey (U5, U7 and Rocket Launchers) – Alyssa Dinter
  - Wrapping the season - its been a great one - thanks to coaches, players and families!
  - Still TBD on recommendations of approach for next year re: U5/U7/Rocket Launchers. RL has been successful, but needs some changes - see recommendations from previous meeting.
- 5.2. U9 – Kurtis Baehl
  - Nothing to report
- 5.3. U11 – Brandon Maier
  - U11 3:3 to use extra ice for March 15/16 weekend
- 5.4. U13 – Erin Fuller
  - A team getting ready for Provincials. Still looking for volunteers - encourage to share with teams and post on Socials.
  - B team got Division champion banner but had a heartbreaker in Provincials round robin (lots of sickness and injury that weekend).
  - C team made it to second round of playoffs - lost to first place team in league
  - Had psychologist (Doug) come for session with parents and players that was well received.
  - Have communicated that checking clinics are delayed to start of next season.
- 5.5. U15 – Angela Wymann-Richter
  - U15B lost to Blackfalds - has come a long way as a team in growth and development
  - Concerns raised by the division that there is a Director who doesn't have a player in U15. Discussion on what other associations have done, pros/cons of having a Director with or without a player in the division. Recommendations to encourage managers to use their Director more to support planning and team management.
  - Director not returning next year.
- 5.6. U18 – Joanne Day
  - Teams making good use of ice time and having fun
  - Teams joined together for a game - U18A hosted U19 ringette team for a ringette game
- 5.7. Female Director/CAW Governor - Kevin Henderson/Ashley Klessens/Robbin Nikiforuk
  - Upcoming tentatively booked ice in Blackfalds first week in April for ID skates - sending interest to get an idea of how much ice needed.
  - Working on a grant for Town of Blackfalds to host a female hockey event there; also looking at holding a female hockey tournament in Blackfalds to align to Female Hockey Day end of January next year.
  - Equipment - looking at options - e.g. white jerseys now smaller than black jerseys and shell pants as current ones are falling apart. Looking to have U11 socks that match and recommendation to get home and away socks.
  - U11 had a huge skill gap that created challenges and is a potential discussion moving forward. U11's were bottom half of their division in CAHL. Did play 11 games against other girls teams - of those, the team won 8, lost 3.
  - U15 did well and made it to second round of playoffs.
  - BMHA golf tournament fundraiser last year and working to do a bowling tournament fundraiser. All girls, if they played female hockey or not, will be invited.
  - Question if there was any appetite for U9? Sylvan and Wetaskiwin have one -hard to tell with numbers but with practice travel between the hubs it makes it challenging for U9 ages.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1. CAHL Governor - Jordie Stewart / Angela Wymann-Richter
  - League Governors sent an email on suspensions. This season there were 150 games more than last seasons final total of suspensions. U18 T2 had 85 suspensions - most Rule 11 maltreatment and discrimination. Reminder to kids that these suspensions are issued by HA and can carry on in their career onto junior teams. There's also Coaches getting suspended for mistreatment of refs.
- 6.2. Referee in Chief – Jody Blokland
  - no update
- 6.3. Referee Assignor - Priscilla Blokland
  - Not proceeding with Ref Awards this year as too many outstanding questions. Will continue to build on the idea for next year and will celebrate officials another way (won't be part of U13-U18 awards night)
- 6.4. Fundraising Convenor – Tara Worobetz

- No update.
- 6.5. Sponsorship Chair – Corey Rintoul/Jerilee Wilson
  - No update.
- 6.6. Safety Officer - Sarah Ritten
  - Still working on final revisions to amended U18 driving policy. Will continue working on the Concussion Return to Play process.
- 6.7. Social Media Coordinator - Melanie Callihoo
  - No update.
- 6.8. Development Director- Jeremy Dreise
  - No update.
- 6.9. Coach Mentor – Rick Maclise / Joe Bouvier / Casey Calihoo / Jon Sydenham
  - Year-end surveys went out and will review once they are returned.
  - Planning a coaching thank-you night at Blindman March 24 6-8pm
- 6.10. AEHL and Central Alberta Selects Representative – Brent Talsma
  - CAS U15AA won Central Zone championship and fell short in game three to make it to provincials. An incredible year for that team and first time since 2018 that CAS has won Central Zone.
  - ID skates planned for April 3 in Blackfalds for U11AA, U13AA and U15AA.
  - Coach applications coming in, application deadline is being set at March 31st and Coaches will be named by May 1st.
- 6.11. CAS Treasurer - Shelley Vickery
  - No update.
- 6.12. Tournament Coordinator - Alyssa Dinter
  - All tournaments have wrapped and concluded.
  - Total of \$6,383.75 raised from tournaments (\$2,932.51 in surplus tournament registration fees and \$3,451.24 in fundraising activities)

Division	Tournament Registration Surplus	20% Fundraising
U13	\$1,123.38	\$1,009.54
U11	\$950.53	\$1,083.36
U9	\$858.60	\$746.86
U7	0	\$611.48

- 6.13. Special Events Coordinator- Priscilla Blokland
  - LMHA families will be given option of 2 guests for Awards night for U13-18 (will bring venue to capacity resulting in no additional room for officials).
  - Still getting numbers in for U11
- 6.14. Rockets Give Back Coordinator - Tamara Cox
  - No update

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7.1. Affiliation Process, Injured Players, Elite Stream Cuts (Angela, Joanne, Brent)
  - Still working on it
- 7.2. Refund Policy (U18) (Alison, Joanne)
  - Still working on it
- 7.3. Registration Deadlines (Alison)
  - No update - Alyssa to confirm what is outstanding from last Operating Committee discussion.
- 7.4. Admin Fees Review (Casey, Erin, Stacy)
  - Exec gathering documents, group to meet before next Operating meeting. Will need to take to Spring AGM for bylaw update.
- 7.5. Special Events - Awards Night, Volunteer Appreciation (Priscilla, Alison)

- Volunteer appreciation outstanding.
- 7.6. Referee Awards (Priscilla)
  - See previous update. Will be outstanding to address for 25-26
- 7.7. Rocket Launchers Program (Alyssa)
  - Still outstanding - waiting for input from Alison
- 7.8. Driving Policy Review (Joanne, Sarah, Kim Willington)
  - CAS hub representatives reviewed the LMHA driving policy in January 2025 and unanimously agreed to not adopt the LMHA Driving policy as written and requested it be formally documented in the LMHA Handbook that CAS was excluded from the adoption of the driving policy.
  - Discussion on whether hubs can opt out of LMHA bylaws as they are under the LMHA umbrella (can you pick and choose which ones you follow or not) and how liability coverage works should an issue happen and whether a motion is needed to exclude CAS.
  - Sarah has gotten mixed feedback - some requests to take content out, then requests to put the same content back in. No question about driving for away games, but contention is around practices. Its been challenging to move forward - originally draft was based on policies of similar associations with geographic area and hub associations.
  - Final decision was that a CAS rep should work with Sarah and Joanne to update the driving policy to meet needs of CAS and LMHA teams. If CAS wants to opt out, they need to develop a policy that is approved by Operating Committee, which has a CAS representative. **Action:** Amy to circle back with CAS on outcome of discussion.
- 7.9. Tournament Policy Update (Alyssa)
  - New Tournament Policy approved in June 2024. Conducted lessons learned, updated policy, and sought feedback (incorporated) from U7-U13 Division Directors and Tournament Chairs. Additional feedback to include adherence to AGLC licensing and rules included.
  - Key changes include addition of the LMHA tournament policy (why we host), team fundraising (how funds can be used for fundraising efforts, team fundraising returns - no more player contributions), greater guidance on the tournament application, acceptance and game rules.
  - **Motion to approve the revised LMHA Tournament Policy for 2025-26 was made by Dylan, seconded by Brandon. All in favour. Carried.**
- 7.10. Safety Updates - Concussion Protocol/Return to Play and Liability Considerations (Sarah)
  - See previous update - still under development.
- 7.11. LMHA Branding (Amy)
  - Updating LMHA branding for jerseys and apparel.

	Current	Proposed
Jerseys	All teams are eligible to purchase the 3 <sup>rd</sup> jersey at their own expense through the LMHA apparel line. This 3 <sup>rd</sup> jersey is to be worn no more than 25% of that team's regular season and playoff games. 3 <sup>rd</sup> jersey design and selection must be approved by the LMHA executive on a year to year basis. A LMHA logo and the current team sponsor name must be present on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> jersey.	<p>All teams are eligible to purchase a 3rd jersey at their own expense. The 3rd jersey is to be worn no more than 25% of that team's regular season and playoff games. The design and selection must be approved by the LMHA Executive each year. The minimum requirements are that an LMHA logo is used and the current team sponsor name is included.</p> <p>If pant shells are purchased for a team, they must be red and use one of the approved LMHA logos.</p>
Apparel	<p>Approved apparel (coats, track suits, hoodies, etc.) will be determined each year by the LMHA Executive Committee in accordance with contracts signed with approved providers.</p> <p>Teams are expected to follow the LMHA apparel line, complete with logos.</p>	<p>LMHA logos are the traditional Rockets logo, the retro "R", and the word "Rockets" - all of which are supplied by LMHA. To maintain brand consistency for the LMHA association, these are the only logos and font styles that should appear on jerseys and apparel.</p> <p>Approved apparel (coats, track suits, hoodies, etc) will be determined each year by the LMHA Executive Committee in accordance with contracts signed with approved providers.</p> <p>Teams are expected to follow the LMHA apparel line, complete with logos.</p>

<p>Under no circumstance are LMHA logos to be used on any apparel that is not from an approved provider nor anything without LMHA Executive permission.</p> <p>Teams may have apparel sponsored with company logos outside of their jersey sponsor with LMHA Executive approval. Other items or training sessions may also be approved with outside sponsors. <i>Amended October 2023.</i></p>	<p>Apparel, or other accessories that may be purchased, must comply with the LMHA logos.</p> <p>Under no circumstances are LMHA logos to be used on any apparel that is not from an approved provider nor anything without LMHA Executive permission.</p> <p>Teams may have apparel sponsored with company logos outside of their jersey sponsor with LMHA Executive approval. Other items or training sessions may also be approved with outside sponsors.</p>
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- **Motion:** To amend the LMHA branding in the Handbook as outlined. Motion made by Dave, seconded by Mike, all in favour. Carried.
- 7.12. Ref Course Reimbursement (Priscilla)
  - No update.
- 7.13. Statute of Limitations for Complaints (Executive)
  - **Motion:** To enhance the LMHA Game and Conduct Resource Manual Step 4.0 Complaint Handling Procedure and clarify the statute of limitations for submitting a complaint by adding the following:
    - 7.13.■.1. *The LMHA Conflict Resolution process must be followed. A minimum of 24 hours must pass before submitting a written complaint unless there is player or coach safety concerns. Incidents or issues must be submitted in writing (to parent liaison, divisional director or Game and Conduct) no more than 21 days from the first incident occurring. This provides an opportunity to follow the conflict resolution process and enable time for resolution at the team level.*
    - 7.13.■.2. *Made by Erin, seconded by Casey. All in favour. Carried.*
      - **Action:** For Game and Conduct to look at creating a better form for submission as well as better training for the Parent Liaison, Director and Coaches. Encourage more communication between the Director and Manager.
      - motion, erin, casey, carried
- 7.14. LMHA Boundary Policy (Executive)
  - No update
- 7.15. LMHA Development Excess Funds (Jeremy)
  - No update

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. U15NBC Curtis Goulet
  - Presented concerns and suggestions for how to improve and manage U15NBC. General feeling that CAHL isn't operating in accordance with HA on BC vs NBC and having the T3Weak BC was really hard - increasing risk of injuries and concussions.
  - Angela, as U15 Governor, provided some context on U15 tiering in CAHL the last two years
  - Possibilities may look at how removal of boundaries may help next year to draw people in to form a NBC team or perhaps play with RD House League. NBC teams can be smaller teams as you are hoping for reduced injuries.
  - **Action:** Dave to email CAHL with suggestions and work with nearby associations to support planning for next year.
  - **Action:** Alison to look at wording for registration and update. dont feel CAHL is operating in accordance with HA on BC vs NBC

**Adjourn 9:27pm. Next meeting date April 16, 2025 7-9pm**