**LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex Community Room**

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

**December 10, 2024**

**Call to Order 19:05**

**Present - Amy R, Dave S, Alison S, Mike L, Alyssa D, Angela W-R, Joanne D, Jody B, Priscilla B, Sarah R, Jeremy D, Ami Rintoul.**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   1. Approval of LMH Operating Committee Meeting from November 5, 2024. motion to approve by Alyssa, seconded by Jody, 10 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, passed .
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 Alyssa, seconded by Jody, 10 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstain, passed .
4. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**
   1. President –Amy Richter
      1. Job Description Committee - update
      2. HA AGM
      3. Removal of Boundaries
      4. Lacombe Generals -skaters, intermission, security
      5. City issues
      6. Updated handbook onto the website - Alyssa to re-send to Executive
      7. Slideshow Awards Night -date?
   2. Vice-President – Dave Seretzky
      1. December CAHL meeting was cancelled.
      2. We have filed a number of complaints to the league.
         1. Serious incidents are taken seriously and are dealt with quickly.
         2. Less serious incidents often take some time to receive follow up.
      3. We have also been involved in a few incidents and have incurred a number of suspensions.
         1. Please note that it is difficult for me to go to bat for player or team that is continually involved in CAHL disciplinary issues.
   3. Administration- Alison Stangeland
      1. Ice schedule complete. TBAs were sent to ice schedulers first. Worked well
      2. U11AA development ice trying to move to a weekend slot instead of 7:45pm in Alix on Monday
      3. Summer skates arrived yesterday. Total purchase $1600. Donate $364 to Kidsport. Combo fundraiser with Ringette
      4. Memory Mates are in and should be delivered this week. Photos and sponsor photos not ready yet. Will email managers when they are ready for pick up
      5. How to deliver cheques with postal strike. Blokland will check with Blackfalds and Ponoka for delivering ref cheques.
   4. Secretary – Dylan Little
      1. Nothing to report
   5. Treasurer – Mike Labonte
      1. $11,400 in outstanding registrations  
         dues,
      2. ~ $3,000 of which is LMHA
      3. \*contacting and working with those  
         individuals
      4. E-transfers is working,   
         but has pro’s & con’s
      5. Quickbooks to Bank sync is   
         now working and helps…
      6. Copy of 24/25 Budget is on the table.
   6. Game & Conduct – Vacant
      1. Issues being handled by Dave and I and outside operating committee members in the case of a conflict of interest
      2. Have game and conduct email forwarded. (to be)
   7. Past President – Lori
5. **DIRECTOR REPORTS**
   1. **Intro to Hockey (U5, U7 and Rocket Launchers) – Alyssa Dinter**
      1. All divisions going well
      2. Encouraging U7 coaches to call up U5 players when short for games
      3. Rocket Launchers
         1. One player recently moved to U9, two are anticipated to move to U7 in January - big impact to Parent Coaches
         2. Thank you U13A, U13B, U18A, and U18B for sponsoring practices
         3. Seeking sponsor for December 14 & 21 - available teams contacted - Directors - please reinforce with teams
      4. U7 Tournament
         1. Planning and preparations well underway
      5. U5 & Rocket Launcher Exhibition Games - U9 tournament weekend
      6. U7 Christmas Family Skate & Party
         1. Invited LMHA Executive and Lacombe Generals - planning on additional “special guests”
      7. Team Budget Policy
         1. Added to New Business
   2. **Novice U9 – Kurtis Baehl**
      1. Apologies for not being in attendance tonight
      2. Everything is going well, all teams have been developing great.
      3. Coaches have been doing a great job, practices are well planned and really starting to show nearing mid point of season.
      4. C team coaches are struggling a bit with Mon/tues practices after playing both days on the weekend, have made up a rotating schedule for the new year. Hopefully resolves the issue to keep them a bit more engaged with a break from 4 consecutive days on the ice.
      5. Tournament planning is going on schedule.
   3. **Atom U11 – Brandon Maier**
      1. Both teams landed in good spots through tiering.
      2. A is 0-4-2 in tier 2, 3 of the 4 losses were by 1 goal.
      3. B is 2-3-1 in tier 5, also very close games overall.
      4. Tournament planning is wrapping up, game schedule is out, volunteer schedule is out, committee plans to have everything prepared prior to Christmas.
   4. **Pee Wee U13 – Erin Fuller**
      1. All 3 teams won GOLD Stony Plain tournament in their tiers.
      2. I would recommend if attending a northern tournament we enter in tier up.
      3. -2 Late registrations for U13. One to U13B and to U13C due to team sizes. A new policy for late registrations is needed. I would be interested in helping create one.
      4. U13A-League games have been competitive within Tier 2.
      5. U13B-Very strong in Tier 4
      6. U13C-Had a great showing at the Stony Tournament and will continue to work in league.
      7. Tournament: What is the reason we host tournaments? I believe it's so the teams can cover the costs of an away tournament.
   5. **Bantam U15 – Angela Wymann-Richter**
      1. U15A
         1. Right in the middle of T2 Red
         2. 2 -3-1
         3. This team has had a few suspensions already
         4. Overall penalty minutes are not a concern but individual suspensions are
         5. Affiliations completed for LMH - unsure about affiliations for our players to CAS
            1. With the large roster we did not affiliate from U13 players, just goalies
      2. U15B
         1. Second in T3W Gold
         2. 4-1-0
         3. Overall penalty minutes are quite low
         4. Affiliations completed
            1. With the large roster, we did not affiliate from U13 players, just a goalie
   6. **Midget U18 – Joanne Day**
      1. Both teams are doing well in their tiers with wins & losses.
      2. U18B would like to put their name in to host a tournament at the end of the year if there is an open weekend.
   7. **Female Director - Kevin Henderson/Ashley Klessens**
      1. 20 hours of ice donated by BMHA
      2. ($4000 from PMHA, Savings of $3500 on fees from LMHA)
      3. Female Hockey Day Grant Awarded
      4. Feb 1 BBQ after the U11 Game
6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **CAHL Governor - Jordie Stewart / Angela Wymann-Richter**
   2. **Referee in Chief – Jody Blokland**
      1. Everything is running smoothly & only a few minor issues
      2. Update from Josh Smith on if a suspended player can officiate ??
         1. That is correct, you serve the suspension in the discipline that you received it. It does not affect other disciplines.
         3. Suspended as a player – free to coach/officiate during player suspension Suspended as a coach – free to play/officiate during coach suspension
         4. Suspended as an official – free to play/coach during officiating suspension.
         6. The only overlap would be 11.4 maltreatments and 11.5 physical harassment of officials. If you incur an 11.4 suspension, that would crossover all disciplines.
   3. **Referee Assignor - Priscilla Blokland**
   4. **Fundraising Convenor – Tara Worobetz**
      1. 4020 raffle tickets distributed (after new players added to teams)
      2. 10 grocery store shifts completed for 7 teams
      3. Any way we can thank Sobey’s and No Frills for their support with raffle ticket sales? Social media shout-out?
      4. Tickets sales seem to be going well, haven’t heard of any issues
   5. **Sponsorship Chair – Corey Rintoul**
   6. **Safety Officer - Sarah Ritten**
      1. Injury Reporting Form submission for injury follow up has been going well.
         1. 11 reports submitted to date. Based on conversations this is believed to be an underreporting of all incidents.
         2. Work remains ongoing having a organizational LMHA Emergency Action that is fillable and easier to use for teams
         3. Will work to have Online Safety Binder posted to website. (As per Hockey Canada recommendations)
         4. U18 Driving Policy needs to be posted to website.
   7. **Social Media coordinator - Melanie Calihoo**
   8. **Female Director - Kevin Hendersen**
   9. **Development Coordinator- Jeremy Dreise**
      1. Joe’s Friday skates going well
      2. 2 more sessions after Christmas
      3. Booking Sports Psychologist and Joe with Coaches on the ice.
   10. **Coach Mentor – Rick Maclise / Joe Bouvier / Casey Calihoo / Jon Sydenham**
       1. Be around the arena when they can be. Can monitor and give feedback to practice.
       2. Meet again in the new year
   11. **South Central League Representative – Brent Talsma**
   12. **Central Alberta Selects Representative – Brent Talsma**
   13. **Tournament Coordinator - Alyssa Dinter**
       1. U7-U11 tournament planning underway
          1. Attended all planning meetings to help answer questions - Committees now moving forward on their own
       2. Tournament Planning Handbook
          1. Developed and distributed to Tournament Chairs
          2. Thanks Stacy for the review and input!
       3. Tournament Welcome Overview
          1. Finalized and distributed
          2. Included documented game rules for each division to create consistency year over year
       4. Common Posters/Templates
          1. Templates of common tournament requirements prepared and loaded to Google Drive (e.g. fundraising templates, Game announcements, Arena posters, Volunteer Roles & Responsibilities)
       5. Photography
          1. Fast Photo Photography being offered to all teams at tournaments
       6. Lessons Learned
          1. Will conduct lessons learned following all tournaments and bring Tournament Policy recommendations to Operating Committee (target: March)
       7. Tournament Policy
          1. Added to New Business
       8. Thank you!
          1. Thanks to Alison for answering questions for Committees and supporting game schedule/ice review! All U7-U11 tournament game schedules submitted and/or approved!
   14. **Special Events Coordinator- Prisilla Blokland**
   15. **Rockets Give Back coordinator - Tamara Cox**
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
8. **NEW BUSINESS.**

8.1 **LMHA Tournaments**

* 1. **Observation**
     1. Many teams did second cash call for $50/player contribution or donated item - didn’t appear to be embedded in Team Budget and initial slush funds
  2. **U13**
     1. Player contributions of $50 not cashed - streamlined fundraising efforts by leveraging registration fees (reimbursed from fundraising proceeds) vs additional effort to collect and cash player contributions to support fundraising
     2. **Motion**: U13 receives up to registration fee ($1,850) plus parent contributions returned
  3. **U7 - U11**
     1. Current policy: Host teams can receive a maximum of $1,000 or the tournament entry fee, whichever is more. This includes the teams’ contribution to the raffle prizes of $50/player
     2. **Motion (2 options):**
        1. **A**: Host teams can receive a maximum of $1,000 or the tournament entry fee, whichever is more **plus** the teams’ contribution to the raffle prizes OR
        2. **B**: U7 can receive a maximum of $1,000; U9 can receive a maximum of $1,250; U11 can receive a maximum of $1,750 **plus** the teams’ contribution to the raffle prizes
     3. Decision: Motion postponed to next Operating Committee meeting

8.2 **Team Budget Policy**

* 1. **Request**: Away tournament travel fees (e.g. hotel) be reimbursed to families in addition to slush fund return if surplus funds.
     1. Decision: Slush funds only - no additional expenses (e.g. hotel fees) - team can use surplus funds for team meals, etc
  2. **Clarification**: Approach when 90% approval isn’t reached for budget amendments.
     1. Decision: If 90% is not reached to amend a budget, the original budget stands.

8.3 Team Size limits. Currently we have determined a max team size of 15 skaters for U11 teams and 18 skaters for U15 and U18 teams. There needs to be a policy determined for U13.

Team sizes capped after evaluations. Special consideration for players moving new to Lacombe.

U7 9-13

U9- 9-13

U11 - 12-15

U13 -12-15

U15- 12-15 (non-body contact considered)

U18 - 15-18

Late registration sent to Lead coach mentor

Motion: Cap team sizes after evaluation process is complete with the following numbers (ref) skaters and two goalies with special consideration for players new to the community and registered injured players. Teams may reach max roster sizes as per HA dependent on registration numbers prior to evaluations. Exceptions considered on a case by case basis. 10-0-0

8.4 Late registrations

The purpose is to provide a fair and transparent process for late registrants while preserving the viability of existing teams and integrity of September evaluations.

Players who register after teams have been formed are considered late registrants. Late registrants can either choose to play with the lowest skilled team or proceed w/ evaluations dependent on team size.

If evaluations are to be conducted, an evaluation committee is formed which includes the division director and 2 impartial executive members. Player's skill, team size and split of forwards vs defence are used to determine where the player will be placed.

Player is evaluated by at least two impartial evaluators. The director and coach mentor will coordinate the evaluations with coaches and evaluators during the evaluation process.

The evaluation committee will determine which teams the late registrant skates with for evaluations. Player will evaluate onto the higher level team if he or she is compatible in skill with the top ⅓ of that team. If a player's skill is compatible with more than one team, team size and split of forwards vs defence are used to help determine where the player best fits. The evaluation committee will gather information from evaluators to help determine where the player best fits.

Motion Joanne second Dave 10-0-0, approved

8.5 MNP $3000 - to be in compliance with taxes

Motion to spend up to $3000 to MNP for LMHA to become in compliance with tax returns. Moved Priscilla second Jeremy 10-0-0, approved

**Adjourn. Next meeting date TBD (January 2025)**