**LACOMBE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Agenda**

**Gary Moe Auto Group Sportsplex Community Room**

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

**November 7, 2023**

**Call to Order 7:09**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   1. Approval of LMH Operating Committee Meeting from September 18th, motion to approve by Jodie, seconded by Casey, all approved.
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 Erin, seconded by Casey, all approved.
4. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**
   1. **President –Amy Richter**
      1. Development Sessions -power skating, contact play
         1. Power skating is filling up, contact is at risk of being canceled with only 4 skaters. Directors of U15 and U18 to resend.
      2. Volunteer opportunities - Alumni Game (Dec 22 8pm)
         1. Looking for volunteers for Awards night, alumni game, ect.
            1. posted on the website.
         2. consider charging $10 to attend and it includes an adult beverage.
      3. FOIP
         1. These are handled on a case by case basis
      4. Bylaws/Managers Manual/handbook
         1. This is a long term project to bring forward for spring AGM.
      5. On-Ice Helper/Junior Coach policy
         1. On-ice helper (16+) - adult who helps with on ice activities, not necessarily a HRC coach
         2. Junior coach - is a minor who is invited by the HC to aid with on ice activities.
         3. Motion to update the Junior coach policy to read: Junior coaches are minors (under 16) who register to be a coach with a specified division. If they are registered with minor hockey, they do not require a RIS Activity leader but must be invited by the Head Coach. Junior coaches must be coaching players younger than them. For non-registered members of hockey Alberta, coaches require RIS Activity leader. On-Ice helpers are 16+ as of December 31st of that season require a RIS Activity leader. This was brought forward by Alyssa, seconded by Priscilla, all approved.
      6. reimbursement form
         1. New form that will be posed to the website that can be filled out for pre-approved expenses.
      7. apparel policy update (more to come)
         1. Sponsors were surveyed to see if there was any concern with teams getting additional corporate sponsorship other than their team sponsor for apparel. We did not hear any negative feedback. We will be updating the policy moving forward.
         2. We will need to update this to preserve the Rockets brand.
      8. Contracts
         1. Updating contracts for the paid positions within minor hockey.
   2. **Vice-President – Dave Seretzky**
      1. CAHL tiering meeting tonight
      2. No major concerns from the majority of our teams regarding where they were placed by the league
      3. U11 and U15 tiers were discussed last night, a little drama in U11 T1 because there are a handful of very strong teams
      4. U13 and U18 tonight, hopefully the meeting is a little shorter than last night
      5. Reminder to directors that if they have a team that wishes to appeal their placing that the appeal meeting is tomorrow night
   3. **Administration- Alison Stangeland/Kim Somerville Keehn**
      1. Registrar

* Received 3 new registrations in last week
* 6 teams left to fulfill coaching requirements - all are working on it
* Affiliation forms are being filled out and players are being added to rosters
* 273 rockets and 54 CAS, up from last meeting
* Running a HA checking clinic Nov 13th

Ice

* CAHL regular season ice starts Nov 17
* Teams have been good at taking open ice -tracking which teams have taken open slots

Office

* Office has received a facelift - function is up 200%
* no mini-stick around the office as we have broken glass

Equipment

* U15 wearing new jerseys
* Name bars being used by some teams
  + Directors should share with Alison which teams are using name bars.
* Socks fit large for littles, in contact with TBS to find a solution for next season
* Shooter tutors need net replacement - volunteer?
  1. **Secretary – Dylan Little**
     1. Expense form is only for Pre-Approved expenses.
  2. **Treasurer – Stacy Christensen**
     1. Outstanding fees are at $27K (CAS & LMHA) this includes the new development that has opened. Will follow up with all within the next week. Remember you can not participate in development if not paid.
     2. HAMG submitted. waiting to hear back
     3. Kim and I met with MNP to review accounting. Would like to look at changing some of our processing practices.
        1. Two main things:
        2. Would like to sync our accounting system with our bank accounts. Is less duplicate entering and error.
        3. We would like to pay certain things via EFT, mainly officials.
     4. MNP has agreed to take on our year end accounting prep and any questions we have throughout the season.
     5. Servus team banking transition has been slow. Let me know if any teams are still having issues
     6. Tournament registrations fees - All except U11 have been complete, this season U7, U9, U11 and U15 had teams send e transfers to the treasurer email and these were deposited directly to the tournament accounts. Again streamlining the process.
     7. Have received some team budgets and will email for the remainder.
     8. We have had an increase in Coach Clinic reimbursement this season so far.
     9. Working on an expense form for individuals to submit, will be live shortly
     10. In cleaning the office any documents older than 2022 have been boxed up and moved upstairs to the lock up.
     11. We need to look at what to do with meeting minutes for storage, these must be kept for the life of the organization. Dylan to digitize and post.
     12. Huge thank you to Alison and Mel Callihoo the office look great
  3. **Game & Conduct – Donna Miller**
     1. Year over year tiering has been successful with only 1 discipline issue for intent to injure. Appealed and reduced to one game in addition to the 4 games issued by CAHL.
     2. Increase in coach suspensions for having uncarded coaches on bench, need to ensure coaches attend coach manager meetings next year and have had them review their HCR to prevent future suspensions.
  4. **Past President – Lori McCrea**
     1. nothing to report

1. **DIRECTOR REPORTS**
   1. **Intro to Hockey (U5, U7 and Rocket Launchers) – Alyssa Dinter**
      1. U5/U7
         1. Teams all running smoothly, finishing up coaching certifications for Nov 15
         2. Game Scheduling Issues
            1. U7 Game Scheduling meeting in Sylvan - not all communities attended - several missing
            2. Most of our local associations that we play all have the same home ice times (e.g. Sylvan, Blackfalds, Clive) or don’t want to start before 8:00am.
            3. Some instances where we only have one team play home ice (other team may go out of town or practice) or where our teams are playing each other as neither can find an opponent. It has been VERY time consuming for our managers to try to find teams (some reach out to ~15 teams trying to fill game spots).
            4. Is there some action we can take to make this better next year if we’re all seeing growth in # of teams?
      2. U7 Tournament
         1. Full, all teams registered and paid, planning underway
      3. Rocket Launchers
         1. Continuing to grow - now at 21 players
         2. 3 players (1 U7, 2 U9) discussing transfers and potential trial practice
         3. Core coaches (Dave Saretsky, Casey Callihoo, Tyler Guppy, Rick Maclise, Aaron heck) and have on ice helpers
         4. Due to availability and number of skaters, Dave sent a request last week to all Directors to share with coaches to encourage volunteering for at least one practice in the year. Please have interested coaches contact me - I’ll add them to RAMP and they’ll be able to see practices
   2. **Novice U9 – Brandon Maier**
      1. Ended up with 44 players total. A, B, C, C teams.
      2. Not exactly tiering at U9 but in the first two weeks all teams have been competitive in their groups.
      3. Hearing that Hockey Alberta is going to announce that U9 can play full ice starting in January, not sure if this will apply to league game or just exhibition.
      4. Had an informal complaint about not playing half ice because when we aren’t sharing the ice, teams push the boards to be able to use both benches. Seems a bit silly as no one is trying to play full ice and anywhere you travel does the same thing if they can. The red line on the front ice is the maximum size allowed so that is what we will have to go with now. On the back ice, because it is narrower, we can put the boards on the blueline and be within the size limit.
   3. **Atom U11 – Brett Miller**
      1. Everything is going well. Had two players return from injury and they have been placed on teams and are currently looking at a goaltender from a late registration. Will have him placed on a team this week
      2. Tournament committee will meet Thursday to get things going and send notices to accepted teams.
   4. **Pee Wee U13 – Erin Fuller**
      1. U13A - Tier 2
      2. U13B - Tier 3, Things are going really well. Happy to be moved up to tier 3.
      3. U13C - Tier 6, 2 late roster additions
      4. All teams reciprocate tournament entries with Airdrie tournaments. Affiliates are starting to get organized. All teams purchased name bars.
      5. Tournament application-Use on line form and add reciprocal entry
   5. **Bantam U15 – Angela Wymann-Richter**
      1. Both teams have had late registrations. They are both now full.
      2. U15A has had a pretty good tiering round. Record of 4-2-2 in Tier 2. They will remain in Tier 2.
      3. U15B has had a really tough tiering round. I was part of a team meeting to discuss what moving to NBC would look like. Parents were divided on what direction to go. We requested an NBC game for the last weekend of tiering. After that game, coaches felt the team would still fit best in Tier 3 weak. They will be going into league play as the weakest team in their tier but coaches feel this group can pull together and have some fun, competitive games.
         1. Two parents voiced concerns over the fact that LMH does not provide enough hitting clinics for U15. They felt the U15 players were not prepared for tryouts due to the lack of clinics offered to them through LMH and were behind heading into Tiering.
   6. **Midget U18 – Joanne Day**
      1. U18A - has been placed in Tier 1. They are doing well - they have tied or won all their games so far.
      2. U18B - placed in Tier 3 “weak”(I hope CAHL changes the verbiage in tier 3) which is a good fit for them.
      3. Dealing with suspensions & injuries. We did have a new player register this week which brings our roster up to 15 skaters.
2. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **CAHL Governor - Tamara Cox / Angela Wymann-Richter**
      1. no update
   2. **Referee in Chief – Jarritt Alexander**
      1. no update
   3. **Referee Assignor - Jody Blokland**
      1. Training and development is going well.
      2. Looking at a ref spotlight, this will be sponsored and will highlight a junior and senior official.
      3. out of town tournaments are looking for LMH to assign refs. We will decline as this is a slippery slope. These tournaments pay cash and are lucrative for the refs.
   4. **Fundraising Convenor – Tara Worobetz**
      1. no update
   5. **Sponsorship Chair – Betty Anne Schafer/ Jerilee Wilson**
      1. Great feedback in regard to outside Sponsors for apparel. With new information/feedback I think we are good to vote in change of the current policy. I do think we need to look at adding in a first right of refusal.
      2. Recently brought to my attention that more people would likely sign up for the 3 year platinum if there was some incentive. At this time, 1 year and 3 year platinum cost the same, we just don’t have to chase them. Could we look at reducing the cost for 3 year platinum being paid in full (as we would save the potential of putting on and taking off crests?)
   6. **Safety Officer - Nicole Fauria**
      1. Safety meeting went well, lots of great questions and excellent turnout. I think it cleared up a bit of the missed information from last year. Teams seem really on board with following through with paperwork and return to play guidelines.

* Have had a number of injuries in tiering but all seem to be managed well.
  1. **Social Media coordinator - Nicole Fauria**
     1. All sponsors have had their shout out. Still getting a lot of likes and shares on the posts, very positive response.
     2. Continuing to get things out as efficiently as I can.
  2. **Development Coordinator- Vacant**
  3. **Coach Mentor – Rick Maclise/ Joe Bouvier / Casey Calihoo**
     1. Goalie training is going well. lots of positive feedback.
  4. **South Central League Representative – Troy Rider**
  5. **Central Alberta Selects Representative – Troy Rider**
     1. U11 HAPD - very strong team, playing well
     2. U13 - slightly below .500
     3. U15 - slightly above .500
     4. U18 - Build a strategy to get a coach and manager assigned early and get a team back for 2024/25.
     5. CAS apparel - Jerseys are retired every 3 years. name bars will be allowed for the retiring jerseys in the final year.
  6. **Tournament Coordinator - Vacant**
  7. **Events Coordinator- Vacant**
  8. **Rockets Give Back coordinator - Vacant**

1. **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. develop a new “tournament email address” that can be posted to the HA website. We can then create a google form for teams to fill out that will be uploaded into excel.
   3. For December meeting, review incentive and sign up for Casino in March (spring break)
   4. 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.
   5. Sponsorship letter update with a small discount for platinum sponsors who sign up for 3 years.
2. **NEW BUSINESS.**

**Adjourn 20:56. Next meeting date December 6th**