

METRO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting- Part 1

HELD: April 10/07- at Halifax West

In Attendance: Charlie Scott (President); John Roy (BNS); Ed McHugh, Bill MacEachern, Yvonne Chaulk (MBA Executive); Todd Mombourquette (League Manager); Bedford; Cole Harbour; Community Y; Dartmouth Lakers; Eastern Passage; Fairview/Clayton Park; Fall River; Norwood Knights; Osprey; Prospect; Slam; VEBA

Charlie Scott, President, called the meeting to order and roll call was held.

LEAGUE MANAGER REPORT

Todd Mombourquette presented the league manager's report. Close to 2200 games were held this season with only 21 game suspensions. The format was changed for play-offs. Sale of t-shirts was a learning experience. PCA (Positive Coaching Alliance) was introduced. It cannot be achieved in a single season. There is a need to educate everyone. A group may be needed to take on this work and expand it.

Motion to accept the report- Lakers; seconded by ?; passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Yvonne Chaulk presented the treasurer's report. Some invoices for gyms were received late last year. We will start next year roughly at the same place as last year.

Motion to accept the report- Tammy; seconded by Paula; passed.

REGISTRATION FEE

For planning purposes, the fee should remain the same. Fees for referees are included in that. This past year the fees increased partway through the season. The referees increased fees in December retroactive to the beginning of the season in October. Referee fees for the next year are "locked-in." Fees for gym rentals are set.

Junior Mini- considering alternatives.

FIBA- The proposed rule changes could lengthen the time and increase costs. The rules will have to be modified in order to hold the fees steady.

Surplus at the end of this year is very close to last year's total.

We are in good shape financially.

BNS FEE

New fee of \$9 per player is being introduced to join BeOne (Canada Basketball). The question is whether the MBA should collect this or whether clubs should pay directly. Right now we collect \$175 per team. This will amount to an additional \$90 for a 10 player team.

Advantages to the program: access to coaching information; a strong national body; elite players will have to join in order to attend nationals; improvements to dated coaching manuals is another initiative; a need to build the sport nationally.

If it is optional for clubs to pay the fee through the MBA, administrative difficulties would arise.

There were questions in terms of what we get for the additional fee. It will represent about \$40,000 from the MBA. If we collected that money for our own purposes, we could use it to develop basketball here in Metro.

BNS said that this was a consultation rather than a "dictate" and clubs could pay the fee rather than the league.

A lively discussion ensued. There were questions as to whether the MBA had to collect the fee in order to join BNS.

The response from BNS was that they would appreciate it if we would facilitate the collection.

But then BNS said that it would be included in the BNS fee next season and we would have to pay both if we wanted to join BNS.

Fall River noted that if this is a condition, there is no choice.

VEBA spoke against the MBA collecting the fee. The MBA should not be in the business of taking fees. Not everyone sees the value to the BeOne program nor how it benefits the kids. There were questions as to whether Ontario players pay the same fee and whether their provincial body subsidizes the fee.

A debate over insurance followed. Insurance is essential. Questions as to whether there had ever been a vote at BNS over the fee also followed.

Questions arose as to what the MBA gets for the extra fee.

BNS stated that we do not get anything for it and it is up to the MBA as to what they want to do. They are fine with separate cheques from the clubs and league.

The question is whether the MBA should collect the fee. Will that entail a different fee structure. Bill MacEachern preferred that we wait for further direction before making a decision.

We were told that we would likely lose things such as the 3 on 3 summer tournament if we opt out of the BeOne program. New Steve Nash program is also part of the program.

There was discussion about separating out the additional \$9 fee and keeping our fees stable.

Todd spoke about the mixed messages as to whether the fee will be separate or integrated. He pointed out that teams with low income parents already cannot come up with the fee. It will make a difference to some teams and our goal should be to keep basketball affordable. The insurance fee is only about 10% of what we collect now.

Motion from Keith Higgins. Seconded by ? - “that the MBA will collect BNS fees next year and will collect the \$9 as part of the fee.”

BNS said that if we collect the BNS fees, then we must collect the BeOne fee.

Questions arose in terms of whether that will be \$9 per player or whether there will be a per team fee . We do not always pay \$15 per player. We now pay per team and larger teams pay less.

There were also questions as to whether this was a valid motion since it was impossible to object unless we voted to leave BNS. If our options are to collect the full fee or nothing, we would need to get insurance elsewhere.

Question called. Motion passed with three clubs opposed- Norwood, Fairview and VEBA.

FIBA RULES

Modifications are being proposed.

Motion - that the MBA form a small technical committee to work with BNS for as smooth as possible changes to FIBA.

Motion from Ed McHugh. Seconded by Vicki Traynor.

There is a need to be sure that the kids have the same rules all year rather than different rules at provincial tournaments. The referees will be made aware of the rule modifications.

BNS stated that as long as we are consistent, the refs would be fine with modifications to the

rules.

Motion amended - "That the MBA form a small technical committee to ensure implementation of FIBA"

Motion by Ed McHugh; seconded by Vicki Traynor. Passed unanimously.

Ed McHugh will head the committee. Will need volunteers.

NEW FACILITY UPGRADE

For informational purposes- Mark McGrath presented the plan for a new facility on the Bedford Commons. The community group has a loan from the province. They are looking for two things from the MBA- someone from MBA to discuss our needs in terms of the facility and whether we will commit to some rentals of the facility.

The plan is to have 4 courts dedicated to basketball.

Discussion about the way in which the MBA spreads games around Metro. 23 gyms are used and attempts are made to spread games in all areas.

JUNIOR MINI DIVISION

Recommendation that we move to four on four; not keep score; use 1 ref per game; develop young refs; not put the stats in the paper or on the website

Motion by Tony Folkins- that we form an ad-hoc committee which will take submissions for 30 days and will come back with a report within 60 days looking at the objectives which we are trying to achieve and changes to the rules.

Discussion about recreational and competitive divisions with equal shifts.

BNS - is going to the Canada Basketball model with this stage being developmental.

A number of suggestions. Clubs told to submit their comments to the committee. Clubs will need the fee structure set as soon as possible.

Volunteers- Osprey will participate; Jim McFadgen from Prospect; Fall River.

Feedback from other clubs.

Seconded by Vicki. Motion passed

TEAMS MOVING UP/SEEDING OF DIVISIONS

Todd- biggest factor is that we do not want 100-20 scores. Another factor is the size of the players. We try not to move out of the age brackets but when a team is winning by 90 points, the benefits for either team are questionable. One of the problems is a stacked team and a club could divide it up so that a lower level team is mixed with it.

Discussion followed about the emotional aspects when a team is forced up. Community Y would like to see more consultation prior to a move. They would also like to see a clear process. It was pointed out that other sports do move teams up such as hockey and soccer. It is often done balancing the good of the many versus the good of the few.

One of the questions is whether a super-competitive coach should get to call all of the shots. There were comments that the league is doing a good job now. One of the difficulties is the volunteer division co-ordinators. Some are objective but others are not. Another difficulty is the need to have an even number of teams in a division in terms of the fiscal questions. There were comments that coaches have to take more responsibility for the large point gaps. Coaches who are still yelling at players with a 50 point gap are part of the problem.

Suggestion that we form a committee and a move to another division will have to go to that committee. Will need to set criteria and rationale. A more formal approach with flexible guidelines may assist. The group could document some guidelines and then become an appeal committee for the process.

Motion -that we form a group to document guidelines and then become a committee to actively work as an appeal committee for division moves

Amended motion- that the MBA form a committee to document guidelines in writing and then become an active appeal committee; members of the committee cannot be active coaches in the MBA

Motion - Ed McHugh; seconded - Tony Folkins; passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn and meet again in 2 weeks- Tony; seconded by Bill; passed.

METRO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting- Part II

HELD - May 1/07 at NSIT, Leeds Street

In Attendance- Bill MacEachern (MBA); Yvonne Chaulk (MBA); Ed McHugh (MBA); Charlie Scott (MBA); Keith Higgins (MBA and Slam); Linda Cleveland-Thompson(MBA and Norwood); Vicki Traynor (MBA and VEBA) ; Steve Johnson (Bedford); Marcel Maessen (Lakers); Tony Folkins (Osprey); Jim McFadgen (Prospect); Mike Brien (BNS); John Roy (BNS).

Charlie Scott, President, called the meeting to order and roll call was held.

We continued with the items on the agenda at no. 9

9- PCA Development- There is a need for more club and parental involvement. We had a good turn-out of coaches this season. We will aim for long-term and brand new coaches next season.

Coaching Development-

Motion- by Ed McHugh- “As part of the league manager’s position during the next 12 months that a coaching development model come forward for the AGM within the next year; that we pay an honorium; and that we call for volunteers or get a co-op student. Moved by Ed McHugh and seconded by Vicki Traynor

Discussion- the coaching manuals are outdated; BNS insists that we have a coach with level 1 on every bench during provincials but nothing has come forward yet in terms of coaching development. Knowledge, skill and behaviour should all be addressed. PCA may be filling in the gap in terms of behaviour.

Motion passed with Lakers voting against the motion.

10- Play-Off Format

The format was better this year. Medals are better than t-shirts. We need a format and guidelines so that they are run consistently. For example, bristol board showing the results in all gyms would be helpful. We need to set minimum standards and then some groups may go beyond that.

11- High School Trial Up

Should we allow “B” division players and Division 2 players to play in the league?

Some high schools did lose “A” players who wanted to play “B” and league.

Motion- “that we allow B and Division 2 players in the league.” Motion by Marcel Maessen; seconded by Vicki Traynor. Passed unanimously.

12- Junior Aged Players with Juvenile-

The problem this year was the eligibility for provincials. The original plan had been to develop a junior division but we have not reached that stage.

Motion- “to do the same next year” (to mingle juvenile and juniors on mixed teams at juvenile).

Motion - by Keith Higgins. Seconded by ??

This should be communicated to clubs and posted on the website. We might get more junior players if more players were aware of the opportunity. We will circulate the minutes to get the word out.

Motion carried.

13-Executive Election

Ed McHugh- President; Yvonne Chaulk- Treasurer; Past President- Charlie Scott; Members at large- Vicki Traynor, Jim Gannon, Bill MacEachern, Linda Cleveland-Thompson, Scott White, Keith Higgins

Discipline Committee- Ed McHugh resigns.

Call for nominations from the floor.

Slate of officers declared elected by acclamation.

14- Constitution

There is a need for guiding principles with flexibility in order to accommodate the rapid growth. Questions about whether it may hinder the association. A committee should be put in place to look at policies and procedures.

We should also register with the Registry of Joint Stocks.

Committee- Marcel Maesson, Ed McHugh and Bill MacEachern

We may need a special meeting to adopt the constitution.

Action item- schedule a special meeting - to deal with change to FIBA, the junior mini division

and the constitution- for the fall before the coaches' meeting; likely mid-September

Recommendations should be sent out two weeks in advance so that people will know what will be discussed with proposed motions in writing.

Motion- that Bill and Marcel will form a committee and report by August 30th. Motion- Jim; seconded- Bedford

15- Session Start Dates

High school try-outs were late this past year. No motion.

16- New Business

Motion- "Given that the MBA and Basketball Nova Scotia share many similar concerns yet are independently operating bodies, that the Executive recommends that any discussion of Basketball Nova Scotia policies or practices be curtailed during MBA meetings unless they deal directly with matters pertaining to the league itself. Discussion of BNS matters should be held at BNS meetings." – moved by Marcel; seconded - Jim

Amended to add "AGM" between MBA and meetings. Motion- Jim; seconded- Marcel
Motion to amend- passed.

Motion as amended - Passed unanimously

Motion- "That in order to be considered, any solicitation to the MBA for a change in fee structure collected on behalf of another party, be presented in writing 14 calendar days prior to a meeting of the general membership, so that it can be distributed to the members for their consideration." – moved by Bill; seconded by Jim.

Passed unanimously.

Motion- "that we reconsider the motion "that the MBA will collect BNS fees next year."
Motion- by Vicki Traynor; seconded- Linda

Discussion about leaving it to the new Executive to figure out

If the fee is per player, it will create administrative difficulties for the MBA. The fees per team will vary depending on the number of players. The first question is what the fee will be and the second is what will be the fee structure. Neither of these is clear. It could become an administrative nightmare.

Motion- defeated with Norwood and VEBA dissenting.

Motion- that if the fees are no more than \$24 per player, the Executive come to an agreeable administrative procedure by June 30th with BNS.” Moved by Marcel; seconded by Tony.

Motion passed with Norwood and VEBA dissenting.

Discussion item- “Given that at the present time, the day to day operation of the MBA is heavily reliant upon the activities of the League Manager, Mr. Todd Mombourquette, and that while preparations have been ongoing towards allowing for a succession in the position, and that at this time such preparations are not complete, be it resolved that the Executive enter into further discussions with Mr. Mombourquette as to his continuing participation in the direction and management of the league.”

Mr. Mombourquette had planned to resign at the end of August. He is now working full-time in a new position. He has recently resigned effective immediately but may stay on with another person hired to work under him.

We need a plan B and someone trained to take on the various responsibilities. Matter left to the Executive to work out heading into the next season.

Motion to adjourn.