

Proposed Minutes from June 17, 2014

**METRO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the  
Metro Basketball Association Annual General Meeting  
Keshen Goodman Library, Halifax  
June 17, 2014

**Present:**

Marcel Maessen (President)  
Andrew Miller (Vice-President)  
Ottilie Hayes (Treasurer)  
Bill MacEachern (Secretary)  
Chris Lurette (Manager)  
Jim Gannon (Fairview/CP)  
Susan Koivu (Dartmouth Lakers)  
Niels Keyser (Fall River)  
Kim Kennedy (Steelers)  
Mike Cairns (Steelers)  
Angie Gillis (Sackville)  
Stephen Russell (ABA Celtics)  
Steve Mullane (Bedford)  
Shane Mailman (St.MB Slam)  
Doran Donavon (Can. Martyrs)  
Kandace Terris (Can. Martyrs)  
Richard MacLellan (St.MB Slam)  
Brett Haley (Cole Harbour)  
Dwayne Fitzgerald (Cole Harbour)  
Kellie Campbell (Steelers)

**In attendance:**

Brad Lawlor (BNS)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by M. Maessen, Chair.

**2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Secretary B. MacEachern called the roll and declared that a quorum was present. A total of 10 of 25 clubs were represented, with 57 of a possible 87 club votes available. Executive members who were not in attendance to represent their clubs held an additional 4 votes to bring the total number of votes available to be cast to 61. A polled majority would require 31 votes.

**3. Opening Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for their participation. He then outlined the rules under which the meeting will be held, specifically that reports will be presented or motions will be made and then discussion can be held on the matter. He also

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stated that any person present is welcome to express their views on the items on the floor not just club representatives. He went on to remind everyone to stick to the topic at hand.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

**14AGM01** Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.  
Moved by S. Mullane; seconded by A. Miller.

**Motion Carried.**

### **5. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

**14AGM02** Motion: That the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting be approved as presented.  
Moved by M. Cairns; seconded by R. MacLellan.

**Motion Carried.**

### **6. President's Report**

M. Maessen presented the President's Report. Highlights included his announcement that he would not be reoffering for the post of President; thanking the board members for their support and dedicated involvement in furthering the interests of the youth in the MBA; extending thanks to our retiring League Manager T. Mombourquette who he stated was instrumental in insuring the survival of the league and always put the player's interests first; stating that rocky relations with Basketball Nova Scotia appear to have been resolved; and that the MBA continues to improve with innovative changes in order for our young players to stay in and enjoy the game for years to come.

**14AGM03** Motion: That the President's Report be accepted as presented.  
Moved by A. Miller; seconded by S. Mullane.

**Motion Carried.**

### **7. Financial Report**

The Financial Report was presented by Treasurer O. Hayes. She stated that this year we actually had a deficit of nearly \$16,000. This was directly due to the settlement reached with BNS and without that we would have had a small surplus. The balance at the end of the fiscal year and available to start the 2014-2015 season was projected to be approximately \$32,157. Not being required to pay out a large lump sum in the next year, despite some increases in referee and gym costs, we should be on a good foundation and it is unlikely that an increase in team fees will be necessary.

**14AGM04** Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted as presented.  
Moved by R. MacLellan; seconded by A. Gillis.

**Motion Carried.**

## **8. League Manager's Report**

B. Mac Eachern presented the League Manager's Report on behalf of T. Mombourquette. In the report he stated that it was with regret that he will be leaving the sport of basketball, a game with which he had been associated for over 40 years, 15 of those as the MBA League Manager. He went on express his thanks to those who were instrumental in guiding the league through it's' amalgamation and subsequent growth and to all those who volunteered to make the league what it is.

He went on to say that the Board has become one of the strengths of the league in that despite the inevitable differences of opinion, it always puts the kid's interests first. He encouraged those in attendance to consider serving on the board and felt that as long as the kid's interests were kept as the top priority, things would be in good hands. Mr.

Mombourquette stressed that the number one problem the MBA has is fan behaviour. He felt it was our duty to correct the over-competitiveness which is spoils the fun aspect of so many of our younger players. He hoped that we could simply return to a game where kids get some exercise, make some friends, learn some skills and have fun.

**14AGM05** Motion: That the League Manager's Report be accepted as presented.  
Moved by N. Keyser; seconded by S. Mullane.

**Motion Carried.**

## **9. Standing Committee Reports**

### **9.1 Rules Committee**

Committee Chair B. MacEachern introduced the report stating that it was circulated in advance of the meeting so that clubs would have time to conduct their own debates as to the merits of each proposal. A total of 12 proposals were forwarded to the committee for consideration and 7 topics were being brought forward to the membership for their consideration.

Topic 1 dealt with the adoption of the Basketball Canada (BC) Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model. BNS supports this model and is hopeful that it will be adopted province wide at their upcoming AGM. Mr. MacEachern stated that there are two approaches which we could take to amend our Rules of Play: Make individual motions on each matter; or permit the adoption of rule changes in support of the LTAD model that are passed at upcoming BNS meetings.

**14AGM06**

Motion:

Whereas the Basketball Canada LTAD model is designed to improve the experience for youth basketball players while developing their skills;

And whereas Basketball Nova Scotia is in support of the adoption of the Basketball Canada LTAD model;

And whereas the MBA views the retention of teenage players to be of great importance;

And whereas the MBA and BNS deem the development of skills in the Under 10 age group to be of utmost importance;

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Move that the MBA Rules of Play be amended as necessary to follow the rule changes adopted by Basketball Nova Scotia prior to the 2014/2015 season.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by A. Miller.

In discussion most agreed in principle with the adoption of the LTAD model, however the vast majority felt that we could not wait for BNS to approve rules on this matter.

The feeling was that BNS has enough issues of their own and that it is possible that they may not move on some of the matters which are necessary in the MBA now.

In response to the discussion from the floor the mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion from further consideration.

### **Motion Withdrawn**

**14AGM07** Motion: Move that the MBA adopt 4 on 4 play in Jr. Mini.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by M. Cairns.

Questions centered on what the benefits would be from 4 on 4 play. Responses indicated that 4 on 4 encourages more participation by creating more space on the floor, more movement and more ball touches for all players. It has been used in the BNS jamboree and has worked well there.

Concerns were raised as to how 4 on 4 play would actually work, would teams require fewer players and would it result in a need for more gym times and therefore higher costs? B. Mac Eachern responded that the final details have not been determined pending approval, but it is anticipated that there would be shorter and more frequent shifts. This would be designed to keep the players interest in the game.

D. Donavon suggested that perhaps running time be used rather than stop time if the amount of time required to play a game is a concern. The thought was also put forward that the elimination of foul shooting would certainly speed up the games as well.

### **Motion Carried.**

**14AGM08** Motion: Move that the MBA eliminate keeping score in Jr. Mini games.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by R. MacLellan.

C. Lerette stated that most of the problems we currently have in the MBA are related to overzealous parents who believe that games must be won at all cost. Eliminating the score would eliminate the parental perception of the need to win. Kids should be allowed to play for fun regardless of the score. He went on to say that this move would have other effects, there would be no standings and as a result there would be no need for playoffs. The MBA could hold a jamboree style event at the end of the season but since BNS already does this he suggested that we just lengthen the season for Jr. Mini to encompass those weeks where we would normally have playoffs.

Further discussion on the motion included:

- K. Terris raised the question of whether or not there are other jurisdictions which do not record the score and if the measure will actually work. S. Mailman replied that the measure has been successful in minor baseball where fan behaviour was also a problem.

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- S. Russell stated that he expects there will be a few rough spots in the beginning if it is adopted and that we may want to have gym marshals present for the first few weeks. He went on to say that the ABA Celtics will be supporting the motion.
- A question was raised as to how divisional alignments would be decided without scores to base them on. B. Mac Eachern replied that the scores would be kept on paper for the first 3 weeks but not displayed on the scoreboard or shared with the coaches, players or parents.
- S. Mailman stated his belief that we must take the game back from the parents. It is for the enjoyment of the kids not the adults in attendance. Prior to this meeting the Slam board discussed the proposals to be presented. He stated that in relation to Jr. Mini, they supported 4 on 4 play and the elimination of playoffs but believe that the score should stay.
- B. Haley stated that in his opinion the kids think the score should be there as it gives them a measure of how they are doing. M. Cairns agreed that the kids want the score. They practice to get better. They play to test their success. The score is the measure of that success.
- N. Keyser reminded everyone that this is an attempt to deemphasize the score and provide a positive entry level experience for our youngest players.

The question was called for and a request was made for a polled vote. The following votes were cast:

For:

ABA Celtics (4); Bedford Eagles (7); Dartmouth Lakers (6); Fall River (4); Sackville (6); Executive (4)

Opposed:

Canadian Martyrs (7); Cole Harbour (5); Fairview/Clayton Park (2); St. Margaret's Bay (8); Westend Steelers (8)

The vote results were 31 for, 30 opposed.

**Motion Carried.**

**14AGM09** Motion: Move that the MBA Rules of Play be amended as necessary to change the age class names to U18, U16, U14, U12 and U10 Developmental.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by D. Donavon.

**Motion Carried.**

**14AGM10** Motion:  
Whereas junior high school boys' leagues utilize a size 7 basketball;  
And whereas the adoption of a size 7 ball will aid in the development of these players;  
Move that the MBA Rules of Play be amended to include the use of the size 7 (29.5") ball for bantam boys.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by A. Miller.

Discussion on this motion centered on cost issues with the requirement to change over to the larger ball and on whether or not the size 7 ball would be adopted at Provincials.

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B. Lawlor replied that the intention of BNS would be to adopt the size 7 ball as it is used by bantam boys in most other provinces.

**Motion Carried.**

**14AGM11** Motion: Move that the MBA Rules of Play be amended as necessary to permit calling up enough players to allow a total of 8 to be available for a game in bantam, midget and juvenile.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by M. Cairns.

B. Mac Eachern stated that this was basically a house keeping motion to correct an issue that arose after the adoption of equal play in bantam divisions 3 and lower. It became apparent that the total number of players after call-ups (7) in order for a team to play would require some players to play all 6 shifts of the equal play portion of the game. It was deemed necessary that the maximum number of players should be increased to 8 so that players could get a break. This measure was used during the past season after unanimous approval by the Board of Directors but requires passage at an AGM to be formally included in the rules.

**Motion Carried.**

**14AGM12** Motion: Move that the midget girls and juvenile girl's divisions be combined and that teams be permitted to play with any combination of all midget players, all juvenile players or a combination of midget and juvenile players.

Moved by B. Mac Eachern; seconded by A. Miller.

The motion received general approval during discussion as most clubs at one time or another have experienced situations where there are not enough players to form a team at the juvenile or midget aged groups and players who wished to continue to play and enjoy the game have been left without a place to play or have been left with the choice to join another club. Concerns were raised in relation to where teams of mixed ages would fit in Provincials. The consensus was that it is more important to provide a season of play than to worry about one weekend tournament and that hopefully by the time Provincials rolls around, some flexibility would be available.

**Motion Carried.**

**14AGM13** Motion: Move to accept Rules Committee report.

Moved by S. Mullane; seconded by M. Cairns.

**Motion Carried.**

## **9.2 Constitution and By-Laws Committee**

Committee Chair B. MacEachern reported that there were no matters brought before the committee and that as a result they did not meet and would have no report to present.

### **9.3 Discipline Committee**

T. Mombourquette reported that a formal Discipline Committee was not struck this year as a result of other matters taking priority. The few matters which would have been sent to the committee were brought to the Board as a whole. As a result there is no report to present.

### **10. Election of Officers**

Chairman M. Maessen stated it would be necessary to switch items 10 and 11 on the agenda in order to guarantee that we have the election of the new Board and Officers. Therefore Election of Officers would be item 10 and Fee Structure of the 2014-2015 Season would become item 11.

The following candidates were nominated for MBA Board:

President	-	Andrew Miller
Vice-President	-	
Treasurer	-	Otilie Hayes
Secretary	-	Bill MacEachern
Past President	-	Marcel Maessen
Directors	-	Niels Keyser
	-	Angeline Gillis
	-	Richard MacLellan
	-	Steve Mullane
	-	Kandace Terris
	-	Kim Kennedy

The Chair stated that our constitution allows for as many as 15 Board members and that any others who would be interested would be welcomed. He commented on the fact that there has been no nomination for the vice-presidential position and asked that club representatives scout out possible candidates. Seeing that there were no other nominations and that there were no contested positions, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the Board as presented.

**14AGM14** Motion: Move to close nominations and accept the Board as presented.

Moved by M. Cairns; seconded by S. Russell.

**Motion Carried.**

### **11. Fee Structure for the 2014-2015 Season**

A. Miller introduced this topic by pointing out that there are a couple of unknowns which will make it difficult to establish fees at this point: Referee costs, MABO is seeking and increase; The level of officiating required for the new U10 Developmental 4 on 4 games; and the matter of insurance coverage being supplied by the league.

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**14AGM15** Motion: Move that the MBA Executive further discuss the matter of insurance and referee costs prior to setting the team fees and report back to the members as soon as possible.  
Moved by M. Cairns; seconded by D. Donavon.

**Motion Carried.**

**12. Other Items as May Arise**

As a result of concerns over the length of time required to play games in U10 Developmental and the uncertainty over the format to be used a motion from the floor was put forward.

**14AGM16** Motion: Move that the MBA eliminate foul shooting in U10 Developmental (Jr. Mini) if we move to running time in games.

Moved by D. Donavon; seconded by S. Koivu.

**Motion Carried.**

**13. Adjournment**

There was no motion to adjourn as we had run out of time and were about to be locked in the Library. Seeing as we had also coincidentally reached the end of our agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.