

Minutes from June 17, 2015

METRO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the
Metro Basketball Association Annual General Meeting
Bedford/Hammonds Plains Community Center
June 17, 2015

Present:

Andrew Miller (President)
Bill MacEachern (Secretary)
Ottile Hayes (Treasurer)
Marcel Maessen (Past-President)
Chris Lerette (Manager)
Jim Gannon (Fairview/CP)
Catherine Bradshaw (Dartmouth Lakers)
Kim Kennedy (Steelers)
Mike Cairns (Steelers)
Stephen Russell (ABA Celtics)
Steve Mullane (Bedford)
Andrea Johnston (St.MB Slam)
Doran Donavon (Hurricanes)
Kandace Terris (Hurricanes)
Richard MacLellan (MBA Board)
Brett Haley (Cole Harbour)
Dwayne Fitzgerald (Cole Harbour)
Brett Fulmore (Fall River)
Stewart Malloy (Prospect Rd.)
Rick Baker (Hurricanes)
Niels Keyser (MBA Board)
Tammy Bourgeois (Bedford)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by A. Miller, Chair.

2. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Secretary B. MacEachern called the roll and declared that a quorum was present. A total of 11 of 25 clubs were represented, with 55 of a possible 83 club votes available. Executive members who were not in attendance to represent their clubs held an additional 6 votes to bring the total number of votes available to be cast to 61. A polled majority would require 32 votes.

3. Opening Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and then described how the meeting will progress. He stated that anyone in attendance make a motion and can speak on any motion or report, however voting will be done on a club basis.

4. Approval of the Agenda

15AGM01 Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by M. Maessen; seconded by M. Cairns.

Motion Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

15AGM02 Motion: That the minutes of the June 17, 2014 meeting be approved as presented.

Moved by N. Keyser; seconded by K. Kennedy.

Motion Carried.

6. President's Report

A. Miller presented the President's Report in which he thanked the members of the Board and especially Past-President M. Maessen and retiring members O. Hayes and N. Keyser for their diligent work to ensure the league remains successful. He also congratulated League Manager C. Lurette on completing a very successful first year in the position. Mr. Miller went on to say that the MBA Board listens to the league stakeholders and strives to ensure that the league evolves in a positive manner. He cited the successful introduction of the implementation of 4 on 4 play with no scorekeeping as an example of how the league does respond to the wishes of the clubs. He encouraged members to consider serving on the Board of Directors as the commitment is not extreme but it can be very fulfilling.

15AGM03 Motion: That the President's Report be accepted as presented.

Moved by M. Maessen; seconded by S. Malloy.

Motion Carried.

7. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by Treasurer O. Hayes. She stated that this year we had a net surplus of nearly \$14,500. The balance at the end of the fiscal year and available to start the 2015-2016 season was projected to be approximately \$46,000 leaving us on a good foundation for the upcoming season.

15AGM04 Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted as presented.

Moved by D. Donovan; seconded by R. MacLellan.

Motion Carried.

8. League Manager's Report

C. Lurette presented his League Manager's Report stating that overall it had been a very successful season thanks to the efforts of all the people who volunteer their time. Mr. Lurette touched on a number of the items included in the report:

- Divisional alignments continuing to be a challenging task and he would like to see this job being handled by committees rather than having the onus placed just on the coordinators.

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- For the most part the rule changes introduced this year were well received. Mr. Lerette conducted a survey at the conclusion of the season to measure the success of the rule changes and presented the results.
- That despite initiating the move by the MBA, BNS did not switch to a size 7 basketball in the U14 Boys age class and it was felt by many that this may have put MBA teams at a disadvantage in Provincials.
- The success of having a contingency plan ready in case of inclement weather during the playoff weekends. By following this plan there were no additional costs incurred for gyms after the inevitable winter storms during playoffs.
- The lack of consistency of calling illegal defences amongst officials continued to be problem. Mr. Lerette stated that there is a reluctance to call this infraction by officials as the resulting penalty is viewed as being too harsh, ejection of the coach from the game. He therefore suggested a rule change to mollify the situation. The Chair suggested that this could be deferred until the Rules Committee Report was presented and be introduced at that time.
- Spectator behavior is becoming a larger and larger issue each year. It is hoped that with additional support from BNS we may be able to better address this situation.

15AGM05 Motion: That the League Manager's Report be accepted as presented.
Moved by S. Mullane; seconded by M. Cairns.

Motion Carried.

9. Standing Committee Reports

9.1 Rules Committee

Committee Chair R. MacLellan introduced the report stating that it was hoped that everyone had a chance to consider the merits of each proposal being made. A total of 7 proposals were forwarded to the committee for consideration and 3 topics were being brought forward to the AGM.

15AGM06 Motion: Whereas there is currently no definition of what is allowed or is not allowed when a coach or player is suspended;
Move that the MBA Rules of Play be amended to include rule number 18.9.15 which stipulates that anyone suspended is not permitted within a gym or building in which any MBA game is being played until such time as their suspension has been served in full.
Moved by S. Mullane; seconded by D. Donovan.
Motion Carried

15AGM07 Motion: Whereas feedback from coaches and league officials suggested U10 games were too long;
Move that the number of shifts played in U10 be reduced from 12 to 10 and the duration of the shifts be extended from 3 minutes to 3 minutes and 30 seconds.
Moved by A. Johnston; seconded by S. Malloy.
Motion Carried

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Mr. MacLellan stated that the committee reviewed the matter of limits on amount of time permitted for each game do not need rules to be changed as this is an administrative issue. The committee does recommend that:

Rules 5.1.3, 5.2.3, 5.3.3 and 5.4.2 shall be handled as follows:

- At the expiry of the allotted time for the game, if the game clock has more than 2 minutes remaining, the clock shall be reset to 2 minutes and the game may proceed from that point.
- At the expiry of the allotted time for the game, if the game clock has 2 minutes or less remaining the game may proceed as per normal play.
- If the game is found to be running late, half-time and period breaks may be shortened or eliminated at the discretion of the game officials.

The Chair suggested that this would be a good time for the introduction of the rule change proposed by Mr. Lerette in the League Manager's Report.

15AGM08

Motion: Move that the penalty for illegal defences be changed to the following: The offensive team shall be awarded one free throw and possession of the ball upon resumption of play.

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

Motion Carried

Subsequent to the report a couple of rule issues were discussed. The matter of the U14 Boys using a size 7 ball while a size 6 ball was used in the Provincials was brought up. Chair A. Miller responded that it was discussed by the committee and not brought forward as the rule to change to size 7 was just adopted last year. The overall opinion at that time was that it would be better for player development as they would be consistent with school ball for the full season and not just the one weekend tournament which is Provincials. Ultimately he stated that we followed the advice of BNS and they failed to follow through making this a BNS issue.

M. Cairns stated that not all teams in the province are using size 6 for U14 Boys. The Cumberland area for example use size 7. The Valley representatives at BNS argued for it to remain at size 6.

S. Mullane brought up the issue of players club hopping, making higher level teams and causing resident players to have to play at lower levels. M. Maessen stated that in the past a number of attempts was made to bring this under control to no avail and that individual clubs could institute policies of their own should they choose.

A. Johnston commented on the matter of having one referee at U10 games. She recommended that the referees must get deeper into the offensive zone or we should go back to having two referees at these games. In subsequent discussion it was felt that this varied from one referee to another and that it should be brought up in future referee clinics.

15AGM09

Motion: Move to accept the Rules Committee report.

Moved by S. Malloy; seconded by R. Baker.

Motion Carried.

9.2 Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Committee Chair B. MacEachern presented the committee's report stating that a review of the Constitution and By-Laws had been conducted with the view of bringing them in line with how the MBA and in particular the governance aspect of it has developed over the past 7 years since the current documents were adopted. The committee found that in their opinion revisions were required to more clearly articulate the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Executive. They were not proposing any changes to the actual articles other than clarifying who makes the decisions. The report recommended amendments to six different articles within the Constitution.

The Chair suggested that unless there were objections, rather than going to a vote on each separate article, that all the recommended changes could be handled under one motion. There being no objections, a motion was introduced.

- 15AGM10** Motion: Move to amend the articles of the Metro Basketball Association Constitution to articulate the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Executive as proposed by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report.
Moved by C. Bradshaw; seconded by N. Keyser.
Motion Carried.

- 15AGM11** Motion: Move to accept the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report.
Moved by S. Malloy; seconded by C. Bradshaw.
Motion Carried.

9.3 Discipline Committee

C. Lurette reported that a formal Discipline Committee was not struck this year.

10. Fee Structure for the 2015-2016 Season

C. Lurette introduced this topic by stating that increased costs are expected for a number of gym rentals but that the exact rates are still not known at this time and that an increase will be required for scorekeepers as if they were paid by an hourly rate, they would currently be making less than minimum wage.

M. Cairns stated that it was imperative that the clubs are able to know what the fees are as soon as possible rather than having to wait until later in the summer. After some discussion it was felt that a modest increase would be prudent and that a figure of \$1475 per team would be acceptable.

- 15AGM12** Motion: Move that the MBA fees be set at a rate of \$1475 per team entered in the league.
Moved by D. Donavon; seconded by S. Malloy.
Motion Carried.

11. Election of Officers

President A. Miller ceded the Chair to Past President M. Maessen for the election of officers. Mr. Maessen called for nominations from the floor for each position. The following candidates were nominated for MBA Board:

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President	-	Andrew Miller
Vice-President	-	Kandace Terris
Treasurer	-	Tammy Bourgeois
Secretary	-	Bill MacEachern
Directors	-	Brett Haley
	-	Mike Cairns
	-	Richard MacLellan
	-	Steve Mullane
	-	Stewart Malloy
	-	Emily Ingraham
	-	Derek Johnston
	-	Kim Kennedy
	-	Angeline Gillis

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.

15AGM13 Motion: Move to close nominations and accept the Board as presented.

Moved by B. Haley; seconded by D. Donovan.

Motion Carried.

12. Other Items as May Arise

As an information item, B. Haley asked what the difference was between Jr. NBA and the Steve Nash Program. C. Lerette replied that the Jr. NBA is for ages 5 and 6 and is meant to be run prior to the Steve Nash program which is aimed at 7 and 8 year olds. M. Cairns stated that the Steelers run both programs as Mr. Lerette suggested and have been very pleased with the results.

13. Adjournment

15AGM14 Motion: Move to adjourn.

Moved by A. Johnston; seconded by D. Donovan.

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.