



Northern Alberta Interlock  
Annual General Meeting  
Saturday May 4, 2019  
DOW Centennial Centre  
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

Meeting was called to order at 1333 hours with 4 Associations out of 42 missing.  
Absent was Edson, Thorsby, Swan Hills, and Vegreville.  
For 2019-20 we have lost Josephsburg, Stony Plain, and Sturgeon.  
Special guests for the majority of the meeting from Hockey Alberta who were actively listening and available for questions:  
Randy Hupka, HA Minor Regulation Chair,  
Barry Brost, Minor Regulation Committee Zone 3,  
Mike McGinnis, Regional Development Manager

Motion to accept the agenda as presented moved by Tofield, seconded by Lamont, carried.

Previous year's minutes were distributed via email prior to the meeting and then displayed.  
Correction to the minutes noted - Drayton Valley Atom A won Gold in Provincials  
Motion to accept the 2018-19 AGM minutes as corrected moved by Camrose, seconded by Drayton Valley, carried.

### **President's Report**

2018-19 was a year of learning and much success thanks to:

The Executive:

Neil, Wendy, Jim, Shawn, and Dody

Senior Governors:

Wayne, Randy, Chuck, Deb, and Julie

Tiering and Scheduling:

Nick, Jesse, Marie, and Karen

And additional support from:

30 tier governors and numerous LMHA volunteers

This past year we tried to get a couple of all-female tiers but there was not enough teams.  
Integrating the female teams with male teams worked well. We will continue this practice as long as there is a demand for it.

We experienced several challenges this year with travel and "home" games in away arenas.  
We are discontinuing this in 2019-20.

There were far too many TBA games due to associations not providing the proper number of ice slots. There were a couple of issues with overage players (HA team working on improvements).  
Cross-tier play was a bone of contention, especially at Tiers 1 and 2.



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In PeeWee, we focused on getting the tiers right in order to make the Provincial pilot work. There was a lot of extra work in the PeeWee division with monitoring and stats gathered, and overall, we were satisfied with the results.

Long distance travel during the playoffs was a reality, but at least one attempt to reduce it drastically in novice was refused.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Year end is April 30th. Last year's financials were reviewed by Whitecourt and Smoky Lake. Motion to accept the 2017-18 financials was made by Calmar, seconded by Mayerthorpe, carried. Reviewed 2018-19 financial details. Two NAI members to review the financial statements for the 2018-19 season - Redwater and Winfield.

### **Administration Report:**

- Governors worked hard at making sure information posted on the website was current and up to date.
- Improvement needed in the amount of time things take. In some cases with game changes, it took too long for the managers to agree to a new date and time, and then for the governors to approve the game changes and get them edited on the website. Too much back and forth texting and emailing. It also took a lot of time for games to be posted and verified - governors were spending a lot of time tracking these down. May need to use the phone and speak to a live voice a little more often.
- Improvements also needed at the beginning of the year to post contact info and HCRs onto our website. It is up to the League Reps and Presidents to please teach managers these things at the beginning of the year. There are guidelines posted on the website, and we expect each association to have a manager meeting / training with their managers to ensure they know how important this is. There will be a check list made with dates that will be easy to know when things need to be completed. If you have questions, please contact Karen (Admin) or Neil (First VP) for help.
- RAMP website utilized with the majority of our LMHAs. We will continue using RAMP.
- Banner distribution was successful. We do not know of anyone who did not receive their banner this year. Thank you to Dody and her staff at Redwater Home Hardware for being the distribution centre. As well, thank you again to Chuck Hunter who was able to pick up some extra banners and managed to get them delivered to the places they needed to be. Thank you also to all of our League Reps and LMHA Presidents who helped with the presentation of banners if the governors were unable to do so.
- We looked at the banner summary which is also posted on our website. 7 Associations out of 45 did not win a banner. Whitecourt won 7 banners. Athabasca, Barrhead, Drayton Valley, and Westlock won 6 banners. Most Gold went to Barrhead and Camrose.



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### **Discipline Report:**

- It was a busy year of learning. Both Shawn and Wendy were new this year in their roles.
- Wendy, 2nd VP, helped the guys with statistics.
- Some common discipline issues will be addressed with the Supplemental Discipline addition to our regulations.
- Discussed at length the number of suspensions in each level and noted the high level for repeat offenders and the high amount of coach suspensions. We asked the associations to please do their part in getting the coaches under control.
- Comment from the floor was that in some cases, the referees are on a power trip or do not ref fairly. There needs to be something we can do about this as well.
  - We emphasized the communication needs to be there. Fill out a complaint form, speak to someone from the referee zone, let people know if there are issues with refs.
  - Randy Hupka, Chair for Minor Regulations at Hockey Alberta, also commented that they are trying to implement a 3 man system requirement for Bantam and Midget games but it is difficult to do if the area doesn't have enough experienced referees. Even if associations can pay mileage for getting a referee in from another area, the referees are often already booked or cannot make it due to the time for travel needed.
- Referee retention is difficult and working to reduce the number of Abuse of An Official penalties will help.
- Viewed charts showing patterns that emerged with the number of penalties fluctuating throughout the season.
- Next season, Jim will be in charge of Midget and Atom and Shawn will be in charge of PeeWee and Bantam.

### **Vice-Chair Report:**

- With the changes to the VP's structure it has been an improvement for our league. It gives more time to focus on helping the Governors at all levels. There was a great team put together from the Senior down to the tier Governors. Thanks for your time and dedication throughout the season.
- Next season we will keep working towards having issues come to the 1st V.P., rather than the President.
- We have looked at the regulations and have implemented changes for the betterment of the league. We have listened to each group, and have made the appropriate changes to accommodate what HA has implemented and what we can do to better our league.

### **Governor's Report:**

The list of governors from this year was shared. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.



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### **Tiering and Scheduling:**

We had 45 Associations and 329 teams. 61 Novice, 102 Atom, 77 PeeWee, 49 Bantam, and 40 Midget. Losing both Stony Plain and Sturgeon to the Edmonton Federation League in 2019-20. Josephburg is joining with Strathcona who left us last year for EFL.

- Nick, Jesse, Marie and Karen work many long hard hours getting the schedules built. Nick places the teams and makes the match ups. Jesse gathers the ice slots and creates games with what Nick has given him along with what the associations have provided us for slots. Marie and Karen check what Jesse has created and offer suggestions for improvement. Example 1: team A plays team B two weekends in a row, let's switch one game to team A and team C and make sure team C has a game at a decent start time the next day. Example 2: association A has an empty ice slot on this day but they want a blackout on that day so let's find a team for them to go in the empty spot. Karen then inputs the data onto the website.
- You all received an Ice Allocator package. This is a paper version of the regulations and requirements posted on our website. We distributed it today so as you go into your planning meetings over the summer, you are armed with the information needed to obtain the ice spots that will help you the most.
- Because travel is a big issue in our league, it will help us in scheduling if we have as much flexibility with those ice slots as possible. Associations should supply a Sunday ice time that starts no earlier than 1000hrs and no later than 1300hrs and long enough to accommodate any team Atom - Midget.
- Blackout dates are limited to two this year and none allowed during tiering. If you submit more, we will keep them in mind, but we will pick which ones we will honor and you will have to re-arrange the rest.
- We will restrict the game changes for long distance games (over 200km one way) because (a) those games often come with other things like another game on the way home the next day and hotel rooms and bus bookings and (b) if the host is an outskirts association, like Fort McMurray and Jasper, they will likely have a more difficult schedule to host you on a different day because their travel is more demanding and they still need to have games in their home arena too.
- Tier 1 at all levels is open for travel to anywhere in the division has a team. We will not be able to divide up the tier 1 groups into area sub-divisions as there simply isn't enough teams. This may mean limited variety in opponents.
- We went through the 5 different groups that Nick proposes we have this year in our tiers. Each group will have a varying itinerary based on taking a central spot on our map (in Edmonton) and matching each association based on the distance from that central spot.



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### **Bylaws and Regulations:**

Revisions to the Regulations were distributed to each association through e-mail for review prior to the meeting. Opportunity for discussion and questions was provided.

- There was quite a lot of discussion about current regulations with regard to travel. NAI will continue to work on it, however we need the membership to be aware of fairness for all and that we are “all in”, meaning, no-one is excluded simply because of their distance. We have some things to work on and ice slots will be the key to making this work. We need neighbouring associations to work together so that the slots provided work better for travel.
- New for the upcoming year is the idea of the Inclement Weather policy. After much research and some trial and error over the last few years, we presented the idea that it will no longer be up to the host association to foot the full cost for a last minute postponement due to weather. Both teams will share the cost as this is only fair. Games will be expected to still be played, only they will have to be rescheduled as soon as possible for a later date. Details on what defines “inclement weather” was discussed and decided on.
- The Supplemental Discipline chart was presented and explained by Randy Mak and Jim Wood.
  - The associations decided that for individual penalty minutes, the numbers were fairly good except that there should be a difference between Bantam and Midget as Bantam are just getting started with contact, while Midget players are older and more used to it. The numbers were changed to 100 minutes for Midget and 75 for Bantam, with 25 minute increases resulting in an additional suspension, double the last one. These minutes will include everything - preseason, regular season, and playoffs. PeeWee and Atom will be as originally presented - PW 60 threshold and 15 minute increases, while Atom will be 50 and 10.
  - Some discussion was held regarding the Team penalty minutes and thresholds. What do we include? It was decided that team minutes will include both Preseason and Regular Season but will reset for playoffs because we all have a desire to keep teams in check. 50 minute interval increases would result in a doubling of the suspension, but once a team is 50 minutes over the threshold, they will be removed from league play. Threshold for Midget is 450, Bantam 350, PeeWee 250, and Atom 200.
  - Discussion on how other leagues track their penalty minutes. We will try this with our discipline people and re-evaluate next year. Hopefully we don't have much.
  - There were also a number of incidents regarding poor spectator behaviour, racial slurs, social media videos and slander, etc this year and some that were picked up by news media which caused an abrupt end to the season for some. Though it may have been blown out of proportion, we do not have room for this in minor hockey. We shared the addition to our discipline and how it is an Association's



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responsibility and not just up to the league, however as a league, we will add additional suspensions onto whatever Hockey Alberta gives out. This is in order to protect our reputation, and show that we will not tolerate it.

Motion to accept the changes to the Regulations, moved by Winfield, seconded by Onoway, Carried.

#### **New Association:**

No new applications received.

#### **Lisa Francioli Scholarship:**

NAI will be continuing the scholarship honoring past 1660 President Lisa Francioli which gives \$250 to a graduating Midget player who will be attending College or University in the fall and who demonstrates good sportsmanship and team spirit on and off the ice. We had 5 applicants this year who were all worthy. Our committee chose two who had the most commendable letters of reference. Congratulations to Colten Brenneis from CNN and Kieran Nelson from Redwater. They will both receive \$250 upon submitting proof of their enrolment in the fall.

#### **Next Season in NAI:**

- Reviewed the new affiliation rules. Teams can only affiliate up to the number of their regular season roster at any time including playoffs. No affiliation to replace a suspended player. If your roster is under 11 players, you can affiliate up to 11 players. Discussion about how the affiliation works if a player is an approved affiliate by HA, would NAI deny them? Answer - No, but the affiliate would be looked at and if determined to be an impact player, would not be approved to play in any more games.
- Overage applications need to be approved by both HA and Randy Mak. Please be mindful that you fill out the proper form and send to the proper people for signatures. NAI will update the website with a link for the proper HA forms, and we recommend you have links to those forms on your own websites too. (Easy access for parents)
- For tiering, we will be following the AB One tiering grid, and we will be asking associations to participate in a conference call for discussing the team placements when we are making the decisions on tiering. Information will be sent out so you will know how you will have an opportunity to speak. More discussion about this will be held at the Registration Meeting.
- Novice / Intro to Hockey:
  - HA has implemented a new program for this group. Each Association should have the guidelines. If not, you may get it from Hockey Alberta.
  - Wayne Olechow, our sub committee league representative, sent out all associations a survey asking for your input on the negotiables of the program. Just a little more than half have responded. If you haven't received it, please let Wayne know.



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- NAI will be helping associations with their scheduling and posting of information on the website. This will be at the same cost as your other teams.
- Mike McGinnis from Hockey Alberta's Regional Development spoke about the program. He offered for Associations to set something up with him if they needed more information or a Q and A meeting with their parents.
- Once we know how many teams there will be, we will have a better idea of what the program will look like in the NAI.
- For more information contact:
  - Wayne Olechow [sgn@nainterlock.com](mailto:sgn@nainterlock.com) (780) 504-3044
  - Mike McGinnis [mmcginnis@hockeyalberta.ca](mailto:mmcginnis@hockeyalberta.ca) (587) 982-7966

#### **Season Timeline:**

- Playoffs will be changed in order to accommodate the changes to HA Provincials.
- A draft of next year's timeline will be released later. There were too many discussion items to make a timeline prior to the meeting.

#### **Notice of Motion**

1. To allow a \$500 payment to our Vice-scheduler who works with the scheduling team and Karen to get the schedules (pre-season, regular season, and playoffs) checked for errors and omissions. This is very busy job and goes unnoticed. Moved by Barrhead, seconded by Maskwacis, carried.
2. To allow the Executive to spend up to \$1,000.00 towards the running of a Tier 5 or 6 "Provincial" tournament in either PeeWee or Bantam. This was supported by the CAHL in 2019 in Hanna for PeeWee Tier 5 because the new Provincial format does not include those 2 tiers. Moved by Athabasca, seconded by Wabasca, carried.

#### **Elections:**

##### **a. 2nd Vice-President (2 year term)**

Wendy Richards to let her name stand. Other nominations from the floor were asked for three times, no other volunteers, Wendy is 2nd VP.

##### **b. 2nd Discipline Co-ordinator**

Shawn Lauer to let his name stand. Other nominations from the floor were asked for three times, no other volunteers, Shawn is 2nd DC.



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**c. Secretary/Treasurer**

Position is open for nominations. Dody is stepping down this year but will be available to help transition the new person to the role.

Adam Edwards from CNN volunteered to do it. No other nominations or volunteers,  
\*Adam is the new Secretary/Treasurer.\*

*Discussion was held about next year. Randy Mak, President and Nick Taylor, Tiering both plan on leaving next year. We are actively searching for replacements. If someone is interested, please contact us to learn more about their roles. The actual job description is listed in our By-Laws.*

**Next meeting will be the Fall Registration Meeting.** Time and place, TBA

**Meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM**

\*After the meeting, Adam realized he cannot quit his position with his local association as he just got elected on for another term. As the position of Secretary/Treasurer is a voting member, the volunteer cannot be on a local MHA executive for reasons of conflict of interest. He will think about it and let us know. We will also continue to actively look for someone else.