

Minutes of Annual General Meeting - April 23, 2022

Commissioner, Randy Martin called the meeting to order at 11:00am

1) Approval of Agenda: Jennifer 1st, Dean Starko 2nd

- Additions to the agenda - New Business:

a) U15 playoff formatt

b) Overage

2) Minutes of last AGM - May 8, 2021

- 2021 AGM minutes were reviewed - Margaet Bayduza 1st Darcy Gulbraa 2nd

3) Business arising from minutes:

- None

4) Financial statement/report: -

- League fees are recommended to remain the same. Darcy Gulbraa made a motion to keep league fees the same at \$75 per team. Trevor Cardinal 2nd

- Randy Martin requested that the 2020 - 2021 financial statements be accepted; Ashley Whalen 1st Rob Williams 2nd;

- Hall & Company will continue to provide accounting services Randy Martin 1st, Ryan Small 2nd

- Margaet Bayduza has offered to help with the website

- Randy mentioned that games sheets will likely become automated in the future

5) Commissioners report:

- Randy Martin presented the commissioners report

- Numbers were down this year 97 teams this year

- We're working with other leagues regarding standardization

- there are still concerns of verbal abuse to players, refs, parents, spectators
- Ref numbers are down which is increasing costs as there is more travel.
- Overall, the season was good but there are always things we can improve on

6) Governors report

- U18 - Kevin Gallaway presented the U18 report

- 14 teams
- 1 gold and 2 silvers at provincials
- Issues that arose were complaints about the tiering process and social media
- 97 - 11.4 (harassment, discrimination) suspensions this season province wide. U18 lead the way.

- U15 - Aaron Starko presented the U15 report

- There was a lot of cross-over play this season
- All tiers were very competitive and had good representation at provincials. there were 2 teams who were provincial champions. Marwayne in tier 2 and Lloydminster in tier 3.
- Player and coach suspensions were down this season
- U15 may end up going away from contact. Seems that it will be sooner than later.

- U13 - Tammy Ganser presented the U13 report

- 20 teams, which is comparable to previous years
- Tammy stressed that there is a need for more volunteers. We need more volunteers for the deputy governor positions
- Tammy would like everyone to follow the affiliation grid and would like to see affiliations not being used till after the re-tier
- Ashley Whalen asked about fines to teams/associations for misconduct. Randy asked who would enforce this. The three-strike rule and zero tolerance rule don't help to fix this problem. The onus needs to be on the associations to help improve these issues.
- Dean Stark talked about a twitter video that had gone viral from LMHA. Dean talked to the parents in the stands that were a part of the problem and he said that the talk he had with them helped. The parent is no longer allowed at any team functions or

at the arena. LMHA is in full support of good behaviour and will stand up to people who are not in support of that.

- U11 - Ryan Small presented the U11 report

- 31 teams, which is down from previous years which is usually around 40.
- There was a big learning curve for players who didn't know the rules (offsides/icing). There were essentially 2 years of players that didn't know as they didn't play the previous season due to Covid
- 5 weekends of preseason next year
- Divisions were split to get as many teams playing playoff hockey as possible
- Next season will be a tournament style, comparable to a provincial format
- Would like to see cross interleague tournament

Tim Parchewsky asked why there is no U11 provincials. Randy mentioned that Hockey Alberta is interested in the development of the players and sometimes that wasn't being emphasized at the provincial tournaments. Blair Fenton was questioning why the U11 girls in Irma had a \$600 fee to play in playoffs. Randy will discuss this. Ashley Whalen said that we will need to consider this moving forward as someone will have to help cover costs for the playoff tournaments. Darcy Gulbraa mentioned that we should know who's hosting these tournaments as soon as possible. Even possibly having associations send in a bid to host the tournament.

- Director of Indigenous relations - Julia Collins

- Lac La Biche and Kikino have joined together. Julia maintains regular contact with Onion Lake and hopes to have regular contact with Saddle Lake and Frog Lake as well. Met with the indigenous group in Red Deer and that meeting went well.

7) New business

a) Affiliation review

- affiliation grid has changed. Randy discussed the affiliation amendments

b) Hockey Alberta update

- regulations, policies and procedures handbook
 - there is a new policy regarding weather for travel.

- Randy discussed the new policies from Hockey Alberta. This will be implemented by Hockey Alberta for next season

- 2023 provincial dates recap

- Hockey Alberta is moving some dates around so they will have enough officials for the tournaments

- We would lose a week of hockey with the new dates

c) Discuss interleague

- The NAI has lost some teams over the past two years. Scheduling is an issue for them. Some teams from the NAI are interested in joining the NEAHL

- Would like three to four volunteers to look into interleague games. Which teams does it make sense for and which ones it doesn't. Minimize travel and costs.

Would like the group to look into how the best way to run interleague is. Jennifer Severyn, Art Tupper 780-205-3511, Julia Collins (Chair) & Ryan Warawa 780-995-7478, rdwarawa@telus.net will join to make this committee .

- Ashley Whalen mentioned that Hockey Alberta should redraw the map for boundaries and have teams play within those boundaries. Randy said that there is nothing available that allows Hockey Alberta to mandate this.

d) Fall meeting after re-tier

- Would like to have a fall meeting after the re-tier, in person.

- 3rd week in January to have a conference call to discuss any concerns

e) U18 Non-checking tier 5/6 discussion

- this will be mandated this fall

- there was discussion why they sanction contact hockey but don't sanction non-contact hockey. Teams that are tier 1 calibre should have the option to play non-contact if they wish too.

f) Associations - Need for more volunteers

- We would like to see more volunteers step up for a deputy governor positions. Every association needs to have one person volunteer for that position.

g) U11 - longer preseason/playoff format

- Please provide any feedback to Ryan (ideas, suggestions)
- this will be done and rolled out at the beginning of the season
- Ryan said that we may have to look into a higher registration or tournament fee to cover these costs

h) Communication protocol

- there is communication protocol in place. It's important for everyone to follow this. Parents should voice their concerns to their associations and not to the league

i) U15 Playoff formatt

- there was concern why tier 2 teams had to play tier 1 teams in playoffs. The tiers were told at the start of the season (October) that half of the teams would be playing for tier 1 provincials and the other half for tier 2 provincials

j) Overage

- overage applications are done a case by case situation. U18 is unlikely to happen but any other divisions would likely get approved
- Randy Hupka drafts the overage application and then sends it to the league for governor approval

k) Request for addition to the NEAHL (vote)

- Battle River Minor Hockey
 - would be bringing in 6 teams. The issue with NAI is the travel. motion to accept. Robert 1st Darcy 2nd
- Vegreville Minor Hockey
 - would be bringing in 7 teams. The issue with NAI is the lack of communication and feel that the NAI is slowly disbanding. motion to accept. Brent Elliot 1st Tim Parchewsky 2nd

8) Elections

- U13 Governor - Tammy Ganser
- U15 Governor - Aaron Starko
- Commissioner - Randy Martin
- Website/Technical support - Margaret Bayduza

9) Adjournment - 3:47pm