

North Eastern Alberta Hockey League

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Minutes for Pre- Season Meeting September 11, 2024

Time – 1900 hours to 2100 hours

In attendance – All Executive and Association executives

Start Meeting – 19:00 hrs

- 1. Introductions of members and note that all new members for associations to go to website and update association contact sheet. Please update and send to Margaret.
- 2. Preseason overview
 - Registration online and deadline is October 4th. Please note that you can do the registration early if needed
 - Preseason dates October 18th through November 8th (4 weekends)
Discussed that if teams are ready early and want to start early, please let their perspective Governors know, and they can start earlier. Looking for a minimum of 6 games to be played.
 - Jasper (Anna) noted that Jasper rink may not be ready for a bit and therefore requires away games for the first bit. Jasper will let us know when they are ready for home games
 - Executive had a meeting prior to this meeting and decided to not charge Jasper teams registration fee for the 2024/2025 season.
 - Games will be assigned by the Governors/Deputies weekly and will notify the Managers of the respective teams which in turn will be responsible for scheduling and getting the games completed.
 - Some discussion around timing – ideally require games to be scheduled no later than Monday night for associations to schedule and allow sufficient time for refs to get scheduled as well.
 - Update discussion around changes to affiliations rules. This will be monitored closely as far as for strength. Also discussed concerns around U9 to U11.
 - Discussed changes to Overage such as U18 November to December age kids and still in school. All overages will be monitored with regards to strengthening and or excessive penalties.

- Discussed substitute goalie form change. Form will be coming out over the next couple of weeks. The intent is to make it easier for teams to get substitutes when required.
- Re -Tier
 - The meeting will be held the night of November 12. Communication will be done thru Deputies to Managers and first weekend will be scheduled within 24 hours and all other games will be done within 72 hours for scheduling. If you are in a split tier suggest only schedule till Christmas but ensure you have ice slots for post-Christmas till playoffs secured.
 - Final week before Christmas if there is any changes as far as tier the executive will review and make final decision that week.
- Regular Season will start November 15
 - Discussion around ice requirements (typically 20 game season plus or minus pending teams per division) as well discussed how suspension will be handled.
 - Split tiers – teams will be split up in the final week of December and reschedule gone thru with teams impacted.
 - Some discussion around this but overall wait and see how teams end up being placed
 - Emphasis on travel, Hockey Alberta doing up a matrix – rural will always have issues balancing travel and competitive games.
- Provincial Dates
 - U13/U15 March 20-23
 - U18 March 27-30
- Playoffs
 - Playoff format for all groups will be proposed/considered/recommended on night of November 12th.
 - Playoff format finalized – 1st draft (executive to review) January 10th and final draft January 15th out to association contacts as well as Managers.
 - Three weekends for playoffs
 - U11 may vary a bit pending groupings – may only require 2 weekends
 - U13/U15 – last week of league is February 16th
 - This will give you 13 weeks of play 6 before Christmas and 7 in the new year
 - U18 – last week of Feb 23rd
 - This will give you 14 weeks of play 6 before Christmas and 8 in the new year.
 - U11 – Tournament style, finalized by mid January make up – League to play to 1st week of March.
 - There will be emphasis on good communication going out to the Associations to ensure no miss understandings.
- Governor Discussions
 - U11 thru U18- General discussion around tiering etc. Asking associations to do their best in placing teams up front. Overall little conversations here, have Governors with lots of experience.

- Julie – Discussed Indigenous update and monthly meetings to be schedule. Will set up schedule on our website when it is finalized. Julie also indicated that all are welcome to attend and she will do up a discussion topic to allow people to get an idea of what the meeting structure will be.
- Margaret – Excellent discussion around game sheets and examples where people can go and test it out. Was discussed that all Associations should try and get one or two supports within their associations. Note Margaret is always available to help.
 - Margaret also discussed U7/U9 website support and discussed possible ways that she could get the information to allow for simpler application and allow for easier access.
 - Margaret discussed registration forms and how to get teams registration for the upcoming season.
- Discussion around Tournament playoff structure or league group play (tournament style), Host team looks after organizing and paying refs/ice and invoices teams/associations within 72 hours after tournament. Teams have to pay within 5 business days from receipt of invoice. There was discussion around pay per game or split evenly across 5 teams. This will be discussed at the executive level and finalized by Mid-January.
 - If not paid the fine will be \$500 and will be required to be paid in full prior to any association team play.
- Discussion penalty box management. We implemented last season 1 visiting parent manning the penalty box door. This will continue.

This group will schedule a meeting in the third week in January to discuss concerning items and update any required communication that has been provided and or discussed.

Meeting come to conclusion 8:45. Overall excellent attendance and support.

Thanks to you all

Randy Martin