

## Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA) Annual General Meeting

Date: July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00pm

Location: Videoconference – via Zoom

### 1.0 Call to Order: President [Jarrett Thompson]

- 7:05 pm

### 2.0 Adoption of 2019 AGM Minutes: Approved by Karen Major; Seconded by Tracey Gillies.

### 3.0 Appreciation was expressed toward all of the many NGHA volunteers who dedicated their time to ensuring the success of the NGHA throughout the 2019-20 season. Special mention was offered to the following NGHA volunteers:

Ice Scheduler:	Scott Boassaly
Equipment:	Pierre St. Pierre
Finance Admin:	Karine Tremblay
Certification:	Machelle Giovagnoli
FUNDamentals Coach:	Madison Erbach
Bingo Coordinator:	Machelle Giovagnoli
Head Timekeeper:	Sherry Jones
Timekeeping Assignor:	Sherry Jones
Website Coordinator:	David Hunter
Tournament Registrar:	Murray Cameron
Tournament Director:	Wendy Baldin
HL Convenors:	Tracey Gillies, Lisa Camilucci, Lisa Brennan, Jennifer Steeves, Jennifer Esdaile
DS Convenor:	David Hunter
Competitive Convenors:	Dean O'Brien, Jamie Leppard, Brent Byrnes, Dave Nordquist

### 4.0 Reports from Directors and Committees

#### President [Jarrett Thompson]

Reflection was offered on the impact of the exceptional situation with the Covid-19 pandemic on minor hockey and families within our association. It was recognized that there are a lot of questions about what hockey may look like for next year. Prior to offering some answers, clarification was provided to explain how the NGHA is governed, falling under Hockey Canada overall, Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) provincially, and the Ottawa District Women's Hockey Association (ODWHA) regionally. It was reported that Hockey Canada has stated that the plan for return to hockey will be directed regionally (ODWHA) and that the primary goal of the ODWHA is to get the players back on the ice safely in compliance with directives from the OWHA. It was strongly encouraged that Members read the ODWHA and OWHA websites for up to date information.

The highlights of what is known to date about the return to hockey direction were provided. It was emphasized that there is a lot of uncertainty and fluidity concerning the upcoming 2020-21 season and that the details of the OWHA Return-to-Play instructions depend on public health direction, as dictated by the pandemic. It was clarified that given the magnitude of the larger public health crisis under the Covid-19 pandemic, the NGHA has little say in how hockey may proceed. It was further explained that the provincial, municipal authorities, as well as ice providers may impose specific rules and requirements which the NGHA will be required to follow. Finally, it was recognised that there will be an enormous amount of work required to get the players back on the ice safely and that a lot of help will be required.

Frequently asked questions were answered to inform Membership with current information, as follows: It is unclear whether there will be games next year; At any point, things may change and there is a lot of unpredictability; It is unclear whether there will be tryouts (currently not allowed); The primary goal is to get players on the ice safely; There are no tournaments being sanctioned by OWHA at this point; There will be no provincials at this point; There will be no

meaningful differences between girls' and boys' hockey in terms of the return to play; and It is important that we all work together and cooperate with protocols that support play under safe conditions.

Finally, it was recognized as being a very challenging time. The President acknowledged that this is his last term as president and asked for the membership to support the new Board of Directors as it will be an incredibly challenging time. The Board of Directors has been putting in an incredible amount of work already to prepare for the AGM and upcoming season and the President expressed his thanks and appreciation of all of the work.

#### Vice-President of Programs [Karla Clarke]

An overview of our Programs (FUNdamentals; House League; Competitive; Program of Excellence [new this year]) was presented.

The promotion and encouragement of female coaching was reported to be an important initiative started this year to increase the participation of girls and women in all aspects of female hockey. Specifically, the Board of Directors resolved this year to have at least one female coach/assistant-coach on every competitive and house league team. In the House League/DS program, there were 5 female head coaches across 40 teams. In the Competitive/POE programs, there were 4 female head coaches across 22 teams. The importance of recruiting, developing, and retaining female coaches was acknowledged as a continued priority. A main goal as an association was stated as encouraging our players to come back and be coaches in the NGHA. An announcement was made requesting that any graduating Wildcats interested in pursuing coaching, to please contact the Vice President of Programs.

The success of the competitive Season was celebrated:

- 13 teams were provincial qualifiers prior to the season being shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic: PWHL, MCAA, MCAx2, MCBBx2, MCC, BCAA, BCA, BCBB, PCAA, PCC, ACAA
- League Champions (7 teams): ACAA, PCAA, BCBB, BCA, MCC, MCBB, MCAA
- Competitive Championship weekend (11 teams): ACAA, PCA, PCAA, BCBBx2, BCA, BCAA, MCC, MCBB, MCA, MCAA. Banners were presented. Special mention to POE – all three teams made provincials this year PW, BCAA and MCAA. University commitments – 16 girls were committed to a university (in Canada and USA). Most of our MCAA have moved on to the intermediate hockey program.
- Thanks to all of the competitive convenors

Appreciation was extended to the House League Directors (Tracey Gillies and Wendy Baldin) and the house league team of volunteers. The hard work of the house league volunteers was acknowledged to have resulted in a very successful season.

Appreciation was also extended to the coach mentors – Ron Graham and Angus Boyd – who did an amazing job supporting and guiding coaches in both the competitive and house league programs.

#### House League Director [Tracey Gillies]

A summary of the 2019-20 season was provided highlighting a very successful year for the 36 house league teams from novice to midget.

Cross-ice hockey was introduced at the novice (U9) level, as mandated by Hockey Canada. The novice teams were run at Carleton University where the special bumpers were stored. The level of development throughout the season was tremendous and unprecedented.

Championship weekend took place over the March 6-8<sup>th</sup> 2020 weekend (just prior to the Covid-19 shutdown). It was very successfully run out of the Bell Sensplex for the first time ever and offered the opportunity for all families to gather at one venue. The NGHA hopes that in seasons to come, the house league championship weekend will be able to run out of the Bell Sensplex again.

The NGHA house league program had four female head coaches and many additional female assistant coaches and bench staff. There were also two young adult female head coaches who were non-parents who were paired with a

coach mentor and had very successful seasons. The NGHHA welcomes the opportunity to support more young female former players wishing to coach as non-parents.

A big thank-you was extended to Angus Boyd, our coach mentor, whose support and guidance was greatly appreciated this season.

The tremendous amount of work by convenors in preparing for, carrying out and closing the season was recognized. Appreciation was offered to all of the volunteers who made the season run successfully. A special thanks was extended to Pierre St. Pierre who did an incredible job with getting the goalie equipment back up to a great standard for the players to use.

The success of out of town tournaments by our house league teams was acknowledged with a lot of gold and silver medals brought home.

#### Registrar [Gerard Gagnon]

A high level overview of Registration was presented for the 2019-20 season with 984 players in total (making the NGHHA in the top 5 Associations by size in the province). Registration for the 2020-21 season was reported to stand at 800 players. A reminder was provided that the deadline to register for the upcoming season was July 26th (to allow for planning ice requirements). In accordance with Hockey Canada, the NGHHA has aligned our division names to reflect the age groups (i.e. U18, formerly called Midget etc,..)

#### Policy, Risk and Safety Director [Stephen Bent]

A review of policy, risk and safety-related updates was provided including improvements to certification process (i.e. 3-year PRC to align with the OWHA policy) and the use of the online yearly declaration form, which was reported to have reduced work for volunteers and follow-up by Head of Certification (Machelle Giovagnoli). A reminder was provided that certifications are of critical importance in a minor hockey association and appreciation was offered to all the members for their attention and time in ensuring their certifications are current.

The trainer orientation sessions, lead by House League directors (with help from Machelle Giovagnoli), were reported to be very well-received. It was noted that these sessions will be a continued practice going forward as the sessions proved to be very helpful and successful.

Additional updates that occurred throughout the season were reviewed including improvements in suspension reporting and changes to the Dressing Room Policy (implications for U18 in 2020-21).

A big thank-you was extended to all volunteers who keep our players safe!

The NGHHA constitutional revisions were highlighted and reported to reflect OWHA direction, as follows:

- Section 5.6: Revision to the tie-breaking provisions for Board voting
- Section 7.5: Standard wording pertaining to Association borrowing authorities
- Section 8.1 (c): Expectation that Members will comply with Hockey Canada, OWHA and NGHHA rules and regulations
- Section 8.2 (c): Standard wording around termination of membership
- Section 8.3: Revisions to clarify the procedures for discipline or termination of membership for Cause
- Section 9.1(b): Revised timelines for notice of Annual General Meeting
- Section 9.6 (h): Revision to the tie-breaking provisions for member voting

Further NGHHA constitutional changes were reviewed, including an amendment to remove the position of the Ice Director position from the Board of Directors.

**The MOTION ‘approval of the revised NGHA Constitution, as posted on the NGHA website, dated July 2020’** was Moved by Stephen Bent; Seconded by Karen Major

#### **5.0 Finance [Tony Matson]**

- An update on the NGHA bank account balance was provided (balance of approximately \$172K with no liabilities);
- It was reported that the NGHA financial statement will be audited by WPG
- Given the uncertainties of the upcoming year, there should be flexibility for adjustments as needed.

**The MOTION ‘approval of the continued use of WPG Accounting firm as the auditors’** was Moved by Tony Matson; Seconded by Les Banks

#### **6.0 2020 Bursary Award winners were announced:**

Mary Lou Zywicki Bursary - Successful Applicants:

- Kendra McDonnell
- Bailey O’Brien
- Lauren Poole
- Nadine Basil
- Molly Gautreau
- Jennifer McGraw

Toni Guimaraes Bursary Award - Successful Applicants:

- Danika Gareau
- Jennifer McGraw

#### **7.0 Election of Officers and Directors: [President]**

Acclaimed positions:

- President (2 years) : Tracey Gillies
- Vice President of Programs (2 years) : Karla Clarke
- House League Director (2 years) : Lisa Camilucci
- House League Director (1 year) : Wendy Baldin
- Policy, Risk and Safety Director (2 years) : Stephen Bent

Presentation of candidates for Registrar:

- Andrea Sacca, Gerard Gagnon.  
→ Winner through majority vote announced – Congratulations to Gerard Gagnon

Presentation of candidates for Competitive Director:

- Vince Sacca, Mike Speer  
→ Winner through majority vote announced – Congratulations to Mike Speer

Gratitude and appreciation was expressed to Jarrett Thompson for his significant contribution as President.

**8.0 Adjournment (9:00 pm)** – Motion to adjourn the 2021 AGM moved by Karen Major; seconded by Chad Chambers.

Approximate duration: 2 hours