

# Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

## 2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 31, 2020

**Time:** 7:45 pm

**Location:** Video-conferencing

**Present:** Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Lisa Camilucci, Gerard Gagnon, Jarrett Thompson, Stephen Bent, Karla Clarke, Mike Speer, Wendy Baldin, Les Banks

**Regrets:** Chad Chambers, Tony Matson

**1.0** Call to Order [President]: 7:48 pm

**2.0** Minutes from the August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 Board of Directors' meetings approved by Wendy Baldin (seconder: Gerard Gagnon)

**3.0** Introductions [President]

An update was provided regarding the first teleconference of the new season with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA). Both the NGHA President and Vice President of Operations were in attendance. All updates from the OWHA are listed on the OWHA website. At this point in time, the OWHA have prepared their plan for the next phase but are waiting until direction is received from the Province for implementation.

A reminder was provided indicating that the new ice insurance is active as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. It was announced that the city of Ottawa assigned ice is not available until the end of September.

A follow-up report on email accounts was provided indicating that the Board of Directors will be migrating to Gmail accounts. Given the criteria for signing up as a not-for profit organization (rather than a charity), it was confirmed that it is best that each individual Board Member sign up individually using a consistent format for the new domain (e.g. secretary.[ngha@gmail.com](mailto:ngha@gmail.com))

It was reported that an email will go out to Membership tomorrow with an update on Coach selections and a reminder about the last day to register. This email will also explain the process on team formations and information on imports.

**4.0** Policy, Safety and Risk [Director of Policy, Risk and Safety]

An update on the Covid-19 committee was provided, as follows:

- The committee is continuing to meet each Sunday.
- The Program of Excellence (POE) ice times have provided a great pilot opportunity to implement the safety protocols prior to the regular season beginning for all teams. In one case, a POE player experienced symptoms in line with some of the covid-19 symptoms. The protocol was implemented to isolate this player from others and instruct that this player get tested for Covid-19.

The player followed the instructions and was quarantined until she received a negative Covid-19 test result (which was received within 24 hours). In this case, the trainer was on top of the situation immediately and the process worked smoothly. The coach and player/family were fully compliant with the protocols in prioritizing the health and safety for everyone involved.

- The TeamSnap Covid-19 functionality was reviewed and appears to work well. There may be some modifications to specific Covid-19 questions in the App to ensure they align with the OWHA and city of Ottawa protocols and procedures.
- Web content to explain how everything will work pertaining to the Covid-19 protocols and procedures will be posted soon
- The Vice President of Operations is working with an experienced NGHA trainer who has a background in health care, to procure personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitizer through commercial suppliers (more cost effective than retail). Once teams are set, details of PPE distribution will be worked out.
- A communications protocol is being worked through to determine how best to handle communications about positive cases
- Information will be ready for dissemination as it was recognized that given the delay to the season start, all team volunteers may not be lined up for a few weeks. Information sessions will be planned for coaches, trainers etc,...

A discussion took place confirming logistics surrounding protocols for players arriving to arenas fully dressed including skates on (with guards). Minor modifications to protocols have been working well with the POE ice times. These modifications have included permitting players to carry skates into the arena to put on and allowing goalies only to put some of their gear on in the dressing rooms, as it is recognized that it is significantly more difficult for goalies to arrive fully dressed in their gear.

A discussion took place reiterating that protocols and procedures directed from the OWHA and/or the city of Ottawa/arena specific (e.g. Sensplex, Carleton University) will be followed and in cases of differences in criteria, the default will always be to the more stringent directive. It is recommended that each player carry a Ziploc bag for mask storage on the bench (when they remove their mask to go onto the ice). It was also recognized that protocols and procedures may be adjusted, as per communication from the OWHA and city of Ottawa, given any changes in public health directives. The importance of the trainers' orientation sessions was emphasized. These sessions will be planned soon.

## **5.0 Registration [Registrar]**

An update on number of players registered to date was provided as follows (note: numbers are expected to change prior to registration closing):

- U7 (FUNdamentals): 31
- U9: 65
- U11: 115 --> 43 Comp ; 72 House
- U13: 141--> 68 Comp; 73 House
- U15: 141--> 83 Comp; 58 House
- U18: 140-->92 Comp; 47 House

It was acknowledged that these numbers do not include 20 additional registrations received after the update was run. It was also reported that there has been a high number of players released at U18 (house league). Numbers will be closely monitored, especially for goalies at U18 house league as it was noted that there were only two registered to date.

## **6.0 House league [House League Directors, Policy, Risk and Safety Director]**

The following updates were provided:

- Coaches have all been contacted. At this time, the numbers support having 4 groups at every level; although this might change depending on registration.
- A coaches' meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- The managers' meeting is being planned via Zoom (date to be confirmed).
- There are two convenors returning (U13 and U15) and a new convenor for U11. An active search is underway for convenors for U9 and U18.
- The groups will be formed once competitive groups are formed.

Questions were raised regarding whether U9 will be practicing on a cross-ice format (as per the new format introduced in 2019-20) and how social distancing will be maintained in that regard. It was confirmed that cross-ice format will still be implemented for U9 and that the numbers permitted on the ice will be in compliance with the directives from the City of Ottawa and OWHA (following the more stringent criteria).

## **7.0 Finance [Treasurer]**

- N/A

## **8.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs, Competitive Directors, President]**

The following updates were reported with respect to the competitive program:

- Coaches are now finalized and have been notified. The coaches will be posted on the NGHA website and Members will be notified via an email communication (to be sent September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020).
- The Programs Committee will examine all the numbers once registration is closed to determine what works best and determine if any changes are required.
- Two new convenors are required for the 2020-21 season and two candidates with manager experience have been identified as possible candidates (waiting final confirmation)
- POE teams have almost been decided and the competitive teams will move forward once everything is finalized.
- Dates for managers' and coaches' meetings (via Zoom) have yet to be determined.
- We are waiting for the communication from the OWHA regarding coach certifications. This concerns coaches who do not have all of their certifications up to date (and largely affects U9) due to no courses being offered because of the shutdowns under the Covid-19 pandemic. In the meantime, it is recommended that relevant online coaching courses be considered (many are free and required to maintain credentials) and a listing of these courses will be sent to coaches. Coordination of the Certification volunteer and coaches' mentors will take place to ensure consistent messaging.

The following program updates were provided:

- POE teams (U22, U18 and U15) will start before the rest of the teams start (week of September 8<sup>th</sup>).
- The NGHA regular season will start the week of Sept 28<sup>th</sup> for both House League and competitive programs

- The teams will be formed starting this week after registration closes. The House League/Competitive coaches have been finalized and notified and will be posted on the website tomorrow.

### **9.0 Operations**

An update was provided on city of Ottawa ice. The originally assigned ice has been re-assigned with new contracts as there is limited ice availability due to reduced arena operations. It was reported that all teams will now be starting the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ice for the POE has been scheduled from the limited ice available.

It was reported that there have been no additional changes from the city of Ottawa on protocols in their facilities but that we are monitoring the situation. Any changes (e.g. in numbers allowed on the ice) will be communicated to Members.

### **10.0 Round table items**

A new NGHHA Communications Manager volunteer was announced (Dave Davies). His role in posting updates on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook is greatly appreciated. A reminder was provided to always ensure that all material for Website or social media posting is in a ready format as there will not be any edits made prior to posting by either the Website Coordinator or the Communications Manager.

Motion to close the Board meeting by Stephen Bent (seconder: Lisa Camilucci)

Meeting closed 8:19 pm