

# Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

## 2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Video-conferencing

**Present:** Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Lisa Camilucci, Gerard Gagnon, Stephen Bent, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers, Karine Tremblay (guest)

**Regrets:** Tony Matson, Mike Speer, Wendy Baldin

**1.0** Call to Order [President]: 7:01 pm

**2.0** Minutes from the November 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 Board of Directors meetings approved by Karla Clarke (seconder: Lisa Camilucci)

**3.0** Welcoming remarks [President]

An update on the 'Gmail' email accounts was provided indicating that all Board Members and volunteers have Gmail accounts activated and the old NGHA email server will be shut down as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. It was also reported that the NGHA Website has been updated and any content for posting on the website should go through the Communications Manager (Claire Bellefeuille via [NGHACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:NGHACommunications@gmail.com)).

A report was provided from a discussion with the Director of Operations at the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA). During this conversation, the OWHA Director of Operations expressed that team bubble partners would not be permitted to switch, even if a two-week break period occurred in between switches.

The Ottawa-area Association Presidents continue to meet regularly to discuss how each association's operations and programming are running through the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

An update was provided on Covid-19 protocols and procedures within the NGHA. It was reported that there have been a couple of positive cases since the last update and both instances were handled well. In one of the cases, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) requested direct contact with the affected team's coach in order to ascertain further information to determine next steps.

A discussion took place regarding team scrimmages and the varied and differing views on best approaches. In some cases, coaches have expressed reservations about engaging in scrimmages due to the potential for increased exposures. In all instances, the NGHA is strictly adhering to the OPH rules with respect to the numbers permitted on the ice and Covid-19 protocols. It was emphasized that families can decide to not participate in

scrimmages or ice times at any time and that greater understanding will be afforded given the exceptionalities of this year.

## **5.0 Registration [Registrar]**

An update on registration was provided as the second session registration was opened for house league and competitive programs. It was reported that there are only a few remaining spots open as most players are returning for the second session.

The following report was provided based on a call with the OWHA:

- OWHA is actively looking for any associations/coaches that are circumventing the Covid-19 rules by running dry-land, renting extra ice, etc,.. outside the confines of their association. Violations will be met with fines including \$1000 issued to associations and suspensions (3 months) for coaches. Insurance will also be removed in cases where guidelines are not followed. The OWHA communicated their expectations that associations apply the Covid-19 rules and indicated that they will not tolerate excuses. Associations can apply stricter penalties for violations of the Covid-19 rules.
- At the present time, instructions are to keep following the rules for modified play (3 on 3, 4 on 4) with a progression towards modified 5 on 5 play being planned.
- Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 all games (modified 4 on 4) are required to be entered on the electronic game sheets on RAMP after every game.
- OWHA updates will continue to be posted on the OWHA website.

## **6.0 Competitive [Competitive Director]**

An update was provided indicating that registration for the second session opened with communications to teams clarifying what fees were required to cover the fall competitive surcharge and ice adjustments, as well as the second session fees. It was reported that there were a lot of outstanding competitive fees owed to date.

## **7.0 House League [House League Director]**

The following updates were reported:

- The main focus over the past couple of weeks has been on registration for the next session.
- Registration has been opened first to returning players and so far, most players have re-registered. Only a few players have indicated they will not be returning for the winter session.
- Returning players were given a deadline to register by and were also sent reminders. Registrations have just opened to new players on a first-come first-served basis.
- There are a few spots available at every level for new registrants and there has been a lot of interest in the past few weeks from new players looking to register.

## **8.0 Operations [Vice President Programs, President]**

The Programs Committee will continue to meet to discuss issues affecting teams including the examination of ice requirements and player losses for second sessions. The competitive player registration deadline has been communicated and it was reported that there may be groupings of players (especially at the U18 division) not returning for the second session.

It was reported that there may be changes in ice scheduling for the second session due to a loss of approximately 10hrs/week of weekend ice for the winter session. The ice schedule will be examined closely prior to releasing the schedule to teams.

An update was provided that there will be a meeting tonight with coaches of teams who do not have an internal team for bubbling to discuss external bubbling.

## **9.0 Finance**

An update was provided on the Finance Committee, which held its first meeting of the season. The meeting focused on breaking down the budget line by line and it was determined that additional details and information were required in order to clarify the specific budget items. The overall goal was identified as creating an operating budget for increased transparency and to facilitate future planning. It was decided that until this operating budget has been sorted through and cleared, no additional purchases will be approved. The committee will be meeting again in January.

## **10.0 Round table items**

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Stephen Bent (seconder: Gerard Gagnon)

Meeting closed 7:59 pm