

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2019-2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10th, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Minto Recreation Centre, Echo Room

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Jarrett Thompson, Stephen Bent, Les Banks, Mike Speer, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers

Regrets: Tony Matson, Wendy Baldin

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 7:05 pm

2.0 Minutes from February 11th, 2020 Board meeting - will be approved at a later date (TBD)

3.0 Introductions [President]

- Welcoming remarks

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

- The need for clarification surrounding team budgets was discussed. It was agreed that convenors should send communications to coaches (for communication with managers and treasurers, as applicable) regarding expenses and fundraising. Reminders should indicate that the budget lines must be followed. The importance of clear communication to parents regarding budgets and spending should be emphasized. The importance of issuing refunds and closing team bank accounts within reasonable timeframes should be conveyed.
- It was reported that the Director of Policy, Risk and Safety will be updating the Constitution over the next month. Additionally, all NGHA policies will be updated to replace division names according to the new Hockey Canada directive.
- The NGHA 'Dressing Room' policy updates regarding the requirement for den moms at the midget level were discussed. It was agreed that communication will be sent to all teams indicating these changes must be in place no later than provincials (April 3rd 2020).
- A discussion took place regarding the upcoming elections and procedures.

5.0 Registration [Registrar]

- An update was provided indicating that 12 NGHA teams qualified for provincials.
- The registration process was discussed indicating that registration for tryouts and the 2020-21 season will be opened soon. The new divisions names have been added to the registration form with 'formerly bantam' etc, next to each new division name to reduce confusion. The importance of clarity surrounding the registration

dates/late dates was stressed to avoid players registering to try-out without registering for the season.

- Additional details regarding the season/tryout registration process were discussed as follows:
 - Whether any changes in registration fees were required.
 - The use of social media to advertise registration opening.
 - Ice scheduling to be confirmed once numbers of registrations are received. Tryout dates will be posted following the registration email (indicating that the dates may be subject to change).
 - Coach selections and tiers within each division.
 - Importance of communicating that players do not need to start tryouts at the highest level. As per the 'Formation of Competitive Teams' policy, it is recommended that players begin the tryout process at no more than one tier higher than that for which they wish to be selected.
- It was reported that there have been some queries regarding eligibility to register. In one case, a player who had played in a boy's league was inquiring whether she was considered as an import. It was clarified that since this player had never been rostered on an OWHA team within the Ottawa District Womens Hockey Association (ODWHA) boundaries, she would not be considered an import.

6.0 House league [House League Directors]

- An update on the year-end championship weekend was provided as follows:
 - It was a great success with no reported problems.
 - The venue was new this year with all games taking place at the Bell Sensplex. This venue was reported to have worked really well with all four ice pads being used, bringing NGHA families together in a setting that accommodated more people compared to previous venues.
 - The hockey was a lot of fun with a few upsets and exciting shootouts. The first ever novice skills competition was well organized with lots of parents cheering from the stands and player excitement on the ice (including receiving the medals).
 - It was nice to hear that many coaches were raving about referees over the course of the weekend.
- The season has now been completed and the wrap-up process has started (budgets, goalie equipment return etc.). An update was provided that house league coach selection for the 2020-21 season is almost complete. To facilitate the jersey transition process, the goal is for jersey handoff to go from current coaches to next year's coaches. The year-end coaches meeting has been booked for the end of March.
- It was clarified that ice requirements for next season have yet to be finalized.
- The vacant House League Director positions were discussed. Vacant positions will be posted for application prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The House League Director volunteered to organize the AGM.

7.0 Finance [Treasurer – Update provided in advance]

- N/A

8.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs, Competitive Directors]

- A discussion on the new OWHA policy regarding den moms at the midget level took place. The importance of communication to teams was emphasized.

- Player affiliation and sibling participation in practices was discussed due to some expressed concerns. It was agreed that a reminder should be conveyed to coaches that NGHHA policies must be followed. Convenors must receive the proper affiliation requests where applicable (as per the NGHHA Affiliation Policy). Siblings who are not on the approved roster as coaching staff, should not be on the ice for practices unless they are an affiliate player or an on-ice helper (meeting the NGHHA requirements). At the next coaches meeting, clarification will be provided regarding this issue.
- The upcoming tryout schedule was discussed as starting on April 14th and 15th with the goalies and wrapping up by May 3rd. A reminder of the Atom tryout process was provided (four skates available after new school year starts during which cuts cannot take place). The need for sufficient off-ice and on-ice helpers to support this process was raised.
- The selection of the competitive coaches for the upcoming 2020-21 season was discussed. The possibility and logistics of a Midget C team (lower commitment) were considered. The best approach for announcing coaches to membership was discussed as some coaches have yet to be determined.

9.0 Other updates [House League Director]

- An update on the 2020-21 NGHHA tournament was provided indicating that there has been discussion with the Bell Sensplex regarding changing the proposed date for the competitive NGHHA tournament (switching the house league and competitive tournament dates). Further details to come as no decisions have been finalized to date.
- The NGHHA bursary process was discussed. A review committee will be formed to review applications in preparation for the AGM.

10.0 Round table items

- N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Gerard Gagnon (seconder: Tracey Gillies)

Meeting closed 8:44 pm

April 7th – Next Board meeting