

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13th, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Video-conferencing

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Lisa Camilucci, Gerard Gagnon, Jarrett Thompson, Stephen Bent, Wendy Baldin, Les Banks, Chad Chambers

Regrets: Tony Matson, Karla Clarke, Mike Speer

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 7:06 pm

2.0 Minutes from the September 7th, 2020, September 21th, 2020 and September 28th 2020 Board of Directors' meetings approved by Wendy Baldin (seconded: Gerard Gagnon)

3.0 Policy, Safety and Risk [Policy, Risk and Safety Director; President, All]

An issue was brought forward by several Members who had received a letter from Ottawa Public Health (OPH) dated October 12, 2020, regarding a partial outbreak at St. Joseph High school. All grades 9-12 students and staff, as well as two grade 8 classes, were sent home for distance learning for a minimum of two weeks. Further instruction was provided that for all students/staff who attend any portion of the school that is currently in an outbreak situation should self-monitor closely for symptoms of covid-19 and that OPH strongly recommends that they not attend any facilities where physical distancing cannot be maintained, in particular, childcare centres, extra-curricular groups etc,.. Based on the wording in this letter from OPH, it was considered important to communicate to all Members that NGHA players who are affected by the closure are not permitted to attend NGHA practices until such time as Ottawa Public Health indicates that it is safe to do so. An email will be sent to all members tomorrow.

A discussion about outbreaks at other schools in the NGHA catchment area took place. It was determined that OPH is directing schools differently depending on the specific outbreak situation and that in another school that had been closed due to an outbreak, there was no direction provided regarding extra-curricular groups. The Policy, Risk and Safety Director confirmed that he would follow-up with OPH to gain a better understanding of the protocols surrounding school outbreaks.

A quick debrief from the Covid-19 Committee meeting on Sunday October 11th 2020 was provided, as follows:

Physical Distancing

- Continue to reinforce clear message of no contact and battle drills
- Coaches should take time at a practice to demonstrate distancing
- Coaches and trainers need to reinforce
 - spacing out bottles/water breaks

- spacing out when lining up for drills
- dividing team into smaller groups to more easily manage spacing
- Need to find a simple way to illustrate 6-foot rule i.e. two stick lengths
- Competitive Directors to organize coach's meeting
- Coaches need access to covid-friendly practice plans. Important role for Coach mentors to help coaches implement.
- Coaches can put six foot markers on ice to assist with lineups.

Group Dryland.

- Concerns over lack of distancing.
- Committee recommendation to prohibit dryland going forward - focus on on-ice.
- Recommendation is coaches/trainers provide individual-based programs if dryland is wanted

Hockey Bags / Dressing Rooms.

- Current system is generally working well. Stay the course and revisit in November. Send out reminder that large bags not allowed.
- Need to send out a reminder re: arriving dressed, and only removing essential items before exiting room
- Need to revisit concerns regarding players who drive long distances (e.g. U22 team).

Compliance with COVID requirements

- Should be a shared responsibility so not all on the trainers
- Cover at coach's meeting

Attendance at Practices

- Remind parents that absence due to illness, self-isolation requirements or other COVID-19 related considerations (i.e. absences to reduce risk to others) fully supported by NGHA.
- Includes Families who chose to remove players prior to Christmas break to self-isolate to visit high-risk family.
- Also reinforce with coaches that they should not be imposing sanctions for absences from practices this season

4.0 Registration [Registrar, Vice Preside of Operations]

The competitive surcharge will be calculated as based on extra ice allotment (third ice time and 1.5 hours versus 1 hour ice). It was confirmed that all competitive teams will be charged a surcharge of \$200/player for the third ice time per week. All teams with 1.5 hour ice will be charged an additional amount in addition to that \$200 to cover the extra ice. The Program of Excellence (POE) teams will be charged additional fees on top of the competitive surcharge reflecting their extra ice times and to cover the costs of the professional videographer for university submissions.

The Registrar confirmed that there are a few outstanding signatures required in the OWHA system that require following up with to complete. It was confirmed that all registrations fees have been paid to date.

Plans are to open up registration for the second session sometime in mid November.

5.0 House league [House League Directors]

The following House League updates were provided:

- House league had their first weekend of hockey October 3-4 and everything went smoothly. There has been a ton of positive feedback received, mostly concerning the protocols put into place.
- There was some confusion from a couple of teams as to where den moms should stand during practice. Some took the message of "stand behind the glass" to stand in the warm area of the rink, and as such were directed by arena staff to either move to the stands (at Minto) or leave the facility (at Carleton). A message will be sent out to teams to clarify that they should be standing behind the glass in the cold area of the rink, and not on the bench.
- Jerseys: communications have gone out to last year's house league coaches to connect them with this year's coaches to do a jersey hand off. House League coaches from last year who do not have a team will be instructed to drop off jerseys at a specified location.
- Teams will be contacted to ask them to confirm their goalie coaches. One of the coaches has agreed to help provide some goalie development plans that we can share with the coaches who are unsure of how to work with goalies. It is a priority to ensure the goalies are being engaged during practices.

6.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs (emailed update), Competitive Directors]

An update was provided that messages have been sent to coaches to adapt practices keeping physical distancing in mind. It was expressed that it appears the majority of coaches seem to be trying their best to comply. Positive messaging has been shared to embrace the practices rather than focus on what is not happening (i.e. games) as the hockey community feels fortunate that skill development is still permitted in our region instead of completely shutting down hockey.

An update from the Vice President of Programs was provided as follows:

- HL is running a tight ship and everything seems to be working ok after our first weekend.
- Competitive has had a few issues with coaches unable to follow the proper skill sessions. After the Covid-19 meeting yesterday the Competitive Directors will be holding a coach meeting to refresh coaches on the do's and don'ts.
- Had a POE parents call with U15AA team on Wednesday Oct 7th where the General Manager of the POE (Bruce MacDonald) introduced the families to the POE and what to expect. He spent an hour answering questions. He was flooded with emails afterwards
- A meeting is being arranged with the U18AA parents in the next couple of weeks.
- The General Manager of POE has been in attendance of 5 U18AA practices for the purpose of evaluating players and is starting attending U15AA practices for

the purpose of evaluating players, the goal is to attend 5. He has already been out to watch the U22AA team and evaluate players.

- Over the past few weeks, the General Manager has been spending a couple of hours each day reaching out to universities to find out what they need in order to showcase our players. He has been developing relationships with schools that are not traditionally Nepean Wildcat schools. He spent two hours with Colgate last week learning about them, what they need and how they can work better with them. He has been fielding calls from Universities that are interested in players. It was expressed that video submissions from at least two different spots in the season are required for the schools.
- The universities need video of practices and any scrimmage/game we can show them. The U22 manager is getting information on this and will connect with the board regarding cost.
- A request has been raised to update the POE website. U15AA and U22AA have been updated. U18AA is in the process of being updated.
- The General Manager's goal is to get out to watch 10 Practices (5 early in the season and 5 later on in the season) for all three POE teams. He is also slated to watch 2-3 of each of the Midget A teams as well as the Bantam A team. In the event there is any "scrimmages" or 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 games he will be out to watch those as well. If time permits and hockey is still going, we will ask him to include BCBB and PCAA

7.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Tracey Gillies (seconder: Chad Chambers)

Meeting closed 8:02pm