

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15th 2020

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Videoconferencing

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

Regrets: Tony Matson

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 8:09 pm

2.0 President update [President]

An update was provided, as follows:

- 12 teams are on the ice tonight under new guidance complying with the restrictions of 10 people on the ice with the trainer on the bench not counted within the 10, as communicated to be acceptable by the applicable facilities on October 14th 2020.
- The Competitive Director sent out messaging to all competitive coaches this morning to ensure all coaches were informed of the Ottawa Public Health (OPH) directed changes affecting all ice times, as confirmed on October 14th 2020.
- An email communication was also sent to Membership today confirming that the NGHA is assessing the situation under the new directive limiting to 10 on the ice and that the main priority remains the health and safety of NGHA players and volunteers.

3.0 Policy, Risk and Safety [Policy, Risk and Safety Director]

An update was provided, as follows:

- The NGHA has received several Covid-related inquiries and is managing well and following all directives and guidance from OPH;
- There have been a few school closures and scenarios which affect NGHA Members. In each case, direction is determined by the OPH directive communicated to affected school families. It was noted that communication to schools from OPH appears to be on a case by case basis with slightly different wording guiding each school's specific population (e.g. elementary versus high school) and scenario;
- OPH is directly involved where there is a positive Covid-19 case and in following up with close contacts. There is less involvement and direction provided for potential contacts that have not been identified as 'close'.

4.0 Operations [Vice President of Operations, All]

An update was provided that while it appeared that the City of Ottawa was allowing for the restriction under OPH to permit 10 people on the ice (including the coach) with one trainer on the bench not included in the count of 10, it was just communicated that at one of the later practices tonight there were different messages directed from the City of Ottawa.

Specifically, the city facilities were now communicating that the trainer must be included in the '10'. An additional update was provided regarding the Sensplex, which had originally interpreted the '10 on the ice' to include the trainer on the bench, but that the Sensplex have since communicated the trainer can be outside the '10' as long as they are on the bench. The direction from the third ice provider, Carleton University, has yet to be received. It was also confirmed that the dressing rooms are closed under the new restrictions within the City of Ottawa and that a room would be made available for first aid purposes only. Facility public washrooms would be open should a player or staff require use during the ice time.

It was agreed that there is further confirmation required on some key pieces of information. Notably, outstanding questions concern how to manage within restrictions where the trainer is counted within the '10' and how to manage cases where a player has to come off of the ice (for example to use the washroom), which requires the 'two deep' rule for safety. It was determined that confirmation from the City of Ottawa and Carleton University is required concerning their official direction.

There was also a discussion about the demands on the coaching volunteers to modify to a 2 or 3 way split of their roster (depending on confirmation of numbers permitted), ensure volunteer roles are fulfilled for each split, and to adapt their practice plans for a significantly reduced number of participants. Differences between competitive and house league programs were also discussed since it was acknowledged that in some cases, there may be more experienced staff to help out on competitive teams. Additionally, the competitive and house league programs have different ice allotments allowing for an easier transition for competitive teams (3 ice times/week) than house teams (2 ice times/week) should teams have to be split into three groups.

A discussion took place as to whether a pause for Friday, Saturday and Sunday (for competitive) and for one week (for house league) would be advisable to ensure all information is confirmed prior to continuing. It was acknowledged that this would also allow for all volunteers and coaches to have time to adapt to the changes. Several Board Members offered to provide assistance with coaching plans as well as on-ice assistance in scenarios where there may be gaps (e.g. house league teams with limited coaching volunteers) on an as-needed basis.

Consideration was given as to whether the competitive programming could proceed with house league pausing for one week. It was acknowledged that both programs could benefit from the time to get things in order as it was recognized that verification of the numbers permitted within the facilities was not confirmed and additional details were required for planning to ensure safety.

The Motion was brought forward to pause all programming for the weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday ice times) by Wendy Baldin (seconded by Les Banks).

It was confirmed that a communication to all coaches and Members will be sent tomorrow.

4.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Tracey Gillies (seconder: Wendy Baldin)

Meeting closed: 10:10 pm

