

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2020

Time: 7:00 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, Chad Chambers

Regrets: Tony Matson

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

The President expressed gratitude to all of those on the Board and NGHA volunteers who have been involved in planning and working on getting the season started. It was acknowledged that it has been an enormous amount of work and time from jobs and family to ensure that things are in place and safe for the return to hockey.

2.0 Minutes from the September 10th, 2020 Board of Directors' meetings approved by Wendy Baldin (seconder: Gerard Gagnon)

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

An update on the 'NGHA Interim Covid-19 Protocols' (dated September 21st, 2020) was provided. These Protocols have been compiled by the NGHA Covid-19 Committee and are based on directives by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and ice facility requirements. It was reported that this document will be posted on the NGHA website shortly with an email sent to Members highlighting the key elements of the protocol and directing toward the full document on the NGHA website.

A discussion took place regarding compliance with the numbers permitted within the facilities and how to manage for all ages. It was recognized that while the protocols must be followed, there are practical considerations from a hockey perspective that require working out. Specifically, the number of team officials requiring insurance to comply with the most stringent ice provider requirements, means that den moms are required to be insured as bench staff. It was recognized that this requirement restricts the other permitted insured coaching staff. The options will be further considered and viable solutions may be discussed with the ice provider stipulating the most stringent criteria to determine flexibility.

The number of insured team staff provided by the NGHA was reported to be 7 in total. A question was raised inquiring about exceeding that number if there was an expressed need for additional staff. There were no reported objections to this possibility on a case by case basis, provided it was understood that the team would not cover the cost (since there are no team fees being collected nor would fundraising be permitted). The need for team staff to be kept to a limited number was also raised to ensure team bubbles are as tight as possible.

Management of the dressing room for the team goalie(s) was also discussed with respect to den mom requirements. Possible approaches were discussed including: 1) goalies dressing in the change rooms (two den moms required); 2) goalies dressing outside change room which requires arriving mostly dressed with only pads and skates going on at the arena (no need for den moms); and 3) goalies arriving mostly dressed and using change rooms to put on pads and skates requiring one den mom in doorway with another adult (e.g. coach) just outside the door.

It was also reported that the Website Coordinator is in the process of adding all of the pertinent documents supporting Return to Hockey from the OWHA as well as guidance documents from the Ottawa and Ontario Public Health authorities regarding Covid-19 information. The NGHHA ice provider (City of Ottawa, Sensplex and Carleton University) rules and regulations will also be posted to provide background information supporting the NGHHA Protocols.

A reminder of the upcoming Covid-19 meeting on Wednesday September 23rd, was provided recommending that emails be sent to coaches and to open the meeting up to all team staff. A recap of the House League coaches' meeting on Wednesday September 16th was provided with respect to the reception of the Covid-19 protocols. It was reported that coaches were understanding of the necessary changes and that there were a lot of questions addressed.

An update on the NGHHA Teamsnap contract was provided, as follows:

- The Association Teamsnap contract will be mentioned at the upcoming Covid-19 meeting on September 23rd and an email will be sent to coaches informing them of the mandatory use of the Association Teamsnap accounts;
- The Association Teamsnap will allow for the NGHHA to have oversight to all accounts;
- The logistics of the Association contract were discussed including reimbursement for teams that may have already purchased an account on their own;
- An updated Covid-19 screening questionnaire is provided within Teamsnap based on the Ontario screening assessment tool to cover appropriate criteria laid out by the Ontario government; and
- Communication should instruct parents to ensure they are filling out the Covid-19 questionnaire for the correct profile.

A discussion took place regarding private team ice (i.e. outside of that provided by the NGHHA). Under the OWHA directives, teams are not permitted to purchase extra team ice or activities. This directive is also reinforced by the preclusion of team fees.

The Hockey Canada, Hockey University - Planning a Safe Return to Hockey course, which is mandatory for all team staff, was discussed. The course was reported to offer a good overview of the return to play protocols. Some differences in this course from the regional restrictions (such as team travel) were noted. It was acknowledged that if a player or team staff member shows up to an ice time with symptoms, the coach/trainer can send them home even if they reported they were symptom free (as directed by OPH).

It was reported that some upper tier teams have started playing a 'modified game' this week. The logistics of how modified game play will roll out for all teams is being considered. It was recognized that the first two weeks of ice time (as a minimum) for all teams would only be practices.

The Board agreed to allow the current NGHHA Treasurer, who does not have a daughter playing in the NGHHA this year, to continue in his position this season. Based on the unique complexities of the 2020-21 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was considered to be in the best interest of all NGHHA Members to have continuity in the Treasurer position.

4.0 Registration [Registrar]

An update on numbers registered to date was provided. There have been 756 players in total registered with the NGHHA.

Issues with parents/coaches not registering on time, or forgetting to pay, were reported. The Website Coordinator has been asked to update the website that registration is now closed and that there is no waitlist. Registration for the second session in January will re-open in November. It was acknowledged that new registrations in January will depend on availability of spaces and that the logistics of adding new players in the second session will need to be considered. It was also raised that the numbers may fluctuate depending on players choosing to not return in January. The President will draft text addressing the second session registration (for posting in November).

5.0 House league [House League Directors, Policy, Risk and Safety Director]

The following updates were provided:

- Coaches' meeting was held last Wednesday and everything went well. Coaches were given an overview of the Covid protocols and hockey updates for the season. Coaches have been asked to attend the Covid session that's taking place this upcoming Wednesday.
- The hope is to start sorting rosters this week, starting with U18 and U15. Before this can proceed, competitive teams need to be finalized.
- Goalie equipment will be distributed on Saturday, September 26. Goalie parents or coaches will be asked to register for the equipment through our registration system. Deposits won't be required this season but the registration will track who has the equipment.
- Each team is being asked to include a goalie coach in their on-ice help. We want to keep the goalies engaged and challenged.
- Because we are not able to share goalie equipment among different players on a team as we have done in the past, we have decided the following:
 - U9 - we'll start off the season with no goalies but hope to phase them in. The first part of the season will be focused on player development and skills.
 - U11 - we hope to have two sets per team to rotate, which will allow for a full two weeks for gear to sit between players.
 - U15 - we hope to have two sets per team to rotate, which will allow for a full two weeks to gear to sit between players.
 - U18 - most of the girls have their own gear and there is no need to share.

6.0 Competitive [Vice President of Programs, Competitive Directors]

The following report was provided:

- The work that has gone into completing the formation of competitive teams was acknowledged. All competitive teams are almost finalized. Careful consideration was paid to ensure teams were formed fairly using all available information.
- The House League Directors have been working hard to provide input into player movement, as required, to support the competitive team formation. HL directors are on standby waiting to form all of the house league teams as soon as possible so communication can go out to coaches.
- There has been some additional movement with player withdrawals and additions.
- FUNDamentals was moved to Sensplex as they allow one parent per player.
- There was a call with the PW group to discuss the direction of bubbling for the U22 teams. A call with the OWHA regarding the direction of U22 and bubbling will take place this week. The Programs Committee will meet to determine how bubbling may proceed in the AA cohorts.
- The House League Coaches' meeting went well and the Competitive Coaches meeting will take place this week. All competitive coaches will also be asked to attend the Covid meeting on September 23rd.
- Coach requirements are now on the OWHA website and will be disseminated to all coaches. Gender identity course is now also a requirement. All coaches and team officials will be asked to notify the Certification Coordinator of their volunteer requirements and certifications.

7.0 Operations [Vice President of Operations]

An update was provided that ice schedules have been set for all teams so once teams are finalized, the schedules will be released. The following details pertaining to ice schedules were provided:

- The great majority of teams are at the same rink on the same day for the whole session to allow for predictability and reduce exposures at numerous facilities.
- The Website Coordinator will verify things from a system perspective and ice times will be uploaded into the system shortly.
- Ice times will start the week of September 28th.
- There has been some juggling of ice times for the PW team (originally not using weekend ice but may require weekend ice to accommodate bubbling with Kanata).

An update on the call with PW group was provided. It was acknowledged that under the Covid restrictions, there are difficulties with players trying to be seen by universities and that video programs will be starting to facilitate this process. It was reported that further details will be worked out regarding the videographer and associated fees for this service.

An update was provided on an appeals process taking place. Assurance was provided that all steps were being implemented to ensure a fair process and that the Board will be kept informed about the proceedings and outcome.

The financial update was provided indicating that the NGHA is in good financial order. It was reported that all summer ice times have already been paid for by participants with no outstanding money owing.

10.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Tracey Gillies (seconded: Les Banks)

Meeting closed 8:08 pm