

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 28th 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Videoconferencing

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Stephen Bent, Karla Clarke, Wendy Baldin, Lisa Camilucci, Mike Speer, Gerard Gagnon

Regrets: Tony Matson, Les Banks, Chad Chambers

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

2.0 Approval of minutes from the September 21st 2020 Board of Directors meeting deferred to next meeting.

3.0 Welcoming remarks [President]

The primary purpose of this Board meeting was to discuss a few matters that require input as the start to the 2020-21 season begins today.

A discussion regarding the number of volunteers, as well as volunteers taking on dual roles within a team, took place. It was acknowledged that while the trainer should not normally be an on-ice helper since their role involves focusing on all players throughout the ice time without distraction from hockey related duties, this may not be manageable this year. The preference for coaches not to coach more than one team to avoid enlarging the hockey bubble of players was raised. It was acknowledged that it may be necessary for trainers to volunteer for more than one team given difficulties with filling this role.

It was reported that there has been several inquiries as to whether an individual can coach for both the NGHA and the Nepean Minor Hockey Association (NMHA) as many families have children in both Associations. This issue will be further discussed between the two Association Presidents and Board Members to determine reasonable expectations.

A discussion on insurance for team officials took place. It was reported that while all teams are permitted to insure 7 team officials, the requirement for den moms to be insured will make it difficult to stay within this parameter. As per the requirements under the Covid protocols for some ice facilities (notably, Carleton University), den moms are required to be insured as they must remain on the bench during the ice time. This requirement will be discussed with the facilities management at Carleton to avoid the need to insure den moms by having them stand in the cold area of the arena protected by plexiglass next to, but not on, the bench.

It was reported that on a case-by-case basis, the NGHA will cover the 8th insured team official, if necessary. The overall preference is to maintain a lower number of team officials to avoid increasing the number of people interacting on a given team.

An update was provided that over the next few weeks, the Board of Directors' emails will migrate over to 'gmail'. It was reported that this switch is being implemented to save costs and facilitate collaboration on shared documents.

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

A discussion on the NGHHA Covid Protocols took place with feedback from a few teams that have had ice times. It was reported that the City of Ottawa has expressed concerns with teams not using the dressing rooms, and having their players put on skates, helmets and gloves within the cold area of the arena. Given that two dressing rooms are provided and cleaned by the City of Ottawa in between uses, it was determined that this is the safest way for all players to complete dressing and store their belongings. It was also reported that the player benches are not sanitized in between uses.

Based on this feedback, it was determined that an email will go out to all teams that have ice times tomorrow. The email will explain that the dressing rooms can be used for the team but that the other restrictions would still be in place (i.e. players still arrive mostly dressed 15-20 minutes prior to ice time). For consistency among all ice facilities used by the NGHHA, this change will be implemented for all ice times. The NGHHA Covid Protocols document will be updated to reflect this change and will be sent to coaches and posted on the website.

Other protocol directives were also discussed to ensure any necessary adjustments are made in the update to the NGHHA Covid Protocols document. The importance of making an area outside of the dressing room available to tie skates and for players who do not feel comfortable entering the dressing room was reinforced. The role of den moms was discussed including that for this season, the NGHHA would permit one den mom per dressing room standing in the doorway with the doors open and another team official just outside the dressing room. This was considered acceptable to limit numbers entering the facilities, given that players were to be arriving mostly dressed with only the helmets, gloves and skates (as well as pads for goalies) to be completed in the dressing rooms. It was reported that for some facilities (Sensplex and Carleton University), the team is not permitted to go on the bench until the flooding of the ice has been completed.

An update on Teamsnap was provided. To date, all competitive and house league teams have been added to the Association Teamsnap account. Several teams, have been helped with transfers without any issues. Follow-up will be performed with a few teams who haven't accepted their invites. The Fundamentals have been added to Teamsnap as well.

Fundamentals will be holding a parent meeting this coming Thursday to discuss the season. The Policy, Risk and Safety Director will attend to update parents about the NGHHA Covid protocols.

City of Ottawa is working with OPH to complete a flow chart for covid-19 situations and this will be sent to us later this week.

An *in-camera* discussion took place regarding the appeal process concerning the removal of a coach for the 2020-21 season. The original decision was upheld in the end with no further action required.

A general discussion took place regarding discipline issues and following due process. Emphasis was placed on the importance of following the Constitution, taking proper steps and allowing sufficient time for any requested responses to ensure procedural fairness and consistency. While there is a separate Disciplines Committee, communication to the Board of Directors and improved communication within the Committee, was highlighted as important to ensure everyone is informed prior to any actions.

A discussion on bubbling teams with other Associations took place. This was mentioned to be of particular interest in cases where there is only one team at a given level within the NGHHA. Some of the other Associations within the Ottawa District Womens Hockey Association (ODWHA) have reached out to the NGHHA to inquire about bubbling. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a meeting with all of the Associations within the ODWHA to discuss bubbling. It was stressed that talks of bubbling are really premature at this point given our focus should be on returning all of the NGHHA teams to hockey safely and ensuring the protocols are being followed. Decisions about some logistics of bubbling may proceed but putting it into practice will not occur until a later point in time.

5.0 House League [House League Directors]

An update was provided, as follows:

- All House Teams are now rostered;
- Coaches have been sent their team lists, along with a lot of start up information and their first few ice times;
- There may be a couple of minor changes to the U11 teams to balance goalies;
- An additional coach has been added at U9. Initially, there was thought that there may not be enough girls for four teams but the numbers supported an additional team. The fourth coach has coached for the NMHA for years;
- Two co-coaches have been added at U11 to replace a coach whose daughter was moved to competitive;
- The Vice-President of Operations is communicating with Carleton to ensure the bumper pads will be ready for the Novice ice times this weekend;
- A quick coach meetings on Thursday evening (U9, U11-U15 & U18) will be held to answer any last minute questions and give the latest information on Covid protocols;
- House contributed quite a few girls to the comp teams at all levels;
- All House teams hit the ice this weekend

6.0 Operations

N/A

7.0 Finance

N/A

8.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Wendy Baldin (seconder: Stephen Bent)

Meeting closed 7:57 pm

