

Nepean Girls Hockey Association (NGHA)

2020-2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 1st 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Videoconferencing

Present: Tracey Gillies, Karen Major, Gerard Gagnon, Stephen Bent, Karla Clarke, Chad Chambers, Mike Speer, Lisa Camilucci, Wendy Baldin, Karine Tremblay (Guest)

Regrets: Tony Matson

1.0 Call to Order [President]: 7:03 pm

2.0 Approval of minutes from the Board of Directors' meetings held on January 13th 2021, February 1st, 2021 and February 8th 2021 by Karla Clarke (seconded by Lisa Camilucci)

3.0 Updates [President]

A recap was provided on the start of scrimmaging for all teams at both the competitive and house league levels. The high degree of effort that went into getting teams set up to scrimmage was acknowledged.

An update was provided on the selection process for the U18 AA and U15 AA Head Coach positions. An independent selection committee was formed and included past and present Board Members, as well as experienced coaches (panel included: Kevin Mason, Stephen Bent, and Keith MacEwen; overseen by Les Banks). To ensure a high level of fairness, a very detailed and thorough process was planned and included a written portion as well as an extensive interview. The process was carefully pre-defined and meticulously carried out to ensure rigour and consistency. In addition to coaching-specific content, the interview included lines of questioning about player wellness, as well as conflict resolution. In addition to the interview responses, player evaluations of coaches were used for feedback of candidates.

In the selection of the U18 AA and U15 AA Head Coaches, there was a unanimous selection by the committee of the following successful candidates: for Head Coach of U18AA - Joel Yates and for Head Coach of U15AA - Eliot Spencer. The Board voted in favour to ratify the decision to select these individuals as head coaches. It was reported that this decision will be announced tomorrow and posted on the NGHA website.

It was reported that the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) has been very efficient with approving requests to bubble externally. There have been some issues with the new electronic gamesheets, as detailed further under Registration, which has affected associations from across the province.

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

An update was provided on the Covid-19 policy protocols and observations based on spectators now being permitted into arenas to watch scrimmages on a one spectator per player maximum quota. It was noted that in some cases, reminders of the Covid-19 protocols (i.e. physical distancing) were required and in some arenas staff were counting to ensure compliance with the overall number of 55 permitted into the arenas.

It was mentioned that a few queries have been received pertaining to the TeamSnap Covid screening assessment tool. Specifically, based on the wording in the screening questions, a player may not pass the Teamsnap screening even though they had received clearance to return to play by Ottawa Public Health (OPH) based on the time from positive test result versus time from start of symptoms. Advice has been consistently provided to always follow OPH direction since they are our local health authority and direct based on specific details of each case.

5.0 Finance [Finance Administrator]

A quick update was provided indicating that ice has been paid to date and that things are on track. As detailed under Registration below, there have been some outstanding registration fees from Members who paid via installments. In these cases, Members are required to log in and release payment for the remaining installments.

6.0 Registration [Registrar]

An update was provided pertaining to the Ramp gamesheet application. Specifically, it was discovered that across Ontario, there are approximately 17, 000 players missing from the system. For the NGHA, this has been reported to have affected one team out of the nine teams in bubbles with other associations. The system developers have indicated that this issue will be fixed soon. Teams are learning how to use the Ramp system and are passing along helpful information to others.

It was reported that as per Hockey Canada's new objective for youth hockey, there will be no U9 competitive team next year.

An update on registration fees for the winter session was provided based on canceled ice times due to the lockdown in January/February. Clarification was provided that in cases where the registration fee was paid in full, a refund will be issued to compensate for the January-February shutdown. The refunded amount will be kept as a credit on file to be used towards next season or Members may opt to have a refund issued. In cases where families opted to pay the registration fees in instalments, it was reported that a technical glitch resulted in only the first instalments being processed requiring Members to login to process the subsequent instalments. It was confirmed that the amount owing for instalments has been adjusted to reflect the reduced total cost. An email will be sent to Membership to update on the refunds/credits and outstanding fees.

7.0 House League [Vice President of Programs, House League Directors]

An update was provided on the return to the ice for the house league program. Team practices resumed on the weekend of February 20th with scrimmages within bubbles permitted the following weekend. The feedback from coaches and players was positive

with everything running well. Spectators were also allowed into the arenas for scrimmages, in compliance with the City of Ottawa Covid-19 protocols, which went well.

It was announced that current house league coaches have been notified that next year's coaching application process will open soon and the process will be posted on the NGHHA website.

It was also reported that coaches have been informed that player evaluations will be sent out shortly. It was recognized that it might be more difficult to evaluate players this season, but coaches have been asked to do their best.

8.0 Competitive [Competitive Directors]

It was reported that everything is going well and Members have been expressing gratitude to have the kids on the ice. There have been a lot of questions reported about the electronic game sheets (as addressed above under Registration). Communication and clarifications continue to be provided concerning Covid-19 protocols including numbers permitted into the arenas and scrimmaging. It was acknowledged that the referees have been fantastic with great communication of expectations and on-ice processes to players.

9.0 Operations [Vice President of Programs]

Gratitude was expressed toward everyone for helping to ensure a smooth transition to scrimmaging and bubbling teams, as there has been a lot of work involved. An update was provided concerning the few hiccups with electronic game sheets with credit given to a competitive manager who has provided tips as her team has worked through kinks.

It was reported that there has been communication with the Referee in Chief who has set up all teams who are bubbling externally with one official.

The ice schedule was reported to be up to date.

The deadline has passed for competitive coaching applications with the process for evaluating beginning. Similar to the process for the U18 and U15 AA coach selections, an independent selection committee will be involved in the interview process to ensure a fair process with no conflicts of interest. Once the process has been completed, those not successful in the process will receive a phone call to notify them. Once the selection committee has completed the process, the list of successful candidates will be brought to the Board for a vote prior to finalizing the list.

It was acknowledged that while in past years, the graduating NGHHA players have participated in a special scramble game and received flowers as a send-off, it is not feasible for this to occur the same way this year. Instead, as a special acknowledgement of the graduating players, it was suggested that the graduating players could be provided with flowers and balloons as a tribute to their NGHHA journey.

A Motion was put forward by Wendy Baldin to use \$500 of NGHHA funds to cover the cost of the flowers and balloons for the players (Motion was seconded by Karla Clarke). The Board Members voted unanimously to support the Motion.

Special NGHHA graduation hoodies would also be available for purchase to the graduating players.

10.0 Round table items

N/A

Motion to close the Board meeting by Wendy Baldin (seconder: Karla Clarke)

Meeting closed 7:50 pm