

## NGHA Board Meeting - Minutes

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 7-9pm  
Echo Room, Minto Rec. Centre

Present: Lisa T, Lisa C, Shawn R, Rob S, Tara M, Lindsay W, Estelle M, Lina C, Shannon S, Glenn B  
Absent: Eric P, Laura R

### President

1. Approval of May Board Meeting minutes – Approved.
2. OWHA – Operations meeting. Aug 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Shared important dates for the season (season starts, rosters due)
  - U13AA 3 refs moving forward & U18AA 4 refs moving forward, best effort
  - Jerseys cannot be worn to non-sanctioned events
  - Support families not wanting to travel to the US
  - Five staff max on bench for games
  - Dressing room policies - screened monitors, no cell phones or cameras
  - Maltreatment complaints should be submitted to Safe Sport Independent Third Party via link on OWHA website under “members”
3. Season status update
  - Team registrations form (due Aug 29th) has been completed and we will be remitting to OWHA, league fees and competitive team bonds.
  - League fees increased \$100 for all Eastern division teams and 1k for U22 Elite. Would like to cover the 1k increase to league fees for our U22AA team.
  - D1 evaluators - we had 4 individuals volunteer to complete the D1 evaluator course, great news for coaches trying to get D1 certified.
  - OWHL rules - changes:
    - We need to share with teams the jersey color change if we have not already. Home color will now be dark jerseys and away will be light jerseys.
    - Game time/flood change for 1.5 hour games. OWHA has directed that our 1.5 hour games should be as follows 15-15-flood-15. The game time aligns with the Southern division and I think this will have to be implemented. Associations are split. Some have this in order some are saying they cannot have the flood put it place. On my part, I have spoken to Carleton and Walter Baker who have said they should be able to accommodate if they have the schedule in advance. Nothing from Minto/Nsplex. Once 1.5 hour games are scheduled, I will provide those schedules to the rinks and ask it to be implemented when possible. Bell/Merivale are one pad rinks so I don't anticipate any issue but I will try to call at some point. So I think the general consensus between associations is that games will be played 15-15-15 and a flood will be provided when it can be accommodated.
4. Referees
  - Local situation - We were provided with instructions for exhibition games and instructed to contact Refs@owha for any questions. No further direction was provided for local contacts for the region.
  - Ref Meeting:
    - \$100 from each association towards a mileage fund.
    - Forms to complete and send back with contact information.
    - August Invoice (½ of last season due Sept.)
    - Ref clinics - Suggested compensating NGHA players who do the ref clinic. \$\$ towards courses and equipment once they ref a certain # of games.
5. Record of items approved between meetings:
  - Tracksuits – Three (3) per team.
  - \$1800 tournament credit.
  - Five (5) practices per team covered.
  - \$7500 advance for DIFD baskets.
  - \$1700 for lanyards for DIFD.

## Administration

6. Teen volunteer opportunities. Where could the NGHA use some help? We can advertise in our next newsletter.
7. Wildcats Day update – October 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ice availability looking good for both Competitive and House Leagues. **Wildcats weekend.**
  - U18B and Bandits going to play game together – Saturday. Not sure what we can do for the HL day on the Sunday. Need someone from House to work with Estelle.
  - Funds raised going to Ottawa Bandits.
  - Not doing snow suits. Call out on Social Media for donations for baking and decorations.
  - Ask for \$1.5k – Estelle. Seconded by Lina. **Carried.**
8. Newsletter soon with more information.

## VP Operations

9. Ice
  - Ice allotted for competitive teams until Thanksgiving, including regular weekly times for all teams.
  - Folks are ready to enter blackout dates for tournaments into DNC (should be done by the time of the meeting).
  - Thinking ahead about streamlining our ice invoicing process. It was suggested to have only two (2) instead of three (3) ice invoices to reduce the workload for all involved. Recommend voting on this at the next Board meeting.
10. RAMP
  - Teams have their RAMP game sheet logs and are entering exhibition games successfully.
11. DIFD
  - Tournament Directors, Christine Charbonneau & Deanna Roussy, will order swag after labour day.
  - HL tournament should be open for registration soon (if not already).
  - Rough numbers: space for 78 house teams with the possibility of adding a few more; 130 for competitive, which includes games for U9 instead of a jamboree.
  - OWHA has cheques to cover the \$20 fee for the 78 HL and 130 Comp teams.
12. Budgets
  - We asked teams to complete the budget template and add it to their team Google drive by end of August. Competitive Directors will review and signal approval.
  - Following approval, teams can then share with parents and hold their votes.
  - Some questions about who can witness -- specifically, if a member of the team is on the Board, can that member witness - I said it was preferable for another Board member or Convenor to witness the vote.
  - Some teams also have technical questions about values in the Surcharge tab. Response is to start with last year's numbers and make 3 adjustments. Board notes (increase to insurance amounts; \$1800 tournament credit; 5 ice credits).
13. Referee Clinic
  - NGHA is looking to host a clinic in October for referees with three (3) years or less experience (tentative date Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October). Once OWHA confirms, we can circulate this opportunity.

## Policy

14. Introduction to policies
  - Going to put together list of policies that Board Member **must** read and be aware of.
15. Approval of the **Financial Assistance Policy**. **Approved.**
16. Dressing Room policy – will be in Lisa T's notes. Read OWHA's dressing room and base layer policy.
17. Next policies for review
  - Finance
  - Callup

## Competitive

18. Updates
  - U9 Tryouts. Laura running show. 31 registered and two goalies.
  - Going through team budgets.
  - Coach & Manager meeting. Reviewing deck from last year. Probably later in September.

## House

### 19. Update on upcoming season

- Planning for the season is well-underway. We are anticipating the following number of teams:
  - U9 - 6 teams
  - U11 - 6 teams
  - U13 - 5 teams
  - U15 - 4 teams
  - U18 - 4 teams
- Our coach selection was shared by email - we have lots of returning coaches, some new coaches and four female head coaches this year. We are still looking for one U9 coach as this team was added late based on registration. It's possible we could add a 5th team at U15 and U18 depending on registration in this last week leading up to sortouts.
- Our goalie situation is excellent at most levels except for U13. We will be needing to do a push to recruit goalies for that level.
- FUNdamentals program - filled up very quickly with a few players on the waitlist - we've also had a few players withdraw so we will be offering up spots to some of those waitlisted players this week.
- Certifications - We have a new HL Certifications person this year - Tara. She is working diligently to get volunteers certified ahead of the season so we can use them for pathways, sortouts, and hopefully get our rosters approved by the end of September so that we can start playing games.
- Putting this forward for consideration and discussion in the coming months: The number of late registrations this season has been extraordinary - more than usual - making planning for the season very difficult. We would like to propose we consider implementing a late registration fee for next season to try to encourage more players to register earlier.

### 20. Upcoming important dates

- Pathway sessions are happening the first two weekends of September - Sept 6/7 and Sept 13/14 - We need help with finding trainers - especially for those U9 sessions - wondering if we can get some Board help with that?
- Sortouts will take place over three weekends - Sept 6/7, Sept 13/14 and Sep 20/21.
- Our HL Coaches meeting will be held at Walter Baker on Wednesday, September 3rd - some board members may want to attend the start of the meeting. Last year Eric attended and gave a little talk about his plans for development and the coaches really appreciated it (recommending President, VP Ops, VP Programs, and Policy attend).

### 21. Jerseys, Goalie Equipment and Socks

- HL Jersey order has been placed and should arrive by late September. Thank you to the Board for supporting this initiative - for the first time in as long as I can remember, all our teams across the association will have a unified on-ice look. Due to the large number of jerseys ordered, we were able to secure a significant discount, so the total cost will be about \$9,000 less than originally estimated.
- Socks were also ordered - we ordered both white and black socks for HL players following what competitive provided this year. We ordered the knit sock style.
- Goalie equipment: A date has been set for next week for spring/summer rentals to be returned. A number of competitive goalies do still have our gear - so far only one family has indicated they intend to re-rent for the season. We have advised competitive parents that the cost for equipment rental will be set at \$400 for the season - this is double what HL teams would pay, but will account for additional wear-and-tear by competitive players, and the need for us to purchase more gear for our HL program when sets are being used by competitive players.
- That being said, we are anticipating a need to purchase more U13-sized gear to cover off our teams without goalies in our HL program - so expect a proposal for additional funds to be confirmed shortly.
- Competitive goalies who currently have gear in their possession have also been told that we expect it to be returned next week - and no-shows will not be permitted to participate with their teams until we have their gear back. This will eliminate the need for us to have to chase for returns.

### 22. Update on U22/Senior House League program

- Our numbers for this program are lower than we had anticipated given the survey results, for a number of reasons.
  - We've consulted with OWHHA and have decided to update the program to a Senior HL format - this will allow us to hopefully broaden our registration (open age 18+) and give us the opportunity to arrange for some more games with other associations who are also running a senior HL division. I'm working on a social media outreach campaign to see if we can boost our numbers.
23. Motion for funds to cover House League sort out volunteer meals & snacks. \$1k. Proposal Lisa C. Seconded by Glenn B. **Carried.**
24. House League Coach Mentor. Proposing \$2k honorarium. Rob S. and seconded by Estelle. **Carried.**

### Programs

25. Pro hockey life cards are ready for pickup in Kanata and distributed to teams.
26. Skill sessions Ashley Holmes and Apex are ready to go for Sept 9/10, we have to get packages added in RAMP and share to the association. Apex will be HL AH will be U9 comp.

### Finance

27. Financial Statement – Discussion and approval. Financial statement (attached) circulated earlier.
- We had 2025 financial statements. Other two years have been approved.
  - The NGHA is in good financial shape.
  - 2025 revenues increased slightly over 2024. Ice money went down, probably due to ice credits. Net income \$135k.
  - Player development expenditure doubled due to subsidised clinics and goalie development.
  - Accounting fees increased.
  - Motion to approve the F/S. Lisa C motion, seconded by Estelle. **Carried.**
28. Financial assistance
- Three requests received; two for team fees and registration, one for Fundamentals. Asking approval for \$12k. This would cover the received requests (\$7.5k) and provide a buffer for any others we might receive. Motion by Shawn R. Seconded by Lisa C. **Carried.**

### Any Other Business

29. Review of the coaches' survey (Lindsay).
30. Jamie Leppard.
- Explained ice allocation.
  - Over last couple of years, U11 teams asking for more ice times. U9/U11 will continue to get the early ice-times.
  - Girls hockey from Grade 6 up, over 60% are in the competitive teams. Much higher percentage than boys hockey, which is at about 20%.
  - We ask for more week ice time every year. We got an extra three hours at WB on the weekends so able to give some back to Carleton (which is more expensive).
  - Weekend ice availability fluctuates depending on number of teams away at tournaments.
  - Weekend availability also impacted by other local tournaments for ringette and boys tournaments.
  - Two blackouts periods; Christmas and March Break.
  - Only competitive team Coach or Manager can contact Jamie about changes to ice allocations and requests for extra ice.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October.