

Board Meeting - Minutes

June 26th, 2024 - 7-9pm

Dyman Storage, 1000 McGarry Terrace, Nepean

Present: Claire B, Lisa C, Lisa T, Rob M, Rob S, Tracy F, Estelle M, Glenn B and Shawn Roussy

Regrets: Kim LeClaire and Lindsay W

President (Chair) / VP Operations

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and volunteering their time. She outlined some ground rules for the Board for the season

- Ground rules. Be open and ask questions. No stupid questions. OK to disagree. Vote with heart. Never be afraid to speak up. She emphasized the importance to get things done and not to be bound by protocol. Be open, share information and ideas and don't operate in silos.
- 2. DFID tournament medals - Funding approval required. There was some discussion about the differences between the Competitive tournament (run by Sensplex) and the House tournament (run by NGHA)
 - There were questions about whether it is worth paying for our own medals vs using Sensplex medals because we're supposed to get a discount from Sensplex for using our own. A document was shared outlining the cost of the medal/swag packages. The one we use is approx. \$15k for two years, which works out at about \$3 per head.
 - **Vote:** Motion to keep the whole package. **Carried.**

Competitive

3. Updates

- There is currently a big push for getting registrations finalised as soon as possible.
- One aspect that helped this year was moving U11 tryouts to the spring.
- It was noted that we have had issues retaining goalies because other associations are better at promoting their development programs.
- EM would like to get the Wildcats logo on the ice at Minto South. If this is going to happen, we need to act quickly. CB to approach Chris Dunn about this.

4. Other points noted

- Fundraising. As we discussed a few months back, some teams did a lot of fundraising activities, which is causing friction with some parents and a few non hockey families indicated they are uncomfortable with the number of times they are asked to support our players. We did implement a limit of three (3) fundraising events for this coming season, and this needs to be reflected in the Sponsorship and Fundraising policy review.
- Tournaments. In addition to fundraising, we implemented a cap of 5 tournaments (four + DIFD) for this season. The non-DIFD tournaments can be either local or away. We will explore if coaches can make their tournament intentions known prior to tryouts. Booking last-minute tournaments results in burnt ice. Messaging should be developed to avoid this.
- Finally, we put in place a restriction on family members holding certain positions on competitive teams. We will revisit heading into tryouts next Spring.

House

5. FUNdamentals

- Met with coaches last week. Registrations can rise from 60 to 68. Registrations are currently at 40. The program is female-run using former NGHA players as coaches, and current U15 and U18 players as on-ice helpers. This will be the coaches last year. There are ideas on how to continue with the program that will need to be discussed at Board level.

6. Plan to prioritise House League development

- There was a feeling that this is an area we could be doing better at and we need to be more proactive.
 - Coach evaluations indicate that parents do not feel the Association puts enough emphasis on House players.
 - Need dedicated time to develop and execute a plan but it's a lot of work and assistance would be needed.
7. Goalie equipment - Renting/Purchasing
- Cheaper to rent from NGHA than buy.
 - Teams with no dedicated goalies are given a set of equipment to rotate through players.
 - We will need to buy more to support the House program, especially at younger levels. Comp. goalies should buy their own. Increased number of comp goalies using rental equipment is making things difficult for maintaining enough equipment for house teams who require it. We may consider asking comp goalies to purchase their own equipment instead. Cost of buying goalie equipment is part of problem for developing goalies. The younger players do most of the rentals. Also important to get the right equipment – for example, wooden goalie sticks are far too heavy for the younger girls.
 - The current rental fee is \$150 per team for the season. We also rent to kids playing spring hockey for \$125.
 - Not sure whether Bingo can fund this, but it will be investigated.
8. Who answers what questions - directing to the correct individuals
- Redirect questions that don't relate to your area to the right person.
 - Suggestion to update the website with R&Rs to give people an idea who to contact for what. The consensus is that the first port of call for teams should be their Convenor.
 - House League registration is open.

Administration

9. Administrative Director - What are the responsibilities wrt comms and fielding questions?
- Will take another look at the FAQ to try and anticipate questions.
 - If there are any new developments, they should be pushed out through the website and emails.
10. Sponsorship - Individual vs team sponsorship
- Individual sponsorship can create inequalities.
 - Kanata has good policy. EM to share with LW.
 - General feeling that there should be NO individual sponsorship requiring NGHA or team promotion.
 - Policy to pick up this work as part of the Sponsorship and Fundraising policy review.
11. Banners
- Want to be able to display banners we have won at arenas. EM and RM to talk.
12. Manager Portal
- There have been developments to the Managers/Treasurer's guide.
 - Suggestion to convene Manager, Den Mom and Treasurer meetings.
 - Possibly introduce Den Mom checks by independent official.

Programs

13. Coach Them
- Need to renew by August. Only five Competitive teams use it, but most of the House teams use it. The cost is typically built into team fees - \$95 per team.
14. Goalie Develop Program - Proposal to use Amped for the NGHA program
- Getting a discount – 10% to 50% if we bring our own coaches.
 - Would like to look at some of the smaller companies.
 - Have contacts who are willing to come out to run programs in July, but the cost is not known.

- Concern was expressed that a lack of goalie development has resulted in some less skilled goalies have made Competitive teams that they ordinarily wouldn't be playing on.
 - Will explore more involvement with Aaron N.
 - Suggestion to blend House & Competitive goalie development. Big motivator at the younger ages.
15. Player Mentor Program - Revive the Kyla McCandie program
- U18/U22/U15 to give back to the younger players. This could work particularly well for younger goalie development.
 - EP has a meeting soon and will send more details.
16. Coach Mentor Program – Should we bring this back?
- Worked well in the past with House – not so much with Comp.
 - Needs very experienced people, probably via a call out for candidates. Suggestion from SR – would be able to do virtual sessions. Fabien Joseph (scout for the Eagles) was suggested.
 - There was consensus that bringing this back is a good idea and worth exploring further. EP and SR to connect on this.
17. Pro Hockey Life partnership application
- Hoping to get hear back in 30 days. Players get discounts.

Policy

18. Priority of policies to update/develop? The following policies were prioritised for review and update:-
- Sponsorship and Fundraising.
 - Refund.
 - Hazing.

Any Other Business

19. Third party coaches can be on a separate roster.

Dates of next meeting

20. Full Board meeting on 27th August.