

Board Meeting - Minutes

October 2nd, 2025 - 7-9pm
Echo Room, Minto Rec. Centre

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

President

1. Welcome and comments.
 - Ottawa Senators organisation has reached out to offer the Association a deal on attending a game. Pass details on to the teams.
 - Ottawa GGs want to do a similar night on November 1st. Defer to next year.
 - Minimum suspensions list is to be updated.
 - Loops & scheduling done. U9/U11 to go ahead today.
 - Updates to procedure relating to referees showing up Disseminate through Convenors.
2. Approval of the minutes of 28th August.
 - Laura and Lisa C.

Administration

3. Details of the Wildcats Weekend shared by email prior to the meeting (appended). Preparations are progressing well.
 - Email to be sent to coaches and managers next week that outlines the schedule for the weekend. The only ask from teams is that people sign up to volunteer. The positions are:
 - Music during games both days
 - Bake sale (9:00-3:00 both days)
 - Activities room (9:00-12:00 both days)
 - Booked the following for both days:
 - Balloon arch, balloon selfie station, other balloons: \$1213
 - Facepainter for both mornings 9-12: \$510
 - Echo room upstairs from 9:00-12:00 and the canteen from 9:00-3:00
 - Take Another Bite (TAB) in Manotick will provide all baking at wholesale prices (40% off). The purpose of working with them is three-fold: one, we are not asking teams or families to purchase or do anything; two, we are supporting a local business; and three, we are not accepting baked goods from various kitchens with different hygiene standards.
 - In addition, to simplify things, we will have a "tap machine" installed on a phone, which can be shared with other parent volunteers. There is a small fee, but the idea after the bake sale, is to:
 - Pay the nominal fee
 - Reimburse TAB the cost of the baked goods
 - Donate all remaining funds to the Ottawa Bandits
 - Working with Joe on the social media posts, which will highlight the weekend and encourage girls to come out and cheer on their friends, as well as share what The Ottawa Bandits is all about.

VP Operations

4. Ice invoicing – move from three (3) per season to two (2).
 - Sept to December, and then Jan to end of season. General consensus to go along with this. Last invoice would align with what it is now.
5. Partnerships with businesses.
 - We don't currently have any criteria against which to evaluate proposals. Laura and Lyndsay will put draft together and bring to the Board.
6. Bingo – We have funds available after the HL jerseys have been bought.
 - A well know active wear brand reached out to offer a deal for U18 teams. Decision not to promote any single brand.
 - Covering cost of 'courses' and equipment for referees after they have refereed a certain number of games. For NGHHA girl referees only. Pass this message along at the ref. clinic.
7. DIFD House League registration is open.

Policy

8. Affiliations
 - This has been updated and will be sent out for Board approval. See
9. Den Mom guidance
 - Teams not following OWHA's minimum attire policy.
 - Has been updated and will be circulated with a message to reinforce adherence to OWHA and NGHA policies.
10. Extent of 'Duty to Accommodate' for NGHA.
 - Defer to a later meeting.

Competitive

11. U9 Competitive team formation
 - Positive turn out with a lot of great skaters. Cuts had to be made. Consider more than one team next year.
12. NGHA competitive team tournament performance last month:
 - U13C (Chiasson) Gold U15BB (Milne) Gold. U18B (Morreau) Silver U18A (Singer) Gold.
 - U22AA Gold at Stony Creek.
13. Budgets done. One outstanding.
14. Request for U15 Team Fee and Registration refund (email circulated to board members prior to meeting). [Refund Policy](#)
 - Request denied on the grounds that the policy is clear and the parents were reminded of it before they made the decision to leave.

House League

15. House League teams are in the process of being rostered, some issues with goalies and player withdrawals.
 - Pathways and Sortouts went well. Our biggest issue was volunteers. We had about 8-9 player volunteers who were no-shows; and a lot of last-minute cancellations. Despite over-booking volunteers, there were shifts we were scrambling to cover. Getting parents to step up and help with sortouts was a challenge as well. And player attendance at sortouts (in particular at U15 and U18) was poor. It is very hard to balance teams when 8/16 players show up for their sortout game.
 - Nonetheless, we will do a review and see where we can improve for next year.
 - Following a very busy two months, House League teams from U9 to U18 have been formed and are in the process of having their rosters approved. U18 is the first division to be fully approved and will begin playing games this weekend.
 - We were able to add a team at U15 and U18 - so both those levels are at 5.
 - We had some issues with goalies leaving the association and one who decided they'd no longer like to play goalie (after sort outs were completed) so that caused a ripple effect. U13 is still low on goalies - we moved a goalie up from U11, and had one new player step up. We also have a skater who will be rostered on a second team as a goalie, so we are trying our best to manage that situation.
 - Goalie gear bought. Raised price for competitive goalies to rent gear. All but one have returned gear.
16. Senior House League update.
 - We had a slight boost in registration since our last meeting, some players in their late 20s and 30s have joined - so it was the right move to change from U22 to a Senior HL program
 - We can now move to three teams - we had hoped for four based on our survey results
 - First ice time is this Sunday evening - players will participate in a controlled scrimmage, pick up their jerseys, etc. Games will begin after Thanksgiving.
 - As everyone participating in this program is over 18, coaches are not required, however we do need to have at least one trainer rostered to each team. I am working on reaching out to individual parents as we have only had two volunteers so far.
17. Review of parent proposal for player of the game coupons

- We received an offer from a local business to distribute player of the game “free pizza” coupons to HL teams.
 - We were seeking board approval as coupons are for a brewery.
 - While the parent is not asking for public recognition, this would be a league sponsorship (not limited to one team), and this sponsorship would ultimately drive business to his establishment
 - There was a concern in our group chat about letting parents promote their business in this manner, so we are raising it for discussion.
 - The offer was made over a month ago so it’s likely that the offer is no longer possible as the parent has indicated he has already sent the coupons off to print for another association - but we wanted to raise it as other similar offers are also coming in that would fall under the same scope in our opinion.
18. Tournament proposal (volunteer fundraiser).
- I’ve mentioned in the past how teams have been finding it challenging to recruit volunteers to cover off shifts for the tournament.
 - There are other tournaments who run their satellite rinks using volunteers - who are reimbursed for their work (ie. Bell Capital Cup)
 - Teams can submit their intention to run a rink - if there are multiple, we’d do a draw
 - This would be a good way for competitive parents to see what goes into running the House League tournament - as this is the tournament that brings in revenue for the whole league and there are lots of parents who don’t know this
 - The team would be in charge of the rink for the weekend. We would have to discuss how much the team would get from volunteering at each rink - maybe there is price per hour per rink? We will need to discuss.
 - House League parents would still be responsible for doing volunteer shifts at the basket raffle, 50-50, canteen, etc. This would be equal to what competitive parents are asked to do for their tournament.

Programs

19. We have a new coach and player volunteers for the Fundamentals program.
20. Mentorship program taking back seat to prioritise Fundamentals.
21. Development sessions not going as well as last year with low participation levels. Hopping numbers will pick up.

Finance

22. We are in a healthy financial situation.
23. Cheques starting to get cashed. No more income until ice cheques are received from teams.
24. Postal strike potential to impact cheque delivery. Keeping an eye on this situation.

Any Other Business

25. Pierre St. Pierre – Equipment and jersey manager. Has one more year to go before stepping down. We need to find a replacement.
26. Going to add refund waiver at sign-up next year.

Date of next meeting: 6th November

Wildcats Weekend Update (Estelle M)

Email communication to coaches and managers next week that outlines the schedule for the weekend.

The only ask from teams is that people sign up to volunteer. The positions are:

- Music during games both days
- Bake sale (9am to 3pm both days)
- Activities room (9am to noon both days)

The following are booked for both days:

- Balloon arch, balloon selfie station, other balloons: \$1213.05
- Face Painter for both mornings (9am to noon): \$510
- Echo room upstairs from 9am to noon and the canteen from 9am to 3pm
- Take Another Bite (TAB) in Manotick will provide all baking at wholesale prices (40% off). The purpose of working with them is three-fold: one, we are not asking teams or families to purchase or do anything; two, we are supporting a local business; and three, we are not accepting baked goods from various kitchens with different hygiene standards.

In addition, to simplify things, I am going to have a “tap machine” installed on my phone, which can be shared with other parent volunteers. There is a small fee, but after the bake sale I will:

- Pay the nominal fee
- Reimburse TAB the cost of the baked goods
- Donate all remaining funds to the Ottawa Bandits

I'm working with Joe on the social media posts, which will highlight the weekend and encourage girls to come out and cheer on their friends, as well as share what The Ottawa Bandits is all about.