

Board Meeting - Minutes

October 22nd, 2024 - 7-9pm
Echo Room, Minto Rec. Centre

Members Present: Claire B, Tracey F, Lisa C, Estelle M, Shawn R, Lindsay W, Rob M, Rob S, Lisa T, Glenn B, Eric P.

Regrets: Kim L

President / VP Operations

1. Benevity is a platform that can be used to donate. The NGHA now has an account that can be used for donations at the Association level. Will communicate out through teams.
2. Minutes from the September 24th Board meeting were approved.

Competitive

3. Refunds for injured players
 - The Association is aware of several scenarios where player injuries that have rendered them incapable of playing for the rest of the season. Requests have been made for registration and team fee refunds. The following decisions were made:
 - Registration Fees – No refunds for registration fees. Season ending injury by a certain date (TBD) would be considered in extenuating circumstances.
 - Team Fees – Refund can be pro-rated what they have paid so far based on number of ice-times.
 - If a player decides not to continue playing after they have accepted a place on a team, the refund policy does not allow refunds unless in extenuating circumstances. Proof of the circumstances would be needed, a doctor's note, for example.
4. Replacing players if a player is injured and unable to play for the rest of the season
 - Teams that lose a player(s) can pull up from below. Pulled up player pays new team fees and the Board will work with the team the player was pulled up from to make their budget whole at the end of the season.
5. Mandatory vs non mandatory practices/team events
 - Coaches cannot force players to attend practices that are out of normal parameters.
6. Internal roster freeze vs OWHA December 31st cutoff?
 - Consider and defer decision. Have something in place before tryouts and communicate.

House

7. Getting rosters approved this year was a particularly heavy lift due to new certifications requirements, but all teams now have approved rosters. It's worth noting that house league rosters need to be approved quickly - we have less than a month to accomplish what competitive has all summer to do. Thank you to Lisa T for all her support in getting our rosters approved in such a short period of time. All house teams are now rostered, and games have started. Our official season began this past weekend with Ice Fest. House teams will begin participating in tournaments as of November 1st.
8. Name bar placement on jerseys - we've noticed a trend of players placing their name bars below the numbers on their jerseys - this is a result of the PWHL's one-time promotion this past year. We don't have a clear guidance in our uniform policy on this other than to say that teams should present a uniform look. We'll be looking into this more and presenting clearer guidelines moving forward.
9. Team Finances Policy - our policy does not allow for eTransfers out of team accounts. Some banks are beginning to introduce two-factor authentication solutions to teams, so we have been getting questions about this. For this season, we have indicated to our teams that they should continue to follow our current policy. We will investigate these new solutions in the coming months and look into inviting a bank to a Board meeting to present their services so we can make an informed decision on whether or not these services meet our needs and criteria in order to update the current policy.
10. NGHA Senior League - last year, we brought forward our intent to begin investigating the possibility of setting up a senior league for players who have graduated out of the program. We are continuing to work towards the goal of having this set up for the upcoming season (beginning in 2025). The idea is

that it would be a safe, inclusive place for players of all abilities to continue enjoying hockey after U18. General support from the Board on this initiative.

Administration

11. Competitive Tracksuits
 - General agreement to move ahead. Lots of details to work out. Estelle to investigate vendors, etc.
 - Mandatory for U9 to U15. U18s can age out.
 - **Motion:** To task Estelle to investigate sourcing vendors. Possibly have a kit day where vendors come in and pitch. Need by Labour Day. Do something similar for House.
12. Newsletter: Standing sections, frequency, tooling:
 - Volunteer spotlight
 - Raise the flag at U22 games
 - News from the organisation
 - NMHA uses a newsletter production tool/application. We should investigate what options are out there to help streamline the production of our own newsletter.
13. Concussion information sheet for all trainers – refresh needed
 - There are more current protocols than on our website. Other sources of information:
 - Concussion clinic
 - Hockey Canada / Hockey Ontario has protocols
 - Item for the newsletter.

Programs

14. NGHA Development Programs - Enrollments slowing as season picks up.
 - We are still covering costs and more.
15. Wildcat Day – January 18th
 - Spoke with some of our partners about the idea of setting up booths to help support them.
 - All teams playing.
 - Have contacted the Minto booking rep. to enquire about the rules for inviting food trucks.
 - Pancake breakfast provided by Board
 - Request Cambrian Hall for this.
16. Team to be made aware that the mid-season Coach Evaluations are coming up.
17. ADP - Discussions are underway for U22 team management on the direction for the rest of their program.
18. Talk to TeamSnap to see if they can support ice scheduling as an alternative to DNC.

Finance

19. No update.

Policy

20. Policy Working Group update
 - Julien Webb and Laura Reid.
 - Would like someone from House. House Directors to investigate.
 - Affiliation policy is the first one the new sub-committee will look at.

Any Other Business

21. Use of the Wildcats' logo
 - It is being used liberally by non-team, for profit, commercial entities. Other associations charge for the use of the logo. Need policy detailing what it can/cannot use logo for.
22. Bumpers for Minto. U9s can't play games here.
23. Rob S. to look into the NMHA structure.
24. Glenn B to start looking into options for streamlining file structure/email/etc.

Date of next meeting: 19th November