



## Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

### OMHA Hockey Mission Statement:

To promote RESPECT, SPORTSMANSHIP, and SKILL DEVELOPMENT through a collective obligation with parents, players, coaches and volunteers. We are committed to creating a positive hockey experience in an enjoyable and safe environment.

### Vision

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## MINUTES – February 16, 2022

Called to Order: 7:02

### Welcome

#### Attendance

Geoff Stewart

Todd Esler

Lindsay Graw

Jenny Sekulich

Bruce Layte

Rebecca Streit

Jennifer Dustow

Pat de Haas

Michelle Barratt

Jenn Zaffino

~~Jeremy Gough~~

Kelly Lush

Jamie Steer

~~Char Crooks~~

Carolyn Berven

~~Greg Schmidt~~

~~Orinda McCann~~

~~Jarrett Finney~~

Candice Wyma

~~Roy Bowlby~~

Karla Helm

Josh Esler

Daron Dumanski

~~Nadine Neufeld~~

~~Glenn Walker~~

Graeme Sloane

Blair Scott

~~Raeanne Tangedal~~

Motion to accept the minutes from January 11, 2022 as presented was made by Bruce and seconded by Todd. All in favor. Carried.

### Reports

#### President – Geoff

- Game and conduct – process is working
- Jersey replacement – working on budget for midget jerseys (about \$125-150/jersey); needing at least 2 sets, ideally 4
- Mental Wellness Program – Amy will speak later
- Task groups – thank you to Graeme for putting together the female task force
- Hockey Tools in Gold – let's get some OMHA stickers and permanent markings on the tools (Edgeboss has them engraved in, but maybe others don't)
- Talk with Jarrett/Josh about goalie plans for next year

#### VP Coach/Player Development – Josh

#### VP Programs – Todd

- Sat down with PW house coaches, will summarize notes and then circulate; it was good and would like to do the same with atom house coaches; Okotoks programs are the foundation of our membership and would like to spend some time to see what these groups like/suggest



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### OOAA – Pat

#### Treasurer – Kelly

- Members are reaching out to her, she is having to communicate the flow chart – need to remind the membership

#### Secretary – Karla

#### Equipment – Roy/Jeremy

- They will have jerseys for graduating players, just trying to figure out which ones to use

#### Admin – Lindsay

- Graduating player jerseys/certificates
  - 46 graduating players this year, completed all certificates, just waiting on 3 teams for their top choice of jersey #'s; will then send to Equipment to sort and then Lindsay will distribute
- OOAA showcase
  - If anyone has questions, email [mike@okotokshockey.com](mailto:mike@okotokshockey.com) (Mike Barra)
  - People asked to letter of interest and then will send out invites
- AP's for next season – HA changed them last second this year, after ours was already complete; next year the HCR will show players differently

#### Operations – Jamie

- CAHL Update
  - Already forwarded info from the league
  - Every atom team makes play-offs, gives everyone 1 extra week
  - U15 T3 starts this weekend to ensure there is a champion in time for Provincials
  - RMFHL starts this weekend for some divisions
  - Deadlines are shorter than normal in some cases; may need to organize a Monday
  - Will keep forwarding stuff as they come
- End of season ice schedule
  - Working constantly on this schedule so that it is updated as needed
  - Contract goes to Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, if you are still playing then Jamie will get you ice
  - If you are eliminated but still want ice until Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, reach out – teams still playing get priority
- Still working on Overtime rules and will distribute to ref rooms/boxes

#### Safety Director – Orinda/Amy Snyder



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- Any introduction; currently teaching mental health in 3 schools right now
- Last 2 years OMHA has been trying to implement support for players, coaches, parents
  - Has received some requests over the years, since September there has been an increase
- COVID delayed, and now we are realizing this needs to be available to players even more now
- 1 team has taken her on for 2 sessions per month
- Working on a program that could be ready for next season; HA is interested in what we are doing and we have submitted some of our info/hiccups
- In fall, looking to educate all individuals working with children, should all have general understanding of when to reach out and who to reach out to; not exactly sure what this looks like
- Any questions, always available, reach out

### Fundraising – Geoff

- Looking for end of year to have everything freshened up ready for next year and what options are for next year; maybe bring back to JNJ but at start of the season; hopefully have something ready for AGM

### Game & Conduct – Kevin/Glenn/Jacque

- Jacque will try to attend one of the next few meetings

### Web Admin – Graeme

### Goalie Liason – Jarett

### Okotoks Ref Assoc – Greg

I am not able to make the Meeting this week as it overlaps with the ORA Executive Meeting. However Wanted to make sure everyone got the info as we head into the home stretch of regular season & playoffs. Dan if you can forward to your OOAA Directors so they can get the info that would be great.

### Off Ice Officials:

As we head into playoffs, heighten emotions, and limited ice time for Overtime etc. It is imperative that the officials on the ice have a strong working relationship with the off ice officials (score keepers, time keepers, gate openers etc). Meaning if you have a volunteer who does not normally work the box, or isn't comfortable working the box, or does not know what they are doing on the clock, score sheet etc. That we try and recruit the volunteers who enjoy doing those duties and are good at it. This will shave some of the delays down (waiting for penalties to be added to the clock, score sheet questions, etc.) as well when we get into the more elite and older age groups there becomes a part where the officials rely on the box people for more than just the basic duties (Goals & Assists, penalty management etc.). One last thing to mention, that if you have a volunteer who doesn't like officials, or likes to yell, be vocal, or cheer really loud, being in the time



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box this time of the year is not likely where they should be. We had a penalty gate keeper who constantly was giving non verbal signals to the referee from inside the box while his back was turned. People like that should not be in the box any time, but specifically this time of the year when there is heightened emotion

### Playoff Rules:

Please Please Please Make sure that your time keepers / managers have a copy of playoff rules. This would include when there is and isn't overtime, as well as if games can be drop clocked when the ice permit has reached its maximum etc. There are multiple leagues that officials are working, so they will not know all of the rules for each league that your teams may operate in. So this is important that everyone be as prepared as possible. This will cause less delays and and possible strain on the ice permit, as well as the officials stress.

### End Zone Face Offs:

This has come up quite a few times this year, and unfortunately we were not able to host an ask the referee evening due to COVID, so this is the next best thing. There seems to be a lot of confusion for End Zone Face Offs, and how they are to be conducted. There is heightened awareness during this time of the year from officials, so be prepared if your players are not lining up correctly they will be removed from the face off. If removed from the face off twice in the same face off will result in a face off violation penalty against the team.

### Very Basic Understanding:

- Visiting Team has 5 seconds to change; Referee's Arm Goes Up
- Home Team now has 5 seconds to change; Referee's Arm Goes Down
- Linesperson blows the whistle to initiate face off and has 5 seconds to complete
- Linesperson will set the back wingers. ALL Sticks, Skates, Feet, Extremities need to be behind the hash marks, and everything but the stick is to remain outside the circle
- Linesperson will set the other wingers, same criteria above apply. NOTHING over the hashmarks INCLUDING Sticks. Sticks can rest in the circle. Nothing else in the circle
- Linesperson will set the Centres - Feet outside the hashmarks, not moving past the front hash marks, sticks in the designated location.
- ANY VIOLATION of this is removal of the centre, and someone else needs to take the draw. The Player who did not line up correctly CAN NOT take the face off.
- After 5 seconds if the Centre is not set up the centre will be removed and counts towards a face off violation. Face off Violation will happen on the second Centre being removed.

Overall this should take 15 seconds. to change and drop the puck. However not always will this be the case.

### Holding the Bench End of Periods & Game:



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It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to hold their bench (players to remain on the bench), at the end of each period and at the end of the game. Failure to do so could result in penalties being assessed to the players, as well as a game misconduct to the coach. Generally a penalty will be called in the event that schanigans is happening somewhere on the ice. There is a heightened awareness to this rule, this time of the year. So want everyone to be aware of it, and don't be surprised when an official reminds you to hold your bench. I know everyone gets excited for the win, but a quick glance at the official to ask if its ok to rush your goalie is usually the best way as they will be looking at your bench likely right at the end of the buzzer.

### Players on the ice in-between Periods

It is imperative to keep games on time this time of year, and as such please make sure your players who are starting the period are the only players on the ice. The whole team does not need to go for a skate after each period. This could result in a delay of game penalty. Once again this rule tends to come out this time of year.

### Approaching Officials:

As I am pretty sure I have said about 10 times already during this email, and if you have made it this far congratulations, but as this is a heightened time of year, both officials, coaches & players tend to have shorter fuses and it is imperative we all respect one another.

There seems to be something that says lets open the gate, and almost step onto the ice to have a yelling match with a referee. The best way to have a conversation (especially with the younger kids) is to step down from the bench and just have a normal conversation. No gate needs to be open and NEVER STEP ON THE ICE. The moment you step on the ice it is an automatic game misconduct. so step down and just have a conversation with the officials. Officials are less likely to come talk to you if you have the gate open and you are standing there. Also slamming the gate is another good way to not get an official to come talk to you. Some officials will remind you to step down, and others (such as myself) don't care if you are standing on the bench. But for the kids it is easier to understand them if you step down to there level. Also allow the kids to catch their breath and approach it calmly otherwise they are going to shut down on you and not answer any questions. Best thing to do with the kids is ask them what they saw, or interpret a rule for you, and PLEASE let them finish and speak otherwise they are going to get flustered and shut down. Also not every time you ask an official to come talk to you they are going to come over. If it is going to slow down the game, and the officials doesn't deem it as something that needs to be addressed right away they may not come over. They may come over at a next storage or a few stoppages later. May also be used as a cooling down period for possibly the official / Coach in order to make sure cooler heads prevail.

### Issues with Officials:

If your team experiences any issues with officials from now until the end of the season, I know we have a 24 hour rule, but sometimes due to the nature of the playoffs and this time of the year, please reach out to your directors to then reach out to myself to have the conversation. Because of the official shortage you may see



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the same official multiple times so want to make sure that if there are issues we address them right away and either shuffle your crew or leave it how it is depending on the situation. Please just make sure they go through the director first, and CC Jamie so he is aware of what is going on, but they can come to me within a few hours is fine.

I think that is all my playoff reminders for everyone and thank you for taking the time to read everything. Should anyone run into any issues, problems or concerns or just needs some clarified to not hesitate to reach out. Your Teams success are the officials success as the more teams that make playoffs and go deep helps develop our officials in many different aspects that you do not get throughout the regular season. So GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

### Manager of Directors – Daron

- 20 less complaints compared to 2 years ago

### Rec League – Rebecca/Nadine

- Geoff will follow up separately for G & C updates

### Female – Jenn/Graeme

- Junior Female task force notes to Geoff for review
  - U9 inviting U7 second year females out to practice
- Working on a promo poster for junior female to attract applicants
- Foothills Fury asked us to help promote their organization, not a competing registration group
  - Maybe SM cross marketing/promotion
- Could we formalize some sort of AP plan for next year to give players opportunities at next level; Not seeing it happen both within OMHA and with OOAA
  - Lindsay addressed above, discuss with Jamie

### Initiation (U7) – Char/Jenny

- Heavy into tournament planning

### Novice (U9) – Blair

- Getting ready for end of season/tournament
- Some are showing interest in goalies for atom
- Going to try to do some atom prep for 2<sup>nd</sup> years – book some ice to review offsides, etc.

### Atom House (U11 House) – Michelle

- Bison's Day update



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- Looking like they raised close to \$10,000
- Next year looking to 3 Okotoks teams, it was fun
- U11 house - heading to playoffs shortly, we be a 3 team round robin played over 2 weekends
  - 1 major issue with a coach but the executive knows about it
  - can we offer either a video tutorial or a class on how to run the clock or do scoresheets and how to work with the ref's
    - <https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/okotoksmha/files/association/Clock%20Instructions.pdf>
- Buses - I would like to meet with the executive to discuss some options for next year, but went well using team snap for OMHA, so using Team App (I believe it is called) that is sponsored by Classic Source for Sports will be good to use

### Atom Travel (U11 Travel) – Carolyn

- U11 Tier 1- 9th/ 10 team - 5-9-2
- U11 Tier 2 - 5th/ 6 teams - 3-12-0
- U11 Tier 3 - 6th / 7 teams - 4-10-2
- U11 Tier 4 - 1st/ 5 teams - 12-2-0
- Some players that left to HSL may come back

### Peewee House (U13 House) – Candice

- Looking forward to Todd's report
- Those that struggled the first half, they are doing better during this second half
- One team had to take a loss last weekend because they had a schedule issue and couldn't attend

### Peewee Travel (U13 Travel) – Bruce

- Nothing other than the ORA image attached to email re: officials, coach is upset; will reach out to Greg
- Feedback on the tournament funds for development – Todd asked, Bruce will check with Karla W to see where that is at
  - Next year try to start the year off with a pool so that teams can start using in the fall

### Bantam (U15) – Jenn Z.

### Midget (U18) – Glenn

- Tier 1 – 2-9-3 record, 2 pts out of last playoff spot, 2 games left
- Tier 2 (CAHL 3) 5-7-2 record, currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place. 2 games left
- Tier 3 (CAHL 4) 5-9-1 record, currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place, 1 game left





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For the most part it's been a quiet year with issues. Dealing with an upset parent and player with Tier 2 team but should be dealt with at team level without sending to G%C.

### Questions:

#### Looked at double sided jersey?

They wear down faster, looked at it previously

Ringette colors being close to ours, no objection since Oilers have those colors too; then Okotoks looks like Okotoks universally

Meeting Adjourned: 8:02

APPROVED