

RMFHL Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Olds Recreation Center

In attendance: Jessie Cooper –President, Kenton Smith –VP, Doug Garritty-VPOps, Kathy Schulze-Secretary, Rob Sutherland –Airdrie, Harold Gahr-Canmore, Bev Stewart-GHC, Deb Loomer-GHC, Bruce Rafuse-Innisfail, Tom Fisher-Lacoka, Garrett Cowan-Lethbridge, Erick Lutterotti-Prairie Thunder, Jen Ashton-Okotoks, Petri Grick-Olds, Rod Bischke-Olds, Kim Gall-Olds, Fern Pagenkopf-Strathmore, Claire Melmofh-West Central, Steve Wilcox-West Central. Other guests – Ben Volek, Leanne Sherman

1. Call to order by Jessie Cooper at 1:14pm.
2. Introductions of Executive and new members in attendance.
3. Review and approval of minutes from AGM 2014. Motion by Rob Sutherland to approve the 2014 AGM minutes. 2nd-Kim Gall, all in favor.
4. LMHAs with guest status – Locoka and West Central. Motion by Rob Sutherland to award Lacoka and West Central as full status members of RMFHL. 2nd Bruce Rafuse , all in favor.
5. GHC would like to suggest splitting the role of secretary/treasurer into two positions. This will allow greater visibility of the financials, clarity of information, and with the increase in funds being managed by RMFHL – would suggest someone with accounting background to take over the role of treasurer. Motion by GHC to create a separate role of treasurer. The treasurer to be appointed at a later date. 2nd Rod Bischke, all in favor.
6. The RMFHL will be meeting within the next few weeks with Hockey Canada and Hockey Calgary to sort out the issues between GHC and RMFHL. The RMFHL would like to have a verbal commitment at this point that GHC will continue its participation in the RMFHL for the upcoming season. With this commitment, voting privileges will then be reinstated to GHC. Deb Loomer and Bev Stewart gave verbal consent. Voting privileges were then reinstated to GHC.
7. Treasurer's report. Please see attachment. Discussion – Rob S. indicated that the tiering costs, revenue and expenditures should be equal. Every effort will be done next season to ensure this happens – hopefully with better planning as a tiering committee has now been established. Rob S also indicated that the some LMHAs have a double cost of tiering as they have home ice that cannot be used during this weekend plus the cost of the weekend to each team. He would like to see the tiering weekend be able to use home ice if possible. Motion by Fern Pagenkopf to approve the treasurer's report. 2nd Bruce Rafuse. All in favor.
8. Jessie expressed thank you to all for attending and for all those who volunteered throughout the season. He would like to receive feedback from the division coordinators about the clarity of their roles and any feedback from the season. He was disappointed that the coordinators role of handing out championship banners was not always fulfilled. There were 4-5 occasions whereby the executive had to step in to fulfill this role. He wants to ensure that there is clarity on the role of this position.

9. Elections – two positions are up for election. The role of secretary and the role of VP-ops. Kenton and Kathy are both stepping down from their positions. Connie Holbein of Spruce View would like to apply for position of secretary. However, with the addition of the new North division, she would then become a member of that division. The position of secretary is also available in the north. Leanne Sherman would also like to apply for position of secretary. Leanne spoke indicating that she has 2 daughters playing in the RMFHL, she likes to be organized which comes with her job as pharmaceutical rep. There were no further applicants for this position. Leanne was then acclaimed as secretary of RMFHL. Ben Volek of GHC would like to run for position of VP-ops. Ben has 2 daughters playing at the bantam and midget levels. Ben has been involved with hockey for many years, has been a ref for 30years and continues to ref and mentor. He is a realtor and enjoys being involved in hockey. There were no other applicants for this position. Ben was acclaimed as VP Operations for RMFHL. With this transition Doug Garrity then moves into the role of Vice president and now has the responsibilities that Kenton had. We need to get Kenton removed from Signing authority and add Doug to that for our financial records.
10. Tiering Document review. The updated version of the tiering document was emailed to all. There was further discussion of GHCs wish to keep their declared teams together in the same division. They would accept movement if necessary. In the end, all teams will be placed in the best possible tier for all players involved. It was suggested that the tiering tournament not commence until 5pm on the Friday of the weekend. Jessie indicated that all efforts would be made that if the games needed to begin prior to 5pm, that the local teams or teams that were not in school that day would play the earlier times. Kenton will once again send out the final document to the members.
11. GHC would like to see a budget for the tiering weekend. This is not currently available.
12. Playoff format wording – Petria indicated that no changes have been made yet to this document.
13. Policy and Procedures Committee – it was decided that the RMFHL will put together a 5 member committee to review the bylaws and regulations – to clarify any wording. This committee can consist of eligible persons who may not be RMFHL board members. Volunteers for this committee are Erick, Fern, one member from Olds and one from GHC, as well as Kevin McCrae from Hockey Alberta.
14. Doug Garrity presented the stats of penalty minutes of players and teams. After discussion it was decided that if a player reaches 60 minutes of penalties, they will be given a one game suspension. At that time the league would like involvement of the home association to also act on the high number of penalty minutes. It was discussed that a coach suspension is not appropriate providing the associations assist in the handling of highly penalized players. Fern suggested that the limit of penalty minutes be adjusted per division ie. Midget 60min, bantam 50min, peewee 40min and atom 30min. This was agreed. For every 20minutes for midget/bantam and 10minutes for peewee/atom above this marker, the player will be given another game suspension. All cases will be reviewed case by case as to whether a possible coach suspension takes place. The penalty minute totals will then be reset at playoffs. Doug will finalize these suggestions for approval at the next league meeting in September. Kenton also commented that the overall number of game suspension for coaches was markedly lower this year, with only 7 coaching game suspensions. Fern then suggested keeping the team

penalty minutes limit at 250. Rod then suggested staggering these numbers per division as well. ie. Bantam/midget 250 and peewee/atom 150. It was reminded that the home association needs to take action regarding excessive penalty minutes.

15. Growth of the League: The North division will go ahead this coming season with 30+ associations involved. The north division will create separate bylaws, there will be no travel restrictions, no windows and they will have their own tiering weekend, inviting teams not participating in the league such as Edmonton and Sherwood Park. Two board members have already been established, Tom Fischer – Lacoka and Steve Wilcox – West Central, with Jessie acting as common President. They will also have separate banking. There will be no crossover between divisions this season.
16. GHC would like to express concern over the increasing travel distances. The midget teams have trouble with the longer distances with girls who play hockey for fun, have jobs or are not interested in the longer travel. They say it discourages girls from continuing in hockey and possibly switching to other sports. Jessie indicated that it was GHC who approved the longer travel amendment for teams to travel to Lethbridge. Jessie has had no reports of any concerns over the course of this season. Other midget teams have made mini tournaments with appropriate game changes to allow creativity in the scheduling. It was decided that sometimes there is a different level of commitment between A vs B teams. GHC does not want to lose sight of meeting the need of their players. Jessie suggested that perhaps the travel restriction be adjusted for A teams (Limit 200Km) and B teams (limit 140km). It was decided that perhaps this would not affect the matter. Rob Sutherland made a motion to continue the 200km travel distance for this year for Midget. 2nd Harold, all in favor. Erick Lutterotti made a motion to increase the travel distance for bantam to 200km for this year as a trial. 2nd Rod Bishcke. All in favor. This will save cost of facilities, referees and safety in travel.
17. Motion was made by Deb Loomer to accept Cranbrook into the RMFHL with guest status (to play in Coleman). 2nd Garrett. All in favor.
18. No Windows – Jessie made the suggestion to run the season with no windows, but allow unlimited game changes. GHC indicated that Girls Hockey Calgary will not support the game change initiative – game changes only allowed due to weather or extreme circumstances. GHC therefore would like to continue with the windows to allow their teams to participate in tournaments. It was decided to leave the window policy in place but remove the limit of the number of games changes.
19. Affiliation rule – HCR will now issue rosters, including affiliate players to RMFHL. Team managers will no longer be responsible for entering affiliate players. RMFHL will follow HA rules for affiliation.
20. Amendment to the playoff policy – this will now be addressed by the newly established policy committee.
21. New Business – Thank you to Kenton and Kathy for 4 years of service to the RMFHL.
22. Meeting adjourned 4:00pm

Minutes prepared by Kathy Schulze.