

Annual General Meeting

May 21, 2018

10:00am

CARSTAIRS

- 1) Welcome – Call to Order at 10:05AM by Jessie Cooper
 - 2) Welcome – Jessie Cooper
 - 3) Goaltender Presentation – Murray Pound
 - a) Slideshow presentation – will be available online on the RMFHL website for all members to access
- ~ break called at 10:39am – resumed meeting at 10:49am~
- 4) Nominations and voting of Available Board Positions - 6 Positions available as of time of meeting
 - a) League President
 - i) No Nominations received
 - ii) Motion for Jessie Cooper to retain Position Bunny Julius/ 2nd Debbie Novells. Carried Unanimously
 - b) Vice President Operations South
 - i) No Nominations received
 - ii) Motion for Ben Volek to retain Position Jessie Cooper/ 2nd Craig Perrett. Carried Unanimously
 - c) Treasurer North/South, Secretary South
 - i) Connie Holbein resigned as of this year, Nomination for Chelsey Fisher to obtain position. No other nominations received.

- ii) Motion for Chelsey Fisher to obtain position by Jessie Cooper / 2nd Sara Howell. Carried unanimously.
- d) Secretary North
 - i) No motions
- e) Vice President North
 - i) Tom Fisher resigned as of this year due to job change but will mentor with new VP, Nomination for Neal Tetrault to obtain position. No other nominations received.
 - ii) Motion for Neal Tetrault to obtain position by Jessie Cooper / 2nd Peter Hall. Carried unanimously.
- f) VP Operations North
 - i) Newly created position on board to assist with operations. Nomination for Kathy Waters to obtain position. No other nominations received.
 - ii) Motion for Kathy Waters to obtain position by Jessie Cooper / 2nd Peter Hall. Carried unanimously.
- 5) Review Budget for the year North and South
 - a) Partial Transfer of paper work occurred to Chelsey Fisher by Connie evening before meeting, so will need to provide details at a later date
 - b) Some outstanding fines to be collected from LMHA's still, will need to be determined and followed up on shortly
 - c) "Nitro" reimbursements to be provided to affected LMHA's
 - d) Approximate account balances \$24,000 South and \$12,000 North
- 6) Atom and the future in both South and North
 - a) Atom to remain split into a North and South Conference
 - b) Hockey Alberta moving to remove Atom level hockey from Provincial qualifications, which allows opportunity to tier South Atom as tiering will no longer have an affect on any provincial qualifying.

South Atom

c) Teams list provided by South Atom LMHA's

LMHA /# of Teams	Anticipated Tier 1/2
i) Canmore – 1	0/1
ii) Okotoks – 3	1/2
iii) Innisfail – 1	0/1
iv) Red Deer – 2	1/1
v) Olds – 1	1/0
vi) Strathmore – 1	0/1
vii) Cochrane – 1	0/1
viii) Airdrie – 1	1/0
ix) Medicine Hat – 1	1/0
x) Lethbridge – 1	0/1
xi) Brooks – 1	0/1

d) Min 5 teams required for a division if the decision is made to tier

MOTION: to Tier Atom South into "A" and "B" by Sara Howell, 2nd Debbie Novells. Passed Unanimously.

North Atom

e) Teams List provided by North Atom LMHA's

LMHA /# of Teams
i) Leduc – 1
ii) Lakoka – 1?
iii) Stettler – 1
iv) Camrose – 1
v) WCW – 1?
vi) Endmoor, Athabasca, 3C's and Warburg – Unknown

- f) Travel is the biggest issue facing Atom age/level team and parents. Ensuring best matching of level of competition is also an issue (ie teams not destroying other teams)
- g) Red Deer association is centralized and could have teams in either North/South conference.
- h) GHC atom teams will not be returning to RMFHL
- i) There are currently conversations being facilitated by Hockey Alberta to include Hockey Edmonton female teams into female leagues and the league is warming up to the idea of future opportunities, but any plans are several years out.
- j) Option to look at RMFHL “interlock” weekends where teams can play games against other conference teams (Crossover games), weekends will have set game on one day leaving second day open for any make-up games or exhibition games for teams to manage themselves. Games will be scheduled with each team having a home weekend and the other an away weekend – draws will be made for teams playing and LMHAs will communicate information to teams to ensure understanding of weekends. Set weekends to be Nov 2-4th 2018 and Jan 11-13th, 2019.

Motion to set two Interlock weekends between North and South Atom conferences, being November 2-4th, 2018 and Jan 11-13th, 2019 as a pilot program in the 2018-2019 season. Teams will be randomly drawn as to who they are playing. Teams will have one weekend “at home” and one “away” weekend. Only one game will be schedule each weekend, leaving the other day for any “make-up” or exhibition games the individual teams are interested in scheduling. Carried Unanimously.

- k) North division (all age groups) scheduled to do mandated “interlock” weekends with ECFHL on November 11, 2018 and Jan 18th, 2019 already. Will be drawn random teams to play each other, and will try to find “neutral” locations for teams of greater distance, if possible but no guarantees.

7) Novice League interest in RMFHL?

- a) Changes are coming to Novice level hockey from Hockey Alberta/Canada – optional in 18-19, mandatory in 19-20 seasons. LMHAs are unsure of how this will affect or be managed locally for their own teams as each will likely apply the changes to team formation/play slightly differently and are unwilling to commit to much at novice until there is a better understanding and a season of application of the new format.
- b) Okotoks is interested but no other LMHA feels they are interested or even considering participation in a female novice league at this point.

8) Promotion committee

- a) No comments or discussion at this time, however Chelsey Fisher (treasurer) also has a background with Calgary Inferno and so will be a good addition to the committee with her knowledge and experience.

9) Kimberly Nitro's –

- a) Due to the substantial issues that occurred with the organization they have been permanently removed from the league and will not be permitted to return and participate again.

10) Review of Guest Status to application Permanent Status - Pikanni

- a) Pikanni participated with guest status and has applied for permanent status
- b) Midget level team, potential for other age groups in later years as program builds
- c) Issues raised that the level of reffing at some games may not have been acceptable for Midget and that there were issues with only one referee attending games.
- d) Coach was also suspended for 10 games due to playing an ineligible player in a tournament (HA ruling, not RMFHL)
- e) RMFHL is clear that these issues will not be tolerated within the RMFHL league and must be addressed and not repeat in seasons with RMFHL teams.
- f) Pikanni representative has communicated that there had been previous issues with the board, however the board is being cleaned up and there is a better relationship and plan within the association for hockey. He feels that the issues in part were the old board and some growing pains and that there is a conscious effort to ensure it is fixed going forward.

Motion for Pikanni to be given permanent status as a member association of RMFHL by Debbie Novells. 2nd by Jennifer Dustow. Passed Unanimously.

11) New Association Applications

- a) Invermere Minor Hockey Female
 - i) Interested in bringing in a Midget team. They would play Midget A due to the distance to Calgary. They are aware of this and are comfortable with the team's ability to play this level.
 - ii) Jessie has been in regular contact with the female coordinator for this league for a couple of years leading into this and is confident that the team will be able to soundly secure ice for games and build a reputable and secure program for the team. The female coordinator is also the ice scheduler so Jessie is confident that ice will be appropriately provided for games, and scheduling of games will be handled well.
 - iii) Female coordinator has also put together contacts and plans for teams with local hotels and organizations for teams travelling to them in order to facilitate better/less costly situations
 - iv) Looking at a "mini" weekend style of play with teams going there for double headers there and multi-team weekend games in Alberta. The game scheduling will be done with RMFHL

scheduling rather than teams scheduling their own, as has been a problem with previous teams of this distance.

Motion for Invermere Minor Hockey to be given guest association status in RMFHL for the 2018/2019 season with a Midget A team Jennifer Dustow/2nd Jody Cleland. Passed by Majority, with GHC noting as opposed

- b) Kimberly Minor Hockey (Not the same group as the “Nitro”)
 - i) Currently in the infancy of any conversations with the group, nothing to report.
- c) Siksika Nation
 - i) Late contact evening before AGM, indicating some interest in bringing a Female midget team into league for next season
 - ii) Further conversations will be facilitated with Board as to interest.
 - iii) Siksika is already a member association, and meet all qualifications of membership therefore no action required on behalf of Board or members at this time.
- d) Maskwacis Chiefs (North league) Minor Hockey
 - i) Continual issued with team not showing, scheduling issues, difficulty working with the association and fines now outstanding
 - ii) Decision made they will not be returning to RMFHL league

~ Lunch break called at 11:57am – resumed meeting at 12:20pm~

12) North scheduling report

- a) Weather was a bigger issue this season
- b) Many teams pushed back games from start of season which complicated the issue with the weather as well in relation to scheduling
- c) Some teams experienced very unbalanced seasons, with a heavy game load in one month rather than more evenly spread out the other 3 months.
- d) North Playoff format – Format in 17-18 season worked well. Will keep for next season
- e) RMFHL will be changing the titles of the divisions due to some confusion with Hockey Alberta and/or tiering.

13) South Scheduling Report

- a) Weather again was a huge issue with teams/games this year
- b) In addition there were issues with teams booking tournaments during playoff weekends

- c) Suggestion to start the season earlier to assist with ending earlier (mid-Feb) to help alleviate some of the late season back ups with Playoffs and provincials and late season tournaments team may want to be part of.
- d) Thanksgiving weekend would be the earliest start for the season. It has previously been problematic for parents to start this weekend, however this would be the only option in order to cut the season off earlier in February
- e) Same format of games for tiering as last season – 2 weekends of games and a blackout weekend.
- f) No changes to current tournament window allowances.

Motion: for Peewee Level and higher - to start the season a week earlier, with tiering games occurring the weekends of Oct 12 and Oct 19th, 2018. Each team would have a total of 4-6 tiering games over the two weekends, as determined by the league based on placement needs. The last weekend of October would be the blackout scheduling weekend and the regular season will commence the weekend of November 2-4th. The regular season will end the weekend of February 15-17, 2019 with all scheduled games being finished by Sunday. Monday, February 18th 2019, being Family Day, will be considered a “flex day” for teams to have in order to make up any games required, with no season games being scheduled for this date. Passed Unanimously for 18-19 season.

- g) South Playoff Format – the current format of “best of three” for all rounds of each series draws the playoffs out too long. In addition it was noted that not having specific dates to associate with each round makes containing the dates and managing the time that much more difficult. There is also ice availability issues with the earlier playoff games.
 - i) Look at defining weekends and/or changing the format back to a two game only series for the first round, with the “Hockey Alberta Total Goal” format to determine a winner. Either or both of these suggestions would reduce the required time of the round to a single weekend of play, rather than the three game format which can roll into a second weekend, delaying the next series also.

Motion: For the playoff format return to a 2 game total series with the Hockey Alberta “total goal” format for determining the winner, for rounds 1 and 2 of all series of 6 or more teams, and round 1 of any 4 team series. The final round of all series structures will remain a “Best of 3” game format. Passed Unanimously for 18-19 season

14) Review of penalty minutes and the procedures

- a) North – No noticeable Issues. A small number of suspensions but overall generally down from previous seasons.
- b) South – Average number of infractions, with no serious issues

- i) 1 rollover playover suspension to be forwarded to RMFHL (Provincials) and 1 indefinite suspension of a coach (Hockey Alberta)
- c) Complaints to RMFHL were also down this year, both over other teams and reffing
- d) It should also be noted that while RMFHL fields complaints about teams play, it is ultimately up to the referees on the ice to make the calls and that RMFHL is limited in its power to resolve these “rough team” issues. It is not that RMFHL does understand the concerns of the teams, however there is only so much that RMFHL is able to manage in regards to these situations.

15) Future of associations within RMFHL

- a) GHC has provided notice, and RMFHL has accepted, that they will be withdrawing most of their Bantam teams from the league. The plan is to keep 3 teams within RMFHL, however they are undecided how exactly they will set the teams up. The remaining Bantam teams will be moved into a local “house” style league. The primary issue facing GHC currently is a severe shortage of goaltending in the coming years.
- b) There are currently no plans to change GHS’s Peewee teams or Midget teams for the upcoming season, but in all likelihood the Midget teams will also be withdraw in a similar format as Bantam in the next season.
- c) This move may open up the opportunity to structure the league out of a defined “north” and “south” and perhaps open up opportunity in the coming seasons for more interlock weekends

16) First meeting for South September 11th at 7:00 PM at TBD

17) First meeting North September 12th at 7:00 PM at TBD

18) Division Coordinators

- a) Almost all South divisions had coordinators this year, which took a lot of burden off of the board. All of the coordinators did a great job, and several have offered to return next season.
- b) Only Bantam Blue returned with some team feedback as requested. Some of the comments as follows:
 - i) Lack of clarity over the FOIP forms. This resulted in several teams being fined, and it has been acknowledged it wasn’t well communicated to the teams
 - (1) Should LMHAs be responsible for FOIP. Each association, except GHC, already fills these out as part of their own requirements. It is only required for the teams in RMFHL for GHC. RMFHL will look to implement LMHA responsibility over these in the coming season
 - ii) The managers meeting at the season start is a “waste of time” and isn’t well received by some.

- (1) It was suggested that instead RMFHL look to develop a handbook and that each LMHA have a smaller meeting with just their female managers/coaches to go over the details rather than a larger format meeting with the league. RMFHL will work with LMHAs to implement this style for the upcoming season
- (2) RMFHL will task their marketing committee to reengage in development of a handbook for the manager's
- iii) There was some feedback from teams directed at whether or not RMFHL board members were paid, that there was a perception of "favouritism" and questioning bylaws. RMFHL board is a volunteer position, as are most of the other boards. No specifics were provided to support the favouritism comment from the team, although there was a comment that there may have been a scheduling situation that saw one team not have to travel to the other team, but had two home games. This was an oversight of RMFHL, rather than a favouritism.
- iv) Encouragement from RMFHL to LMHAs to have "manager mentors" and to assist their female team managers more.

19) New Business

- a) Emma Armstrong was a midget player with Strathmore that was killed in a car accident in January 2019. Request to donate \$500 on behalf of RMFHL to the Memorial scholarship for Sport and Leadership being set up in her name. Motion Fern 2nd Debbie Novells, Passed Unanimously.
- b) Parker Tobin was a goaltender from northern Alberta killed in the Humboldt bus accident in April. His family is looking to set up a scholarship specific to supporting goaltenders coming to and staying in the game and since goaltenders is an issue that all associations face a request was made to donate \$500 on behalf of RMFHL to the Parker Tobin fund, Motion Natasha, 2ns Peter Hall. Passed unanimously.
- c) PeeWee division tiering
 - i) Okotoks has expressed a desire for the league to define three peewee divisions now in order for teams to be able to evaluate for that, thus allowing girls to play at the level they should be, in particular "C" or entry level.
 - ii) GHC indicated should that decision be made that they will adjust their teams accordingly and likely equally between the three tiers ie, if there are 6 teams, 2/2/2. GHC further went on to express that they did not feel this would be an ideal situation and in particular would create a repeat situation of the "Peewee A" division in 17-18 season, where there were only 4 teams as no other associations wanted to participate at that level. GHC feels this will create no where for "A" level teams to play, rather than the perception of no where for C level girls to play. The suggestion was made by GHC that Okotoks should consider equally splitting teams into the divisions (ie 2/2 where there are 4 teams) rather than their current model of 1 in A and 3 in B.

- iii) Jessie acknowledged that there would no be a repeat of the peewee "A" division of this year and that it is not a sustainable model to have divisions of only 4 teams. He also expressed concern increasing the level of teams by reducing the number from GHC would only lead to no one wanting to play against the teams in A, which he concurs is the bigger issue here.
- iv) There will be no change to the current tiering structure for peewee.

20) Motion to adjourn at 1:49pm by Jessie Cooper.

AGM Attendees, April 21, 2018 – 10:00am to 2:00pm, Carstairs, AB

RMFHL:

Jessie Cooper, President

Doug Garritty, Vice President South

Ben Volek, VP Ops South

Chelsey Fisher, Secretary South and Treasurer North & South

Murray Pound, Marketing and Communications

Association Representatives

Craig Perrett, GHC

Ted Oloriz, GHC

Natalie Hasluns, Strathmore

Melissa Jerdan, Okotoks

Jennifer Dustow, Okotoks

Byron Hall, Medicine Hat

Mel Crowson, Okotoks

Paola Michael, WCW

Brad Robbins, Stettler

Debbie Novells, Cochrane

Bunny Julius, Canmore

Tara Huck, Airdrie

Peter Hall, Lacoka

Lee Smith, Piikani

Rachel Ramey, Athabasca

Katie Smith, Cochrane

Sara Howell, Innisfail

Terry Coutts, Red Deer

Jody Cleland, Olds

Kathy Waters, Camrose