

**St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 7pm – PRC Community Hall**

**In attendance:** Rich Ballantyne, Katharine Found, Chris Boyd, Mike Johnson, Lori Martin, Julie Pickering, Paul Williams, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Donna Levy, Tyler Dingman, Kelly Craigmile, Sarah Jeffrey, Mark Brintnell, Mike King, Bob Davis, Jim Craigmile, Jared Stokes, Rick Harburn, Brayden Lord, Ryan Harris, Joe Wilhelm, Dave Blake, Joe Robson

**Regrets:** Brandon Boyd, Dan Rudolfer,

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by SMMHA President, Mark Brintnell.

Attendance was taken for all of those in attendance.

**Minutes from the March 7, 2023 Meeting:**

- Moved to adopt the minutes as circulated by Jocelyne G. Seconded by Donna L.  
Carried

**REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report: Rich Ballantyne**

- Profit loss statements and Account Balances reports were circulated to attendees for review
- Account balances as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:
  - o Operating Account (chequing): \$97,236.40
  - o Etransfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$130,917.27
  - o Lottery Account (Trust): \$29,746.12
- All referee and ice costs for the 2022-2023 season have been included, therefore the statement is an accurate reflection of where the association is at for the fiscal year end.
- Overall loss on the season was approximately \$67,000, based on presented Profit Loss Statement, which was better than budgeted. Overall our tournaments generated more revenue than budgeted and unexpected sponsorship contributions also helped.
- **Question:** do families understand the true costs of hockey and what goes into registration fees? The registration page on the website has been updated to list the items that make up a player's registration fees.

**Registrar's Report: Jocelyne Gall**

- Registration is now open, until April 9<sup>th</sup>, including registration for U21. As of this morning registration totals are 209 player for OMHA and 79 players for OWHA.
- Reminders will be posted on social media this week
- **Question:** will late fees be charged to U7 players who don't sign up until later in the summer, if they are new to hockey? Late fees only apply to registrations that haven't paid in full by August 20<sup>th</sup>. Any player who registers after the registration deadline will have their name

added to a wait list and will only be permitted if space in the program allows, but no late registration fees will be applied.

#### **OMHA: Mike Johnson**

- OMHA has decided to phase out the NRP program, pending final approval at the AGM in June. 2011 and above would be eligible to have 3 NRP players each season, 2012 born players would be allowed to have 2 NRP players until minor hockey graduation. 2013 born players would be allowed to have 1 NRP player until minor hockey graduation. All other birth years after would not have any NRPs. OMHA considers the NRP program to be an opportunity for players to access a higher level of play in a neighbouring center, not to ensure a center remains viable at A.
- OMHA is continuing to discuss the introduction of two new categories – “c” and “d” – this will operate very similar to AE hockey.
- Amalgamation of Ingersoll and Tillsonburg is actually resulting in some players from the Embro and Thamesford area selecting St.Marys Minor Hockey as their Right of Choice association.
- OMHA has clarified to the NRP player situation with respect to players playing A hockey in Stratford. They have clarified that no Stratford players cut from Stratford can come to St.Marys to try out, and vice versa.
- An A Loop meeting took place last week – they are starting to put together the provisions for which the league will need to follow. There is still discussion and debate about whether they will host a U8 and U9 division. Meetings will be held monthly with Mark and Mike attending on our behalf.
- **Question:** what centers are part of the A loop? Dorchester, Mount Brydges, Strathroy, St.Marys, South Oxford, New Hamburg, Norfolk.
- **Question:** do we know if we will have a team at each age division? No, we will decide this after registration closes, taking into consideration the number of registrants, past on-ice records, overall skill caliber, coaches thoughts and recommendations.
- **Question:** is there a minimum number of teams that will be needed to make the A loop viable? At this point no, but they will continue to discuss this at the monthly planning meetings. If a division only has a few teams, they will try to coordinate with OMHA to make it a viable loop.
- **Question:** How do we opt out of a division? If it's a “minor” division (ie. U10, U12, U14, U16), we can simply opt out. If it is a “major” division (ie. U11, U13, U15, U18) we have to apply to OMHA and be granted the opting out.
- There is discussion that OMHA should make mouthguards an optional piece of equipment. Mike would like St.Marys Minor Hockey to examine the issue and determine if they should be on the ones to put the motion forward for the OMHA AGH.
  - o **Question:** Are they not necessary for concussion prevention? Current research suggests they are not as effective as once thought.
  - o **Plan:** members should research and think about this topic and plan to give Mike direction on how they should proceed at the next meeting.

#### **Shamrock Report: presented by Mark Brintnell**

- We have informed the Shamrock League that we will have a U21 team for the 2023-2024 season. The 3 criteria of a coach, dedicated players and interest from other centers have been met. Registration will remain open until April 21.
- U11B were finalists in the Shamrock League playoffs; U13B were champions

**LMLL: Joe Robson**

- U11 LL placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their Tier 2 finals
- Question: has a U9 committee been formed and any decisions made at this time? There was a meeting last week that Joe wasn't able to attend, but he will receive minutes and will report back.

**Tri-County League: Dan Rudorfer (read by Mark Brintnell)**

- Dan will send a message to thank the Tri-County League for allowing our U16 team to join the league this past season. We will need to inform the league that we will not be joining next year.

**OWHA: presented by Tyler Dingman**

- 10 Permission to Skate forms have been handed out. There is information on the website which details a players responsibilities and steps when requesting a PTS
- Currently it is looking like there will be 1-2 teams at each division, hoping for B and C levels.
- There is a need to attract and develop female goalies – which should be a priority for the organization.

**WOGL: Tyler Dingman (read by Katharine Found)**

- U15C were WOGHL Tier 1 Champions
- U11C were WOGHL Tier 1 Finalists
- St.Marys Minor Hockey hosted a successful U9 year end tournament with 10HL and 10C teams, 42 games, and excellent feedback. Financial report from the tournament was presented to members with a profit of \_\_\_\_\_ for the association.
  - o \$250 was donated by Cubberley Plumbing, \$100 was donated by the Kinettes which will be added to the financial summary.

**U7 Program Report:**

- A successful end of season celebration party was held, with pizza, timbits and chocolate milk being donated. Given we have not run a U7 jamboree for several years this has been the wrap up celebration for players. It seems to be working well, but the U7 program is always looking for feedback to improve player experience and enjoyment.

**Coaches Committee Report: Joe Wilhelm**

- Coaches evaluations have been received – more feedback would have been appreciated.
- Coaches exit interviews for the current season will take place as a drop in session at the end of April.
- Selection interviews will be starting next week with selection of coaches for all A teams U11-U16 (OMHA) and 1<sup>st</sup> rep U11 and above OWHA teams by April 15<sup>th</sup>. At this time there is no application for U12 or U14 OMHA teams
- U18 OMHA, 2<sup>nd</sup> rep teams and local league coaches will be selected following the try out process with the plan for all coaches to be firmly in place and confident before the start of the season.

**Sponsorship Report: Ryan Harris**

- The total for the 2022-2023 Goalie Clinic was approximately \$7700. Ryan discussed this amount with the anonymous donor and they have decided to cover the entire cost once again this year.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- **Question:** will OWHa tryouts start earlier than May 8<sup>th</sup>? No, given ice allocation and the plan to wait for Stratford Aces and London Devilettes selections to have been made prior to our tryouts.

**Health And Safety – Brayden Lord**

- There were several questions this past year regarding our associations concussion protocol, including from a physician who went online to the SMMHA website and could not find the required information. Brayden is recommending adding a Health and Safety tab to the website, as a spot to organize Rowan's Law, Appendix A and all other information related to removal from and return to play protocols. Brayden and Amy Crummer will work together with Executive and Rachael to develop the tab and its contents.

**Volunteer Recruitment and Involvement:**

- Volunteerism within the association appears down with the same people constantly contributing. We need to find ways to engage our membership. Events such as Wing Night, Awards Night, Player Development enhancements and Try Hockey are all examples of events that used to happen and were valuable for the association but have not occurred recently due to a lack of volunteers.
- Paul W. suggested that executive look at the option of paid roles within minor hockey to reward involvement
- Possibility to bring back the bond program will continue to be discussed at a board and executive level.

**Annual General Meeting:**

- This meeting will be held immediately prior to our next general board meeting in May. It will be advertised but encourage all teams to send a representative.
- Current positions that will need to be filled include: OMHA Rep, OWHa rep, Directors, Player Movement Coordinator, 2 coaches committee members. Contact Brandon B if you are interested in a position and all members are encouraged to continue to recruit additional volunteers.

**SMMHA Teams heading to Provincial Tournaments:**

- Good luck with U15B in the OMHA Provincial Championships and to U18B, U15C and U13B in the OWHA Championship.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris B. at 7:51pm. Seconded by Jocelyne G.

**Next Meeting:**

The next association meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2, 2023 at 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone.