

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday December 6th, 2022 – 7pm – PRC Endzone

In attendance: Rich Ballantyne, Katharine Found, Chris Boyd, Mike Johnson, Lori Martin, Julie Pickering, Darryl Hern, Paul Williams, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Donna Levy, Reg Clinton, Tyler Dingman, Kelly Craigmile, Sarah Jeffrey, Brandon Boyd, Mark Brintnell, Mike King, Bob Davis, Jared Stokes, Rick Harburn, Robb McIntosh, Adriane Harlton, Kathleen Heinbuck, Amy Crummer, Bernie Sterkenburg, Max Maddock, Brayden Lord, Jason Masselis, Harry DeVries, Carrie McKichan, Cassandra Smith, Kerry Wright, Dan Gracey, Amanda Boemer, Mark Ross

Regrets: Joe Robson, Kristine McCurdy, Joe Wilhelm, Jim Craigmile, Dan Rudorfer

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by SMMHA President, Mark Brintnell.

Mark B. requested all individuals in attendance to sign the attendance form that was being circulated and indicate which team the individual is representing

Minutes from the November 1st, 2022 Meeting:

- Motion to approve the November 1st, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Chris B. and seconded by Paul W.
Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Rich Ballantyne

- Profit loss statements and Account Balances reports were not available at the meeting due to technical issues.
- Account balances as of December 6th, 2022:
 - o Operating Account (chequing): \$330,947
 - o Etransfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$120,460
 - o Lottery Account (Trust): \$44,354
- October ice rental (~\$50,000) is still to be debited from the account. November ice rental bill has not been received yet, but expected to be a similar total.

Registrar's Report: OMHA – Jocelyne Gall

OWHA – Donna Levy

- No reports at this time

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- Hockey Canada (HC) has been overwhelmed with complaints through the ITP. They have hired additional resources to help process these complaints, but given the lengthy time to

process all complaints, HC plans to pass less serious complaints back to provincial organizations/local associations.

- Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) will allow spring tryouts for U12 and above at any level – Hockey Canada has agreed to this change. OHF has requested spring tryouts for U11 as well, but response from HC is still pending.
- There are several local referees who will be going for their Level 3 certification this month which will hopefully give us more variety for officials for senior games. The decision for which referees are selected for individuals games is ultimately made by Stratford Refs Association (SRA), however St.Marys Minor Hockey will continue to pressure and request local referees when available, to assist with keeping the cost of refereeing (mileage) down.
- OMHA is asking that handshakes take place at the beginning of each game, not the end.
- All team rosters have been submitted – some bench staff have had to be removed temporarily until they can complete all requirements, but they are able to be added at a later date once those credentials have been met.
- OMHA passed a motion that will see BB hockey as non-contact for the 2023-2024 season. This will need to be finalized by being voted in favour at the June AGM.
- Base Category A Reclassification Final Discussion and Decision:
 - o SMMHA Executive has made a recommendation report, based on research and discussions over the past several months, including board meetings, an open zoom call on November 27th, and unofficial discussions with members throughout the community.
 - o SMMHA Executive unanimously supports the acceptance of the A reclassification, as outlined in the report.
 - o **Reg Clinton made the motion to accept the OMHA reclassification of St.Marys Minor Hockey to a base category A center in 2022-2023, as supported by the SMMHA Executive recommendation report. Seconded by Chris Boyd.**
 - Discussion: how will it affect AP players now that BB hockey (our 2nd entry rep teams) will be non-contact? Similar to now, when U15LL players AP for U15C, these players will need to be properly trained on how to appropriately and safely integrate body checking into their game, despite their rostered team not allowing any body contact.
 - Question: at what point can you reclassify an age cohort? Mike will look into exact dates, but a general outline is at the end of the season we will need to appeal for the change for the following season. OMHA has granted leagues the ability to move teams around in a league, for competitive reasons, but a cohort's base category can not be changed mid-season. This is different from what happens in OWHA.
 - Is there a deadline for NRPs? An NRP can be added to a team up until roster deadline (December 1st), so long as there are no more than 3 on the roster all together.

- Question: Are any additional coaching qualifications required for coaches at A? At this time, no, however OMHA is constantly modifying coaching qualifications, so that may change.
- Mark Brintnell called this motion to the table for the vote. All votes in favour. No votes opposed. Motion CARRIED.

Shamrock Report: Brandon Boyd

- An appeal was submitted to the league requesting U11C and U13C teams be re-tiered to a more competitive bracket. Prior to the appeal being heard, the league did make changes to the schedule to ensure these teams are playing only teams that will be competitively similar.
- Brandon reminded that any questions or concerns with regards to the league should go to him and not be sent to the league contacts directly
- East Lambton minor hockey has offered to host the U9MD year end tournament.

LMLL: Joe Robson (read by Mark Brintnell)

- The playoff structure was approved and was sent off to all local league coaches.

Tri-County League: Dan Rudorfer (read by Katharine Found)

- If a team is playing in a tournament outside of OMHA sanction and there are suspensions, the game sheet is to be sent to the league convenor for tracking. Game sheets are only to be submitted if there are suspensions.
- The playoff format for Tri-County will be discussed and finalized at the December meeting.

OWHA: Reg Clinton

- 1 additional player is possibly going to be added to the U15 roster – players are allowed to be added up until December 31st and are still eligible for provincial championships.
- Many girls teams are having successful seasons and tournaments (U15 – Rock the Rink champions, U18 – Stratford Aces champions, several others making it to the finals or semi-finals).

WOGL: Tyler Dingman

- All star game will take place March 26, 2023 – Central Perth to host. Communication has gone out to coaches.
- Complaints and concerns with respect to WOGHL must go through Tyler, who will bring them forward to the board – the board should not be contacted directly.

Awards Committee: Brandon Boyd

- Looking to bring back a 2-evening format – 1 to celebrate players U9-U15, the other to celebrate the graduating players. OWHA and OMHA players will be recognized at the same event.
- Major awards will be geared towards only graduating players

- The committee is still looking for ideas and suggestions – please let Brandon, Jess C or Kerry W. know if you have ideas to contribute. Final plans to be decided before the end of January.

Tournament Committee: Rich Ballantyne, Sarah Jeffrey

- Stonetown Classic schedule has been posted – 22 teams in total U11, U13 and U15. January 6-8, 2023
- Volunteers are still needed – reach out to tournament committee or Volunteer Coordinator. St.Marys teams that are competing will be required to provide volunteers for the tournament.
- Question: is there a time clock training session? We will help to train volunteers – there are also good youtube videos for time clock training.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pS41kZDxS1U>
- Question: is there a way to have U9LL teams competing? The half ice for this age group creates scheduling issues, and OMHA will not approve an exemption for full ice. Limited weekends left available from the Town. If there is a way to make the schedule work, we should try to accomplish U9LL involvement.

Deferred Reports:

Photo Day Coordinator: Jocelyne Gall

- Some photos may be delayed until after Christmas due to an injury suffered by the lab printing individual.
- Jocelyne will look to order a team photo for each team sponsor

Ice Convenor: Mark Brintnell

- Reminder to coaches and teams to provide as much advanced notice as possible if having to cancel ice time.
- Reminder to coaches to not book away exhibition games during your usual practice time, as this is a waste of ice costs.
- At this point of the year, we own all of the ice that we have reserved, therefore when ice times go unused, that is a waste of association money.
- Comment: coaches very much appreciate the weekly emails providing weekly ice availabilities.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Question: why is there no bond program anymore? How do we get more people volunteering?
 - o Finding committed volunteers has always been a problem, and continues to get worse. The bond process was dropped as the program itself was extremely challenging to manage. The board is welcome to all ideas that individuals have to get more people involved in all aspects of the minor hockey program.

- Code of Conduct: SMMHA has a code of conduct for all players, parents, coaches and officials to follow at all times. Please remind teams and spectators to read and follow the code of conduct so that the game can be enjoyed by everyone.
 - o We are receiving a higher than usual number of complaints with regards to player and spectator conduct and language
 - o Referees are human and are very difficult to find – please be respectful to them at all times
 - o Coaches are volunteers and are very difficult to find – please be respectful to them at all times
 - o Kids are playing hockey because they love the game – this isn't the NHL – please be respectful and encouraging to them at all times
 - o Those not able to follow the code of conduct may be the recipient of imposed sanctions.
- Rock the Rink at the Lincolns Game: January 6, 2023 – free entry into the game for players wearing their Rock jersey (or Timbits jersey), or Rock gear. If teams will be wearing their jerseys, please wear away (Blue) jerseys.

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul W. at 7:49pm. Seconded by Chris B.

Next Meeting:

The next association meeting will be held on Tuesday January 3rd, 2023 at 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone.