

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday June 7, 2022 – 7pm – PRC EndZone

In attendance: Lori Martin, Paul Williams, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Chris Boyd, Jim Craigmile, Bernie Sterkenburg, Rich Ballantyne, Mark Brintnell, Katharine Found, Mike Johnson, Reg Clinton, Donna Levy, Joe Wilhelm, Julie Pickering, Dan Rudorfer, Jake Watt, Kerry Wright

Regrets: Brandon Boyd, Tyler Dingman, Kristine McCurdy, Ryan Harris, Brayden Lord

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by SMMHA President, Mark Brintnell.

Minutes from the May 10th, 2022 Meeting:

- Motion to approve the May 10th, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Chris B and seconded by Reg C. Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Rich Ballantyne

- Account balances as of June 7, 2022:
 - o Operating Account: \$187,493.51
 - o Etransfer (Registration) Account: \$61804.43
- Accounts are currently in the process of being switched over to provide Rich B and Joe W signing authority.
- Currently looking into moving the financial book-keeping to a standardized platform to provide improved transparency and efficiency. A proposal will be presented with the next budget.

Registrar's Report: OMHA – Jocelyne Gall OWHA – Donna Levy

- OMHA current registrations, including waitlist: 306 players.
- Waitlist acceptance emails have started to go out. Players will be accepted off the waitlist based on SMMH waitlist guidelines
- The process to apply for Jumpstart Financial Assistance has changed: families apply directly to Jumpstart, not through the town. This change has been reflected on the website.
- OWHA current registrations: 108 accepted + 7 on a waitlist
- Number are very low in the U15 and U18 age divisions, but numbers could change as OWHA allows girls to change centers at any time.

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- AGM is being hosted on June 11 – Mike J will be attending virtually.
- The changes to the competitive structure that were introduced for last season were part of a multi-year pilot project and can not be voted on at this point. They are likely to remain in place for the 2022-2023 season and beyond.
- The SMMHA motion to change the number of competitive categories has been put forth to the structure and competition committee which will hopefully result in positive changes for the safety and competitiveness of our second rep (formerly AE) teams.
- Tentative approval has been received to run a U16 "A" team that would compete in the Tri-County Minor Hockey League. Travel distances will be comparable but slightly more than current travel – including centers such as New Hamburg, Cambridge, Guelph, Caledon, Oakville, Owen Sound. At this time due to registration numbers at this age group (too many players for 2 teams, not enough for 3), there may be some players who, for safety reasons, may not have a team to play for in SMMHA. If this is the case, SMMH will communicate with families directly, being sure to provide viable local league options, including Stratford Rotary hockey, or Embro, as examples. SMMHA is reaching out to surrounding centers to see if they would be in a position to accept additional players, ideally allowing these players to move as a group.
- Mike participated in the OHMA D1 evaluator course. Mike and Bob Davis are the only two local evaluators, which will be necessary with the increased number of coaches that will require D1 recertification very soon, due to delays caused by COVID.

Shamrock Report: Mike Johnson (for Brandon Boyd)

- There has been significant turn over of the Shamrock executive which will hopefully result in positive and progressive changes.
- The league has decided to keep a U9 division for 1 more year, which equates to LMLL needing to re-assess their U8/U9 division and potentially resulting in restructuring for all associations.
- SMMH plans to begin lobbying to have Shamrock change their structure and follow OMHA recommendations to allow teams to move tiers based on competitive ability and not based on the size of the hockey center.

LMLL: Mike Johnson (for Joe Robson)

- A steering committee was in place for U8/U9 level, but the decision of program structure for 2022-2023 has been deferred now due to the Shamrock decision to keep U9. At this time, it is unknown how many centers will be participating and how many teams each center may have.
- The league will now be handling suspensions of players/coaches internally

OWHA: Reg Clinton

- It is known that 7 girls have decided to leave SMMH this year – 5 of these players were not registered in 2020-2021; 2 have decided to play at a higher level in London.

- At this point there are 7 new to SMMH players registered
- Soliciting of players for the U15 and U18 divisions may be required. All other age groups appear to have sufficient player registration numbers.
- Looking to organize a Competition Committee for girls hockey in St. Marys, to provide clear direction and outcomes for the girl's program. Committee would be responsible for setting guidelines for naming coaches early, creating plans for tryout schedules, improved communication with participants and families.
- Comment was made by Mike J that a focus on recruitment of girls in U5/U7 should be an additional priority, as numbers in that program are currently low. It is felt that the "Try Hockey" skates are an excellent opportunity to grow the girls program and should be continued.
- Pre-skates and try out dates are still TBD. Tryouts will not be required for U15, but these players will still have conditioning and evaluation skates.

WOGL: written report provided by Tyler Dingman

- WOGL is currently trying to recruit members to join their executive team.
- Hoping to have coaches named very soon as local tournaments in Stratford and London have opened registration, and spots are filling quickly.

Awards Night: written report provided by Brandon Boyd

- June 15th at 7:00pm – PRC Lobby: 2021-2022 SMMH player awards recognition. Winners have been contacted and invited. Any player that is unable to attend will have their award delivered. Any SMMH member is welcome to attend the awards recognition, if available.
- 2021-2022 Player award recipients:
OMHA AWARDS
 - **Donald K. Mossip Memorial Award** *for the most outstanding goalie:* Nic Kiestra & Will Galloway (2)
 - **Mike Mattussi Award** *for most sportsmanlike player, on and off the ice:* Mason Boonstra
 - **Terry Crisp Award** *for the most colourful and hardest working player:* Kirk Boreham
 - **Bob Searles Award** *for the most outstanding player in the SMMHA:* Ethan Froggett
- OWHA AWARDS
 - **Ernie Little Trophy** *for the most outstanding goalie:* Matt Luyten
 - **Lindsay Atkinson Memorial Award** *for the most sportsmanlike player, on and off the ice:* Kendra Robertson
 - **Doug Hicks Memorial Trophy** *for the outstanding leadership by a player:* Lydia Taylor
 - **Dixies Award** *for the most skillful and hardest working player in SMMHA:* Avery Jones

Old Business:

- **Vacant Position Recruitment:** coordinator and committee members are still needed for the tournament and awards committees. A notice will go on the website for continued recruitment. Jake Watt volunteered to assist with tournament committee
- **Awards Committee and old trophies:** Kerry W. brought old trophies that have been taking up space in the equipment room – most are damaged and have not been used for long periods of time/sponsors are unknown. Plan for these items: move to the coaches room for the summer, with a final decision whether to donate, display or toss to be made by September. Need to make a priority for the awards committee to re-distribute trophies/banners won by teams throughout the season, at the end of each season

New Business:**Ref Clinic: Mark Brintnell**

- Area centers will run the ref clinics in September. Each association can send 3 individuals – SMMH has provided financial support for these candidates to attend the clinic.
- Associations have been told to create a waiting list, as additional registration spots may become available. It is not anticipated that these clinics will interfere with tryouts.
- SMMH will work with the Stratford Ref Association to ensure our local referees that are sent to the clinic, actually get into the schedule and get adequate experience.
- Due to equipment updates of the evaporative condenser in the PRC, ice will not be available in either rink until likely after labour day.

Gate Fee Removal for 2022-2023 season: Rich Ballantyne

- There will be no gate fees for any OMHA or OWHA games
- SMMH is looking to propose that all ref fees for the coming season be paid through minor hockey, with Stratford Ref Association providing monthly invoices. This will allow for accurate tracing of true referee and mileage fees for the association so that future registration fees can be set appropriately.
- Given no gate fees can be collected, no association has applied to host a Shamrock League All-Star game, given the ability to off set costs of hosting will be more difficult.

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris B. at 8:09p,. Seconded by Jocelyne G.

Next Meeting:

The next association meeting will be held on Tuesday August 16th, 2022 at 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone.