

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday November 1st, 2022 – 7pm – PRC Endzone

In attendance: Rich Ballantyne, Katharine Found, Chris Boyd, Mike Johnson, Lori Martin, Julie Pickering, Ryan Harris, Peter Hughes, Darryl Hern, Nathan Brown, Paul Williams, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Donna Levy, Reg Clinton, Tyler Dingman, Jamie Matheson, Rachael Torrance, Kelly Craigmile, Adam Zubrigg, Sarah Jeffrey, Mark Ross, Brandon Boyd, Joe Wilhelm, Mark Brintnell, Mike King, Bob Davis, Mark Feeney, Mark Jennings, Greg Wolfkamp, Mark Monteith, Jim Craigmile, Jared Stokes, Lauren Harburn, Rick Harburn, Robb McIntosh, Adriane Harlton, Sarah Ewing, Dan Rudorfer, Kathleen Heinbuck, Amy Crummer, Chris Stacey, Jess Parkinson

Regrets: Joe Robson, Kristine McCurdy, Amanda Boemer

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 October 4th, 2022 Meeting:

- Motion to approve the October 4th, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Mike J. and seconded by Joe W.
Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Rich Ballantyne

- Account balances as of October 31st, 2022:
 - o Operating Account (chequing): \$155,886.83
 - o Etransfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$305,120.64
 - o Lottery Account (Trust): \$44,980.78
- Just a reminder – the Lottery Account is a trust account held for the St.Marys Lincolns lottery draw. This money is not for use by our association.
- Rep fees (\$265/player) and U9 additional ice allocation fees (\$100/player) are currently being reconciled to ensure complete payment.
- Updated Profit and Loss statement was circulated. A reminder that the 2022-2023 approved budget has forecasted a large deficit to utilize some of the surplus funds garnered over the past 2 years due to COVID-related shut downs.

Registrar's Report: OMHA – Jocelyne Gall

OWHA – Donna Levy

- 1 new OMHA registration over the past month – total registration is 310 players
- No changes to OWHA registration numbers since last report.

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- There continue to be issues with the Hockey Canada registry which is creating issues for rostering teams. Deadline for rostering teams is now December 1st. Coaches must have their credentials completed to be able to be rostered – encourage all bench staff to finish all required courses ASAP. All required courses are listed and linked on our website under “Coaches Corner” → “Team Staff Requirements”
 - Because of the rostering issue – no tournaments should be asking for an approved roster, at this time. If they do, please contact Mike J. so he can address.
- Safe Sport Complaint Program: This is a new Hockey Canada program that is now in effect based on their recent extensive internal review of how complaints made to Hockey Canada and affiliates are handled. This report will change how we as an association will handle any allegations and complaints of discrimination, abuse, harassment or other mal-treatment. The goal of the program is to ensure Hockey Canada is a safe place for raising concerns.
 - Program is a confidential reporting system: an independent 3rd party (ITP), being led by non-Hockey Canada personnel will receive all complaints and allegations directly. This ITP will review the complaint and will decide if there is merit, and if the response will be handled by the local association or by Hockey Canada
 - A link will automatically show up on our website, as the program has been linked through Sports Headz (website provider).
 - A coach’s duty has not changed – they are still to monitor, be aware and report if there is a concern of mal-treatment, no matter how significant.
 - There will be certain situations where confidentiality and conflict of interest will be in play at the local association, however we do not know if it is mandatory to inform the local association if a complaint has been made, or whether the local association will only be informed once the ITP has reviewed. Mike J. will try to find additional answers to this.
 - There was no timeline given for how long it will take for the local association to be informed, after a complaint is made through the program. This reminds coaches to continue to be vigilant of this mal-treatment activity and take action immediately if witnessed or suspected.
 - There was no indication in the report as to how Hockey Canada was going to pay for this program/what the cost of this program will be. Mike J will also seek to find this answer.
- OMHA “A” center base category reclassification: Mike J. provided a brief overview of the history and previous discussions that have occurred on this topic over the past several months. The floor was open to comments, concerns and suggestions.
 - Question: what would U18 look like as an A center? Do we have enough players? It will be very similar to this year with a U16A team (1 birth year) and U18 team (2 birth years).
 - Question: why did SMMHA ask to be reclassified? SMMH did not ask for a whole center reclassification – OMHA made this decision unilaterally and informed us of the change. SMMHA did ask to reclassify the current U16 team to be an “A” team, as we

had concerns with the safety of those players playing as a 2nd rep entry team in a “C” loop.

- Concerns: our 2nd entry rep teams are currently having a very difficult season competition-wise – will this help or hinder? 2nd entry rep teams and their competitive capability is a separate argument than our first rep team being reclassified to “A”.
 - As a “B” center, our 2nd entry rep teams will still be forced to play games against other centers 1st entry rep teams, (amended November 5, 2022) creating an competitive misalignment. This issue is currently in front of the OMHA Competition Committee through a motion that was made by SMMHA in 2022, requesting the addition of an additional competitive category of rep hockey.
 - As an “A” center, our 2nd entry rep teams would play as a “BB” team. “BB” is not a base category, therefore our 2nd entry rep teams would only be playing other “A” center’s 2nd entry rep teams. (amended November 5, 2022)
 - If we appeal this decision, and win, and remain as a “B” center, our 2nd entry rep teams will still continue to face the competitive challenges they are experiencing this year, both in league play and tournament play, we will have increased travel into Lambton County and we will continue to have the player safety issues relating to a 3-year U18 level.
 - Reality is that most centers in the loop (including SMMH) will have difficulty fielding a 2nd rep team, simply due to numbers. If it is a possibility, SMMH will look at the competitive make up of the cohort of players and make a decision based on where all players will succeed (ie. 1 LL and 1 2nd entry rep team vs. 2 LL teams)
- Population trends were analyzed by the Town of St. Marys as well as the local school boards and it was found that our town is seeing growth in older adult age group, therefore we should not expect a dramatic boost in our registration numbers in the near future.
- December 31, 2022 is the deadline to make an appeal to OMHA – a response would be finalized by March, 2023. We need a motion to set direction either tonight or by our next meeting (December 6, 2022) at the latest.
- We do have the Regional OMHA directors verbal support, if we choose to make an appeal of this decision.
- Comment: This decision will have greatest impact on our youngest players – we need to do better to reach out to them, to make sure families are aware, as there is concern the message was not disseminated well enough.
- Centers do have the ability to file an appeal for reclassification every year, either as an entire association, or at an individual cohort age level – this process will still be available to us.
- Concern: If we appeal to stay “B” and succeed, there is concern that another local center will be moved instead, and that makes us less competitively attractive for the future health and growth of our entire association. (ie. Lose players to local A centers; if forced into an amalgamation we don’t have as much clout)

- Question: Can we make our own NRP policy? We can choose whether we want to accept any NRP players, but we can only accept 3 per team at U12 and above.
- There is no indication that additional factual information will be made available between now and December 6th that would help add to the confidence members have when making this decision.
- A request was made to take the next 4 weeks to reach out to families, concentrating on our youngest players (U13 and below) to ensure everyone is properly informed.
 - The messaging has been sent out via the SMMH website and social media pages, however we will now send the report out to coaches asking them to distribute to their teams. It is felt that the document is written clearly enough to be understood by non-hockey background families.
- Ensure the messaging is clear: our association has been reclassified. Therefore, any vote on this matter will be a vote to accept the OMHA reclassification without further action or a vote to appeal the OMHA reclassification.

Shamrock Report: Brandon Boyd

- U18 All Star game will take place on January 4, 2023 – all other All-Star games to happen in March/April, closer to OMHA championships.
- OMHA Playdowns are all round-robin play with head to head series coming after. No playdowns for U9 but a year end tournament will be hosted by East Lambton.
- All teams: be sure to select the specific game in the Game Sheet App – do not create a new game. U9 game sheets to be emailed to Brandon B. after the game
- Every center in the league is expressing concerns over the competitive imbalance in the “C” loop.
- Question: is the idea of recategorization of teams within a Shamrock loop being considered to be done mid-season and also after each season, to ensure teams remain competitive? How should we be putting pressure on Shamrock League to see this change? Brandon will discuss at the next league meeting.

LMLL: Joe Robson (read by Mark Brintnell)

- No updates to report

Tri-County League: Dan Rudorfer

- Please continue to inform your teams, players, coaches that any form of discrimination, violence or harassment, will not be tolerated. If a referee is unable to identify the individual responsible for an incident, the coach will be removed from the game as the consequence.

OWHA: Reg Clinton

- Player and coaches fees have been submitted – OWHA is not remitting the \$3 fee to Hockey Canada, and therefore that fee was not charged to associations.
- Teams have mostly been finalized but players can be added to rosters up until December 31st and still be eligible for competing in provincial tournaments

- Congratulations to the U18B girls team that won their first tournament of the season in a shoot out!

WOGL: Tyler Dingman

- A reminder for all WOGL teams that they need to be putting games in both RAMP and 1DV. Standings do not get updated unless the game is in 1DV.

Skills Development Committee: Mike Johnson

- Goalie development sessions (all costs covered by an anonymous donor) continue to be well attended and a positive experience.
 - Concern that there are only 1-2 female goalies participating – coaches should be actively encouraging participating but the association also needs to ensure there are more female skaters/shooters on the ice. Any other barriers to female participation should be brought to Mike J. to be addressed.
- Player Development sessions are set up as a cost recovery model - \$15 per session per player. Sessions are not filling up – ice time is a concern and will be addressed if we can this season, and for sure next season. Ongoing communication of the sign up process is needed given this is a new program. All sessions planned until the end of the year are open to any players U9-U15.
 - Please provide all feedback to executive or Mike J. so that the program can reach its full potential.

Photo Day Coordinator: Jocelyne Gall

- New coordinator will be needed for the 2023-2024 hockey season.
- Scheduling would be much easier if we could plan for later in the season (photos not ready in time for Christmas) as not all games had been added to the season when the photo schedule was released and therefore changes have had to be made.

Deferred Reports:

- None

Old Business:

- None
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New Business:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul W. at 8:21pm. Seconded by Chris B.

Next Meeting:

The next association meeting will be held on Tuesday December 6th, 2022 at 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone.