

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday November 7th, 2023 – 7pm – PRC Endzone

In attendance: Mark Brintell, Joe Wilhelm, Rich Ballantyne, Kim Jones, Paul Williams, Kelly Craigmile, Sarah Jeffrey, Brandon Boyd, Adam Zubrigg, Pat McLean, Jim Craigmile, Doug Zub, Eileen Matheson, Mike Johnson, Katharine Found, Tyler Dingman, Kerry Wright, Mike Klittmer, Lori Martin, Carrie McKichan, Bob Davis, Holly Seok, Rick Harburn,

Regrets: Jessica Chateauvert, Brayden Lord, Julie Pickering, Jocelyne Gall, Ryan Harris, Vanessa Lively

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by SMMHA President, Mike Johnson

Attendance was taken for all of those in attendance and attendees were asked to note which team they were representing at the meeting.

Acknowledgement of the land and territory on which we meet, was made by Brandon Boyd.

Motion to approve the agenda

- Made by Mike Johnson. Seconded by Paul Williams
Carried.

Minutes from the October 3rd, 2023 Meeting:

- Approved as corrected by Joe Wilhelm. Seconded by Mike Johnson.
Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: presented by Rich Ballantyne

- Account balances were presented by Rich B.
- Account balances as of November 7, 2023:
 - o Operating Account (chequing): \$228,262.28
 - o E-transfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$226,676.52
 - o Trust Account: \$72,364.12
- Profit – Loss statement was presented, current for the fiscal year. Referee costs for the current season have been paid for October, however ice costs (~\$40K) have not been paid at this time.

Constitution Committee Report: Paul Williams

- Notice of Motion was posted online and sent to members with a minimum of 10 days advanced notice.
- Paul Williams motions the following:

to add bylaws article 5.12: "There may be an Executive Committee that has all the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. The Board may over rule the Executive. The Executive will consist of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President."

Motion seconded by Mike Johnson.

- **Discussion:** This is a housekeeping item, as the current By-laws make mention of the Executive and what roles and responsibilities attributed to the executive, however it does not define who comprises the executive. Therefore, this amendment will define the members of the executive.

Motion Carried.

Registrar's Report: Jocelyne Gall (report read by Mark Brintnell)

- No updates at this time.

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- A written report was provided, outlining the history of base category changes in St. Marys, as well as challenges and opportunities relating to next season.
- There appears to be a significant amount of discussion and anxiety within our membership, regarding the future direction of minor hockey in St. Marys, most notably regarding the decision to remain an A center or the possibility to appeal to OMHA to go back to a B center. Unfortunately, the poor turn out at tonight's meeting does not allow for meaningful conversation that is reflective of those conversations that are happening within the greater SMMHA community.
- **Question:** What are other centers who moved A thinking of doing? At this point, Mike has not heard of any associations planning on appealing to move back to B. Amalgamation discussions are still actively ongoing within the Dorchester center and Ilderton-Lucan centers.
- **Comment:** We don't appear to be competitive at the A level: That statement was refuted, clarifying that we are seeing success at many different levels, but acknowledging that some teams are not winning games at this time, is accurate. However, it is very early into the season, and is likely that things could change.
- **Comment:** NRP intake for our teams was considerably lower, compared to our peers, and many of our NRP players that we accepted came from Lucan or Ilderton, which if they merge to become an A center, we would lose access to those players trying out for our teams.
- **Question:** Are our 2nd entry rep teams competitive? Both teams appear to be having moderate success (~0.500 win percentage). LL teams also appear to be doing relatively well – U15LL is unbeaten.
- **Question:** How are teams made if we appealed to go back to B? Teams would be made up for 2 years of player cohorts, as in the past. We risk losing players to surrounding A centers as NRPs, but we could appeal to move certain cohorts up to A if we felt that was appropriate for skill development and competitive ability.
- **Comment:** Concern that there are a number of U15 players, currently playing LL that feel this may be their last year of minor hockey in St. Marys. **Response:** SMMHA has tried to run a U18LL team, however player registration and commitment has not been sufficient in previous years. For the 2023-2024 season there were sufficient player numbers to run a non-contact U18 team, however response from players was that they did not want that. We then tried to run a U18C team (contact), but there

was insufficient interest from players for that team as well. If there is 14 skaters and a goalie willing to commit to a U18 non-contact team (LL or BB), then SMMHA would be thrilled to have that team compete within our association.

- **Comment:** It is too early to know if teams are truly not competitive. Coach Davis of U13A commented that the team has not won any games yet and do not have any NRP players however he feels his team is making significant competitive improvements and all games have been close games. He is optimistic about the outcome of this team's season.
- **Comment:** At the U18 level, Coach Zurbrigg does not feel there is significant differences between overall skill level of players at A vs. B level of hockey.
- **Question:** if we appeal to go back to B, would our 2nd entry rep teams still be at a disadvantage like last season, playing other centers 1st entry rep teams? No, OMHA has re-introduced C and D levels of hockey, and Shamrock has incorporated these into leagues, which is what our 2- 2nd entry rep (U13C and U11C) teams are competing in this year. Provincially these 2 teams are classified as BB but they are playing in the Shamrock "C" loop, with other 2nd entry teams.

Shamrock Report: Brandon Boyd

- A loop: there is some discrepancy throughout the league with respect to period length. Teams should follow the league rules, but report back to Brandon B. if there are major discrepancies.
- U16 and U18 All Star Game – call out for players will take place shortly. Brandon will confirm cost and will let the coaches know.

LMLL: vacant (Report provided by interim rep Mark Brintnell)

- Next meeting takes place in 2 weeks
- A new rep is still needed – please reach out to Mark B. if you are able to fill this role.

OWHA: Amy Crummer

- No report provided

WOGL: Tyler Dingman

- Teams are encouraged to abide by the approved period length/game times
 - o U11-U18HL: 10-10-12 to a maximum of 10-10-15
 - o U11-U18 B & C: 10-10-15 to a maximum of 10-15-15
- Recommendation that warm ups be reduced to 2.5 minutes and referees have been asked to limit between periods to 30 seconds, to ensure the most use of ice time.
- All Star game player requests should come out around Christmas.
- WOGHL fees are due to the league by December 31st
- U9C and HL tournament will take place in St.Marys April 5-7; Tyler D. to convene; Mike Kittmer has offered assistance.
- **Question:** why are U9 boards located behind blue rink visitor bench? This is the only accessible location to ensure the boards do not create a fire hazard by blocking fire routes.

Sponsorship Committee: Ryan Harris (report presented by Katharine Found)

- All teams have a sponsor – U11C sponsored by Tremblett's Independent Grocer; U9LL3 sponsored by Stonetown Electric
- Ryan will plan to meet up with all team sponsors over the next month to collect outstanding sponsorship commitments
- A full tournament sponsorship report will be available at the next meeting

Tournament Committee: Sarah Jeffrey and Rich Ballantyne

- Stonetown Classic LL tournament is almost full with excellent registrations for U9 especially. Ice times are being confirmed and volunteers will need to be set up
- **Question:** have team tournament reps been helpful? At this point they have not been added into communication, but Sarah will reach out to coaches to identify their rep and start the process of filling volunteer shifts

Old Business

- If photos or announcements are wanting to go on SMMHA Social Media platforms, they should be sent to Katharine F or Rachael T, or messaged through Facebook Messenger. Any photos that show players faces should have approval from coach and families prior to being sent for posting.

New Business:

- The season is off to a great start for many teams: BU15LL and GU11B are currently unbeaten in league play; BU16A – Regional Silverstick champions; GU15C – Remembrance Day Tournament champions. Congratulations to all players on a strong start to the season for all SMMHA teams and thank you to coaches and families for their commitment to the program.
- January 12, 2024 – Rock the Rink night at the St. Marys Lincolns Game
- New plaques will be installed at the end of this season
- A reminder to all teams, if they are participating in the Salvation Army Kettle campaign, they are encouraged to wear their jerseys, however please wear the Blue jerseys to limit stains.

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul W at 7:74pm. Seconded by Joe W.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday December 5th, 2023 – 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone