

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday September 13th, 2022 – 7pm – PRC Endzone

In attendance: Lori Martin, Paul Williams, Bernie Sterkenburg, Rich Ballantyne, Mark Brintnell, Katharine Found, Mike Johnson, Julie Pickering, John Cubberley, Kelly Craigmile, Ryan Harris, Kristene McCurdy, Sarah Jeffrey, Jake Watt, Amanda Boemer, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Donna Levy, Rachael Torrance, Kerry Wright, Chris Boyd, Amy Crummer, Brayden Lord

Regrets: Joe Robson, Reg Clinton

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

Mark B. requested all individuals in attendance to sign the attendance form that was being circulated. Once the season starts, all teams will be expected to have a representative at all general meetings, and therefore you will be required to note what team you are representing. Individuals will only be able to represent 1 team at a time.

Minutes from the August 16th, 2022 Meeting:

- Motion to approve the August 16th, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Paul W. and seconded by Donna L.
Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Rich Ballantyne

- Account balances as of September 12, 2022:
 - o Operating Account (chequing): \$157,529
 - o Etransfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$241,526
 - o Lottery Account (Trust): \$494.27
- Presentation of 2022-2023 Budget:
 - o The association is in a very healthy position, financially, due to recent COVID program disruptions that resulted in surplus funds.
 - o We have many unknown costs this year that were not accounted for in the registration rate, most costly being, all referring costs, given the announcement by OMHA to cease gate fees was made after registration rates were announced. Gate fees accounted for \$20,000 in revenue for our association.
 - o The proposed budget is predicting a large deficit, to act as a reset year so the association can truly understand the new costs of the program, and membership can benefit from the surplus that they contributed to.

- Question: Gary Douglas tournament donation – this donation is supposed to be a bursary fund to provide financial assistance to requesting families – there should be an expense column that shows how much of the fund was used, for transparency and proper stewardship for our donor. Historically this has not happened due to privacy concerns for those who are receiving the financial assistance, but no names or numbers of individuals supported need to be provided, simply the final total. Mark B. made a friendly amendment to the budget to add an expense line for this financial needs total.
- Discussion: it will be important to properly communicate with the membership that there will be additional fees next year (increased registration rates? Fundraising bonds? Volunteer bonds? Referee fees/player?) to cover the costs that are contributing to this year's deficit. It will also be important to communicate clearly to membership the benefits they are getting this season because of the surplus (no try out fees, increased individual ice time for all LL teams, U9 no rep fees, no ref fees)
- Paul W. motioned that the budget be accepted as presented with the 1 friendly amendment. Seconded by Bernie S. Carried.

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

- OMHA current registrations: 312 players. All players have either paid or have set up a payment plan.
- OWHA current registrations: 116 players registered. All players have paid

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- D1 clinic, originally scheduled for St. Marys, has been cancelled by OMHA. Pre-requisites were slow to be completed therefore people were not able to register. Next available (closest) option is October 22 in Exeter.
- OMHA Category A Report: the report was circulated to board members in advance of the meeting for review.
 - OMHA continues to operate under a pilot project that is removing competitive categories under A, which has resulted in our association moving to base category B/2nd rep team category C for the 2022-2023 season. Our motion to add a 4th competitive category is still under review.
 - OMHA has informed the Shamrock League that they need to create an A category loop, because many of the associations in the league are growing and need to move up in competitive category. OMHA has then communicated that St. Marys Minor Hockey has been reclassified to base category A for the 2023-2024 season.
 - This change means we would need to run a major/minor at every level (U10, U11, U12 etc) but there is a provision to appeal that for each cohort individually, each year.
 - The proposed teams that would create the A loop for Shamrock would be Strathroy, Dorchester, St. Thomas, Mount Brydges, Tillsonburg, St. Marys and New Hamburg. Many of these programs are seeing significant growth

in their program that we are not, therefore we observe a competitive growth disadvantage

- NRP – Non-resident passports – only available at U12 and above – historically we have not accepted NRPs if it meant a St.Marys area player would be displaced from a competitive team, however with the move to “A” we will potentially see more of these requests. Consequently, if we don’t move to “A”, we may see more of our players reverse NRP’ing to go to surrounding “A” centers.
- Question: if we stay “B” who would we play? Other B centers in Shamrock such as Lucan, Ilderton, South Huron, Lambton Shores.
- Question: what happens if we cut a SMMH player from an “A” team? They have the right to go and try out for a B or C rep team (ie. Exeter, Mitchell) or play LL. To account for this, we may be adjusting timing of tryouts, but we don’t think this will result in a major outflux of players.
- Major concern raised; was how we will remain competitive. OMHA considers 500+ registrations as “A” center level registrations – we were at 390 and have actually declined this year. OMHA is pushing amalgamation discussions without framework for how to initiate these discussions. Many of OMHAs recent decisions have been based on a regional “A” level programing.
- Question: how will member families have their say/know about this? We will publish a condensed and simplified version of the issue at hand and encourage all families to attend the November meeting to have their vote.
- Question: do we know what the main arguments should be if filing an appeal to not be considered “A”? Registration numbers, pre-covid and competitiveness of each cohort over the past few years; talk to local principals and the town to obtain projections for school size/town size
- A pros and cons list has been started and circulated. We will continue to add to this as more information becomes available/more questions are answered. Mike will proceed with discussions with Dorchester and Tillsonburg to gauge their proposed set up. More discussion to occur at the October meeting. Final vote on the matter in November.
- Action item: if there are any additional questions that are thought of before the next meeting, email Mike J. and he will compile and find answers.

Shamrock Report: Brandon Boyd

- GameSheet App: all coaches now have their new passwords but penalty codes are being changed by Hockey Canada and they have not been updated in the app. Brandon B will follow up when more information is available as to how to properly record these in the meantime.
- Shamrock has given approval for centers to use a 4-referee team for U18 games, if they so choose. It is a system that has been used by other centers trying to get their local referees more experience and to save on travel fees.

- March break shut down of the league will be March 11-17th. No games will be permitted unless there is 100% agreement between both teams.
- U11-U18 schedule set up: The league has finally confirmed the schedule appearance for the B and C category teams.
 - o B teams: 75% of games scheduled against other B centers; 25% of games scheduled against 1st entry C teams; 25% of games scheduled against 1st entry D teams
 - o C teams: 50% of games scheduled against other 2nd entry C teams; 25% of games scheduled against 1st entry C teams; 25% of games against 1st entry D teams
 - o January 15th is the recategorization date. A \$100 fee applies to appeal to be recategorized
 - o For U11 and U13 age groups, the decision needs to be made quickly to determine if there will be a C team or if there will be 2 local league teams at those levels

LMLL: Joe Robson (report presented by Mike Johnson)

- The league will run a non-tiered program this year

OWHA: Reg Clinton (report read by Katharine Found)

- Coaches need to have their staff picked and signed up in RAMP as a coach to be able to add to a roster. Managers who do not go on the bench, do not need to be rostered.
- Any non-tryout exhibition games played need to have a finalized roster – roster deadline for all teams is October 1st but due to turn around time, get rosters to Reg ASAP.

WOGL: Tyler Dingman

- No report

Coaches Committee: Joe Wilhelm (presented by Mark Brintnell)

- Coaches are secured for all teams that have hit the ice. A post will go on the website to advertise remaining vacant positions (C and LL teams)

Skills Development Committee: Mike Johnson

- There has been 1 goalie training session – Matt Hackett was the guest instructor. Sessions will continue to be run on Sundays at 11am – open to all SMMHA registered goalies
- New for the year – a block of ice on Saturday afternoon/early evening has been secured to provide an option for rescheduling games, however when not needed, the plan is to run revenue neutral skills development sessions. Melissa Becker will be used to run power skating for all age groups (but single age groups at a time), other instructors may be brought in or potentially inhouse expertise will be used. First ice time will be October 15th. Notification will go out via the website and a sign up will be made. Sessions will be capped and a waitlist created. Suggestion made to ensure those on the waitlist from a previous session are offered 1st chance at the skills session during the next offering. As the season progresses, other skills would be incorporated (ie. Shooting, defensive training)

- Mike J. is the chair and only committee member currently – looking for additional volunteers to help with this program.

Sponsorship Committee: Ryan Harris

- We have confirmed participation in the DFO jersey patch program. 1 team will have the Milk logo on the jersey for the season, a photo of the team will be taken and DFO (Dairy Farmers of Ontario) provides \$600 in sponsorship to the organization.

Photo Day Coordinator: Jocelyne Gall

- The board requested that the attempt is made to have photo days take place with sufficient time for photos to be returned to families prior to Christmas.

Tournament Committee: Rich Ballantyne

- OMHA tournaments have all been uploaded to the website and have been rebranded for this season:
 - o Stonetown Classic – January 6-8 – local leagues U11-U18
 - o Rock Cup – February 3-5 – Rep level B, C and D U11-U18

New Business:

Referee Clinic – Mark Brintnell

- SMMH will cover 75% of the registration fee for the upcoming referee clinic for the 2 local individuals who are registered. This will equate to approximately \$350.

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris B. at 8:20pm. Seconded Mike J.

Next Meeting:

The next association meeting will be held on Tuesday October 4th, 2022 at 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone.