

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday September 5th, 2023 – 7pm – PRC Endzone

In attendance: Kim Jones, Eileen Matheson, Greg St. Clair, Brayden Lord, Rick Harburn, Todd Dittmer, Doug Zub, Paul Williams, Jen Switzer, Jocelyne Gall, Jessica Chateauvert, Jenny Roth, Mike Kittmer, Sarah Jeffrey, Merlin Malinowski, Jim Craigmile, Lori Martin, Kerry Wright, Jaden Ropp, Nathan Brown, Dan McIntosh, Jayden Aylward, Ryan Harris, Amy Crummer, Holly Seok, Michael Davis, Burton Pickel, Jon McDonald, Katharine Found, Joe Wilhelm, Rich Ballantyne, Mike Johnson, Mark Brintnell

Regrets: Brandon Boyd

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by acting chair and SMMHA Vice-President, Joe Wilhelm. 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 for which we meet on was made by Katharine Found. This land acknowledgement will be a shared responsibility that takes place at the beginning of all SMMHA meetings. All executive and board members will be encouraged to take a turn to make their own acknowledgement.

Motion to approve the agenda

- Made by Jocelyne Gall. Seconded by Paul W.
Carried.

Minutes from the June 6th, 2023 Meeting:

Paul W. noted that on page 3, line 9, under the Policy and Procedures Committee Report it currently says “where as By-Law changes only require a majority vote in favour”. The term by-laws should be replaced with Policy and Procedure Manual.

- Sarah Jeffrey motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Todd Dittmer.
Carried

REPORTS:

Treasurer’s Report: presented by Rich Ballantyne

- Profit loss statements were circulated to attendees for review
- Account balances were presented orally by Rich B. as there is currently an issue with the Quickbooks program communicating with the BMO account.
- Account balances as of September 5, 2023:
 - o Operating Account (chequing): \$348,503.21
 - o Etransfer/Registration Account (Savings): \$78,347.89

- Lottery Account (Trust): \$29,131.12
- Some tryout fees (\$60/player) and rep team fees are still to come in as income

The meeting was passed to SMMHA President Mark Brintnell to resume the position of meeting chair

Registrar's Report: Jocelyne Gall

- There has not been a great deal of change since the spring report, other than at the U5 and U7 level.
 - U5 currently has 29 registered with 5 more interested participants
 - U7 is down 10 players from last season
 - U18: there is movement of players who are being selected to play Junior Hockey, AAA or are choosing not to play.
- Jocelyne has started the process of reaching out to families who are missing Respect in Sport documents, or other documents that will make the player ineligible to be rostered.

Shamrock Report: Brandon Boyd (read by Katharine Found)

- Modified U9 Gamesheets are available and have been sent to Joe Wilhelm to be distributed to the U9 coaches
- 2023-2024 Season structure for A loop division was approved. Regular season runs from Oct. 2 – Feb. 11. Minimum of 24 games, maximum of 28. March Break March 9-15 and Christmas Break is December 24 – January 1st – no league games allowed.
- Season structure for other divisions (our C teams) has also been approved with similar outline as above.
- Gamesheet Inc. codes have been updated – Brandon will send them out to the coaches committee to be distributed to the coaches.

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

- Joe R. has stepped down from his position as LMLL rep and Mark B. has attended meetings in the interim until a new rep can be assigned.
- The league has put together a seasonal structure that is similar to the Shamrock League – all associations will now be required to submit the number of teams they will be entering into the league
- Games will go into the Minor Hockey website calendar as soon as they are scheduled – hopefully by mid to late September
- A new LMLL rep is needed – please spread the word and reach out to the executive with nominations, or to recommend yourself for the position.

OWHA: Amy Crummer

- Amy is transitioning into the role and will be learning from Reg C. over the course of the season.
- WOGHL has updated their mission and vision statement to reflect inclusive, local hockey for girls in the community.

- WOGHL season will start October 14th.

WOGL: Tyler Dingman (updates provided by Mark Brintnell)

- All coaches have their ice time and will continue to work on the game scheduling aspect of the season. If there are any issues with ice conflicts, please reach out to Ice Scheduler, Mark B.
- U9 WOGHL Championship Tournament will be hosted by St.Marys Minor Hockey April 5-7. Up to 32 U9 teams could participate.

Photo Day Coordinator Report: Jen Switzer

- Photographer from last year, Lasting Impressions, would like to arrange photo days as early into the season as possible – ideally mid-October. Plan for all photos to be taken over a 5-6 day window, using the largest dressing room (#1)
- Pixel Photography has approached SMMHA, offering to do photos in just 1 day, and individual photos would be made into a team collage. Membership felt they like the traditional team photo and trying not to make families come to the arena for not their ice time is appreciated by families.

Ice Scheduler: Mark Brintnell

- Our players are officially back on the ice, with priority given to the prep skates and tryouts for U18, U13C, U11C, U9 (girls and boys)
- Ice pad 2 will go in September 11th which will allow more flexibility to get remaining teams on the ice for practices
- Reminder to all teams that they should subscribe to their team's calendar, especially considering there may be movement of practice times over the few first weeks.
- Until games start in October, teams will have access to their "game" slot for an additional practice time.
- All A team schedules are on the website, including games – reminder that 48 hr notice is required if your team will not be using their ice time, as we have paid for all of the ice at this point so we want to make sure we maximize its use.
- Every Sunday night, or Monday morning, Mark B. will send an email to all coaches letting them know about available ice for the week, that will be available on a first come-first served basis.
- Question: if on ice helpers do not have a police check back in time for prep skates and tryouts can they still go on the ice? Yes, but they will need to sign the affidavit before going on the ice.

OMHA: Mike Johnson

- There has been significant movement of amalgamation of surrounding centers over the past year, since the announcement and acceptance of the reclassification of local centers into a A base category. Ie. South Oxford, Lucan-Ilderton-Parkhill, WOHA (ie. Mitchell/north west). We need to pay close attention to what is going on around us.

- We have been approached by South Huron, informally, and by Dorchester more formally, to discuss the possibility of amalgamation and what that may look like. Dorchester is actively pursuing amalgamation options and feels St.Marys may be their most desired partner.
- There appear to be 3 possible scenerios for St.Marys Minor Hockey moving forward:
 - o Option 1: Continue to play A hockey, on our own, utilizing NRP program and focusing on skill and player development to achieve successful on ice results
 - o Option 2: Appeal to OMHA to go back to B or C classification – appeal would need to be submitted by Decmeber if wishing to make this change for 2024-2025 season
 - o Option 3: Amalgamate to create a larger association base with larger pool of talented players to remain successful at the A level.
- **Question: Why are associations amalgamating?** To try to remain viable at a higher level of play, to therefore not loose players to surrounding centers as NRPs
- **Question: Have we asked anyone else about possible amalgamation options?** SMMHA has not reached out to any associations – executive will do so if given direction from membership to do so.
- **Question: What would an amalgamation look like?** There is no set template. It can be whatever the joining centers feel is best. Options that St. Marys would need to consider would include the best fit for our boys rep, LL and girls program.
 - o Possible to create a regional A level rep association and maintain St.Marys Minor Hockey for Girls Hockey and LL
 - o Possible to amalgamate all 3 components
 - o Possible to amalgamate boys hockey and not girls hockey
 - o Possible to amalgamate boys hockey with 1 centre and girls hockey with another
 - o EETc.
- **Comment:** Membership needs to be more formally educated on this issue. The executive should consider hosting meetings, providing pamphlets/emails on this specific issue.
- **Question: How would boundaries change with an amalgamation?** There would be a center point of the new association, players falling outside of the boundaries would have a Right of Choice (ROC)– determined by measuring the difference in distance (on a well-travelled road.) from the players' address to the center point of the association and the players' address to the next closest OMHA centre they wish to go to. The difference between these two distances must not exceed eight (8) km.
 - o **There are NO regional restrictions with local league hockey.** Players can choose to play LL hockey in whatever association they would like, regardless of home address.
- Mark B. requested direction from the board about pursuing continued discussions with other local centers regarding amalgamation. Majority of members in attendance feel that discussions should happen with Dorchester, South Huron, Stratford, Mitchell, Tavistock. All information should be reported back to the board. During these informal discussions, all aspects of our program should be considered for the best fit for everyone (ie. Girls, Boys Rep, LL)

New Business:**Rep Fees:**

- Rep fees of \$280/player will be collected by the coach/manager of each team and only 1 transaction from the team will be made to SMMHA. Deadline for fees will be announced soon.

Player Development Report: Mike Johnson

- Coaches seminar to run in late September to help advance the coaching acumen of our staff
- A coach mentorship program is being developed where a Development Committee member will be associated with teams to provide technical support and knowledge
- U9 development program is being created, to follow the Hockey Canada and Ontario Hockey Federation model to tailor ice time by desire and not just skill. Players will be able to opt into the program. Fees charged will cover the cost of the program
 - o Tuesday nights: 4pm and 5pm – will be run by TPH. 20-25 ice sessions
- Discussions are still ongoing to develop an in-season player development and goalie development program.

St. Marys Lincolns University Game: Brandon Boyd (presented by Mark B.)

- St. Marys Lincolns will be partnering with St. Marys Minor Hockey to host a University game: Western U vs. Laurier at the PRC on Saturday September 30.
- St. Marys Minor Hockey will receive 50% of ticket revenue. More information and advertisement to come to encourage all members to sell tickets and sell out the arena.

Motion to Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jocelyne Gall at 8:15pm. Seconded by Paul W.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 3rd, 2023 – 7:00pm at the PRC Endzone