



Nickel District Minor Hockey League

www.ndmhl.ca

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY MAY 9TH, 2016, 6:30PM EDGAR LECLAIR CENTRE (AZILDA ARENA)

1. Record of Associations present:

All associations present except for West Ferris.

Board Members present: Joe McColeman, Angela Gerling, Julie Brassard, Cookie Campbell, Crystal Serre, Chantal Levesque

Convenors present: Al Cross, Josh Torok

2. Welcome - Joe McColeman, President

The new website for league standings is up and running, OneDB. It is less costly than the previous site used.

The goal of the ndmhl is to try to keep the divisions competitive. The playoff tournament showed how competitive the divisions are. There was a 3 goal or less differential in 70% of playoff games. Nickel City won the majority of the banners. But, all associations were represented in the finals as winners or as runner ups. The Lady Wolves did not win a banner but were in three finals.

Hockey is getting to be expensive. It cost approximately \$2.5 million for 58 teams in the league. Playoffs cost \$12/player.

The biggest issues this year:

- Bantam division - major players and minor players. Many e-mails to Joe about hits on the ice. This matter should be dealt with through the referees and not through Joe.
- Game curfews - numerous complaints about teams being buzzed off during close games. This curfew is a City of Greater Sudbury rule.
- 3 minute warm-ups - this was implemented to try and speed up the games and it is the rule used in tournaments.
- Referees - the assignment system was new this year and there were a lot of difficulties. Mostly having to do with team names. ie) NC Thunder,

Thunder or Nickel City. The system was confused by similar names. Also a problem with managers not knowing how to book referees for cancelled games.

NOHA team success - 10 teams involved here...5 wins and 5 finalists. Good but not as good as previous years.

AAA teams were invited back to the league this year. Minor PeeWee and Bantam. We should do this again for the 2016-2017 season.

No wins at the OHF level. We had a AAA Major PeeWee team come in second place in the all Ontario's.

Lady Wolves won 2 provincial championships and 1 Silver.

3. Minutes of Last League Meeting - September 22, 2015

1st - Chantal Levesque

2nd - Gus Lescault

Accepted from the floor

4. NOHA presentation - AGM or other info

Freedom of movement did not go through. Hockey Canada is still looking at this issue.

NOHA signed a new constitution for a 3 year obligation. It was all explained by a lawyer and accepted by the floor.

All team staff need a clear criminal record check before being accepted as staff. Staff is encouraged to look into this prior to the start of the season, over the summer months.

NOHA has been holding town hall meetings.

They are planning on holding clinics earlier in the season.

Communication - people are not signing up for the e-mail system so they would like all contact info to be up to date. This is the best way to reach the most people.

5. Correspondence

A. Request by West Nipissing for participation of teams from Novice to Midget.

It would have to be accepted by the floor and then it would need to go through the team acceptance process.

The floor Accepts.

Their tryouts are in August. We will try to calibrate them.

B. AAA requests for partial schedules

Minor PeeWee AAA (not major because it would have body contact).
Looking at unbalanced schedule, 1/2 schedule.

Not sure how to calibrate the Bantam division but will try to keep it competitive.

6. Financial Report - Julie Brassard

This year the registration fees were increased in order to send two board members to the NOHA AGM. Only Joe ended up going this year. These fees will be reviewed over the summer again.

Medals and Crests are purchased every 2nd year.

No questions from the floor. Accepted

1st - Chantal Levesque

2nd - Josh Torok

7. Amendments to the Constitution (1 motion)

This is simply a housekeeping change from BladeNet to the OneDB system for standings. But, if we come up with a better system then will go with that one.

Accepted from the floor.

8. Changes to Rules and Regulations

a) revised/"cleaned-up version" sent out April 11, 2016

Section 1 - Officials

2. Playoff rates will apply for all league play-off games in all divisions. *** Remove this as the NOHA has a rule to prevent this in levels under AAA

3. The Midget Division will have its own Assignor who assigns the Referee for all League and Playoff games in District 2 and 8. The Assignor will be paid an honorarium of \$50 per team plus a maximum of \$100 for expenses. *** Remove since the Referee Association does not work in this manner anymore - there are assigners who do this now. The league no longer has to pay this stipend.

Section 2 - Games

7b - Add Note: Where Convenors choose to accept a detailed email from each team as an alternative to a rescheduling form, this is acceptable. It is up to the convenor of the division to arrange this with his/her teams as the alternative.

11. Change to read:

(a) Requests by "AAA" Peewee (major and minor) and "AAA" Bantam (minor) teams to participate in the league will be reviewed by the Executive. The Executive may approve participation in a "partial" or "full" regular season schedule. Participation in playoffs will not be automatic and will be reviewed by the Executive.

(b) Female hockey teams approved to participate in the regular season will only be able to participate in playoffs where non-body contact rules apply.

Section 3 - Playoffs

Very long tie breaking rule.

- The Home team can arrange for an extra 30 minutes of ice instead. This allows for the play-off rule tie breaker instead.
- Floor - can we consider 2 hour games for all playoff games?

Section 5 - Finances

4. Reads - The League will have an official receipt book. All moneys received by the League are to be recorded in said book and the original be given to in respect to the receipt of said moneys.

Revise to Read - The League may chose to provide receipts from an official receipt book or email acknowledgement for monies received, if requested by any team or association.

7. *** Add highlighted words. A fine of up to \$400 will be assessed to a team (or teams) for **either** cancelling or forfeiting a scheduled game(s) without **reasons acceptable to the League OR failing to provide** proper notification and completing the rescheduling form in writing to the opposing team manager, the Convenor of the category and the President. Fines are to be paid to the League Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of notice.

8a. A team will be fined \$20 for each score sheet not received by the Convenor of his Division. Score sheets **MUST BE RECEIVED** within (***) remove 7 days) **3 days** of completing the game.

9. ***Add: Bonds from guest entry teams or from Associations which cease to be members of the NDHL, which are not requested to be returned at the AGM, will become funds of the League.

8b) 2016 Rule change request - open discussion (8 requests)

1. From Manitoulin.

Add - Complaints of an on ice nature (referee calls), not to be discussed at the ND level. Follow the proper channels.

The President of the League cannot over-rule a referee.

From the Floor:

Al - thinks the league should get involved if it is an on-going problem

Gus - should have a policy in place that is clear and the safety of the kids should be first and foremost

Craig - a president who has not been at a game should not be able to make a call on referee issues.

There is significant concern here because safety is an issue.

Also, it can be hard to get referees. It is costly to bring refs to Blind River and Elliot Lake. Need to pay their travel which can add up.

2. Playoffs

Would like to see Bantam II out of the playoffs (with Novice, Atom, PeeWee) and see them go to head to head playoffs.

From the Floor:

Al - Bantam Convenor - there are usually more teams in Bantam II and this kind of head to head playoff could take really long. There would be a problem with ice time also.

Gus - might be additional cost for travel and officials if it goes this way.

3. Wording for Jersey Color

Would like to see dark jerseys for home and white for away.

The NHL does it this way.

Some teams now have a 3rd jersey and they would like to be able to show it off at home games.

4. Affiliation Rules, Section 4

There needs to be some clarification on the NOHA Rule for Affiliated players.

5. Girls Teams Playing in the League

Bantam and Midget girls teams are playing down a division.

Would like to see individual girls on boys teams be able to play down as well.

This probably goes against the NOHA rules and will need clarification.

Manitoulin is just trying to keep their girls into rep hockey. It is too costly for them to travel to Sudbury to play in the girls league. There is a large influx of girls in the Panthers program. It is costing some families \$25,000 for their girls to travel to Sudbury to play with the Lady Wolves.

6. West Ferris

Region A and Region B

When West Ferris first came into the league it did not provide weekend ice.

Now West Ferris wants a rule to have weekend ice times only for PeeWee, Bantam and Midget Games.

Jim - hard to mandate something like this. Teams can work together instead, maybe have double-headers.

Joe - doesn't think that there is enough weekend ice available by user groups to mandate this

Gus - last year Nickel City accommodated AAA teams as much as possible. To make it a rule would make ice allocation tough.

7. For the Convenors

Teams need to give convenors their black-out dates, tournaments, etc...

The League is trying to make a plan to avoid all this rescheduling that has been going on. Some teams are coming to the September meeting with nothing for the Convenors. They must provide their weekly ice schedule. Between 5:30pm and 8:30pm for Novice and Atom and ending before 10pm for PeeWee. Novice and

Atom teams need to provide 18 game slots to facilitate 12 home games. PeeWee and Midget need to provide 20 slots for 14 games.

8. This amendment would deal with the 14 day rescheduling rule and weather issues.

All rescheduled games must be approved.

All weather cancellations must go through the convenor.

All games must be played regardless if it does not affect the standings.

Rescheduled games must be done before January 31st.

From the Floor: They do not find the changes harsh at all.

Gus: Likes the rules

Al: Teams always seem to have a problem around March Break

Gus: With the officials, there are a ton of discrepancies with regards to bills. So the assigner needs to know about rescheduled games.

Rob: Sometimes games were scheduled on black-out dates

Julie: It would be good to have a form sent out to all coaches and managers prior to the September meeting.

Rob: All city is slots start at 5pm. Love the idea of a 5:30 start but it's going to be tough with the City.

9. Election of Officers (Vice President, Treasurer, Director x 2)

Vice President: Motion from Josh for Denise Duckett.

Second from Julie.

No nominations from the floor.

Accepted

Treasurer: Motion from Chantal for Julie Brassard.

2nd from Gus.

No nominations from the floor.

Accepted

Directors: Motion from Chantal for Scott Riengnette.

Second from Julie.

No nominations from the floor.

Accepted

Motion from Chantal for Cookie Campbell.

Second from Josh.

No nominations from the floor.

Accepted.

10. New Business

Declaration of Teams by Associations

September is the final cut off for all divisions.

Manitoulin is going to have a fall skate to see if they have enough kids.
All teams declared will go through the review process.
62 teams have been declared so far.

Bantam/Midget Division Setups

There are never enough minor midgets in a division on their own.
Should we consider a hybrid schedule with Bantam playing Midget?
Highschool teams are taking the Midget players.

Selection of Convenors

September 2016

Tuesday September 20th is the tentative date for the coaches and managers meeting.

Playoffs

Thursday March 23rd - Sunday March 26th, 2017
Playoffs will be held at the Carmichael, Azilda and Chelmsford Arenas

Nickel City Pre-Season Tournament

All teams are encouraged to participate to help calibrate divisions.

11. Other Business

Manitoulin is losing the battle with the highschool teams. And the highschool teams often finish early. Some rep teams, signed some highschool players before the NOHA deadline and these players went straight to the playoffs.
Can there be a rule where the players need a certain amount of games played in order to play in the playoffs?