

WHISTLER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
(the “**Association**”)

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Board of Directors of the Association held at Meadow Park Sports Complex at 7:30 pm (Pacific Time) on March 11, 2024.

PRESENT:

Louise Tomcheck (LT), Nadia Demers (ND), Norma Gonzalez Felix (NGF), Kevin Sopp (KS), Todd Carter (TC), Trish Nakagawa (TN), Wade Sutton (WS), Jordan Harvey (JH), Chris McKinney (CM), Karen Davies (KD)

REGRETS:

None

BLOCK 1

A. Call to Order and Quorum and Declaration of Meeting

Notice of the Meeting having been given to all the Directors of the Association, with the consent of the Meeting, Louise Tomcheck acted as Chair and Kevin Sopp acted as Recording Secretary.

The Chair noted that a quorum of the Directors was present and declared the Meeting open for the transaction of business.

B. Approval of Agenda

The Chair advised the Meeting that the Agenda had been previously circulated to all members of the Board and was approved as presented. (KD/JH)

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2024 were approved as amended (WS/KS).

BLOCK 2

D. President Report

- Teams should be returning unused ice slots so WMHA doesn't have to pay for them.
- Based on a recent incident, a reminder that U11 coaches should connect to go over reasonable practices considering they will see inexperienced on-ice officials. Coaches should adapt their expectations to the level of officiating they get.
- Bears report.
 - Disappointing that a U18F competitive team wouldn't be a part of the Bears program for 2024/25 due to lack of support from Squamish association.

- Our board needs to respect and accept the decision and move on to figure out how to best position a U18F competitive team based in Whistler.
- Multiple board members want to work towards making the U18F competitive team happen.
- Lions Gate League (LGL) meeting:
 - Some associations struggling with U7 games with suggestions that U7 games should remain in house or only with the closest association.
 - U9 could use a mini tournament option where teams play two games against the same association.
 - LGL looking for U9 to play half ice games CM questioned how U9 format will work for second year given minor / major change.

E. **Treasurer Report**

- ND asked board members to review her Treasurer report, ask questions if something doesn't make sense, all in preparation for the AGM. WMHA is on track to post another profitable year as we didn't spend to budget on:
 - DOH position.
 - Development.
 - Coach and referee reimbursements.
 - Not all teams were able to play in two tournaments.
- Draft budget includes a 3% increase in fees.
- Assume 170 players to register.
- NFG noted the banquet expenses should be added to the current year budget.
- Conversation turned towards tournaments:
 - Appears teams need more time/advanced notice/permission to book tournaments. CM mentioned an association member may be willing to take on the role of tournament coordinator. Tournaments could be advertised as early as June/July for the following winter hockey season.
 - WS mentioned teams will need to be aware of new lodging restrictions in place for Fall 2024 and advised conventional hotel/motel maybe best for tournament accommodation.
 - TN to gather feedback from current team managers about their tournament booking/planning experiences.
 - ND chimed in with the suggestion that teams could book their spot in tournaments, then if had to, cancel their spot as most tournaments have wait lists. Deposits may be lost though.
- LT has requests from U9 teams to purchase association jerseys, KS to get pricing.
- Communication glitch between KS and NGF regarding confirmation of our 4th sponsor for the red jerseys. NGF will invoice Stor-All Whistler.
- TC questioned the 3% increase in fees given the association will have a solid profit this year.
 - ND agrees this may not be the year for a fee increase but warns that additional funds may be required for increased spending next year for DOH and coach/referee reimbursements.
 - LT and ND agree WMHA should leave the fees the same for next year.

- CM thought some of our excess funds could be used for off-ice training to complement the on-ice training.
 - TC thought some of the funds could be used for on-ice officials training.
- JH noted young refs are not getting sufficient opportunities to referee - rebuttal was there were not enough games for the young officials.
- NFG asked if we could move to a four-official system where mentoring could happen right on the ice during games.
- ND will start putting pen to paper for the DOH position, specifically to our expectations, and what Mike is willing to offer.

BLOCK 3

G. Bears Update

- LT and TN feel more visibility is needed regarding how the Bears conduct business. As a minimum, should be a Secretary taking notes.
- The upcoming ID camp registrations will go out this week proposing one U15 team and two U18 teams.

H. U18 Female Team Planning

- LT mentioned the ID camp should also include the U18F comp team and will look into getting ice to run the camp.
- If WMHA is to include the U18F competitive team next season there are concerns about local participation – specifically favouring U18 females from the WMHA catchment. Mike Borrelli had previously proposed non-resident and under-age players should be ranked in the top nine to be permitted to play. The Board voted to approve this approach.

J. Banquet

- Banquet confirmed for April 4th at Whistler High School.
- As usual, the U13 teams will be responsible for set-up at 5:00 pm.

K. AGM

- AGM is confirmed for 6:00 pm on May 27th at Whistler High School.
- TC to have the AGM package ready for delivery to the members by May 12, 2024.

L. Other Business + In Camera

- None.

M. Termination of Meeting

- Meeting adjourned: 9:33 pm
- Next Meeting: April 15, 2024, 6:00 pm at MPSC