



General Membership Meeting

Start Time: Tuesday, November 15th, 8:00 pm

Location: Boardroom, East Hants Sportsplex

Agenda Items

Attendance:

Chris Hopewell, Brett Garden, Chuck Livingstone, NaDeana Norris, Joel Isenor, Bryan Gillis, Mark Wilson, Mark Smith, Chris Baylis, Amelia Pennington, Adam Chisholm, Danny Hines, Dean Ibbotson

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Chuck called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm

2. Introduction of EHMHA Board of Directors

Chuck introduced himself -President, NaDeana Norris – Events Coordinator, Chris Hopewell-Director at Large, Brett Garden-Director at Large, Chris Baylis-Treasurer, Greg Heard-Secretary.

Chuck Gave Regrets for Aaron Canon-VP Operations, Cathy Spencer-VP Admin, Rob Doucette-Past President

3. 2022-2023 Season Update

a. Registration/Financial Update *by Chris Baylis, Treasurer*

- Registration last year was 346, this year at 352. We had some late registrations this year which caused some challenges for balancing
- Ice prices are \$240 an hour, no increase to ice fees this year
- Ref Fees are up 8% over last year



- Association looking at ice dividers, came up for IP group and will help with Jamboree. Getting quotes and delivery times.
- Nice to see we can hold our tournaments this year, main revenue booster for the association
- The last U7 Jamboree had 36, already at 16. Some teams are waiting for funds to come in so they can register
- Several fees in for Bannister Tournament, 1 already for Ettinger-Smith
- Looking at Jersey replacements, it's our biggest expense. We will need to look for some corporate sponsors. Haven't been able to put money into the jersey fund due to lack of tournaments because of Covid

b. Hockey Operations Update by Chuck Livingstone

- Chuck introduced Bryan Gillis & Joel Isenor as our Evaluators & Player Development Representatives.
- This is the first year Bryan and Joel have done the evaluations for our association.
- Joel and Bryan will be doing development every Sunday for our association.
- Development ice will run from 6-9pm every week, unless there is a conflict with the sportsplex
- Registration will open every Monday and will be capped at 25 players per week
- Joel and Bryan will ensure every player gets an opportunity to participate
- You need a GrayJay account, and you can register from the ehpenquins website
- We will rotate age groups each week and goalies will be held every week. U9 & U13 will be one week, the next week will be U11 & U15



- Sessions will be focus on different development strategies, such as Shooting, Passing, Power Skating etc.... Adjustments to skills development strategies may be made after the initial 8 weeks
- All teams are up and running and playing games, except for U9. U9 are allowed to start playing games on December 1st.
- U9 Advance is back in the Dartmouth League this year
- For U9, it's half ice games and come February, teams can play 6 full ice exhibition games, no refs or keeping score. Coaches must be on the ice.
- Girls Day has been approved by Hockey Canada. The Goal is to get new to hockey players come out to play. All existing female players will be invited to come out & participate.

Comment from Danny Hines: Half-ice games & practices were spearheaded around the European model to focus on all players touching the puck more and developing more. That is why U9 changed to half-ice.

Question from membership: Should we look at Jersey Bags to prolong the life of the jerseys?

Answer: EHMHA tried to enforce that a few years ago and there was a big pushback from the membership due to the extra costs and it didn't gain traction. There wasn't much success in getting volunteers to take on the role of carrying all the jerseys to every game. We should expect to get another 4-5 years with the current jerseys.

Question from membership: How long should we expect jerseys to last?

Answer from Executive: On average we should get 6-7 years from our jersey's.



c. Tournament Updates *by NaDeana Norris & Chuck Livingstone*

- First year for the Breaden Bannister Memorial Tournament
 - U15B & U15AA tournament and we have enough teams for each
 - It'll be held over Christmas
- Ettinger-Smith has historically filled up
- U7 Jamboree has always had 36 teams register
 - There aren't many U7 jamborees around
 - It is held the long weekend in February

Question from Membership: U13 only showed up on the Hockey NS Website a few days ago. There are 6 U13 rec tournaments listed elsewhere over March break and there is concern we won't have enough teams

Answer from Executive: Chuck will follow up on this.

4. HNS Update *by Chuck Livingstone, President*

Hockey Canada:

- Hockey NS had an information session where they shared how things worked. Up until 1990, hockey Canada had its own insurance.
- They went to corporate insurance around 1992. When they went to get their insurance, they were asked what had been paid out in the past for claims.
- They came back and said we'll cover health, dental etc.... they were informed it wouldn't cover liabilities. Hockey NS had to put money aside for liabilities



- They put money aside in the Equity Fund. It costs approximately \$65 per player for their Hockey fees. \$24 goes to Hockey Canada and the balance goes to Hockey NS.
- The fees to Hockey NS cover salaries and assessments. Of the \$24 that goes to Hockey Canada, half went to the National Equity Fund. It was changed recently so only \$3 went to the National Equity Fund
- This year Hockey NS, along with many provincial bodies withheld the money that was going to the National Equity Fund
- Hockey Canada waived the fee this year
- We do not have a say in how the funding is allocated

Hockey NS

- Hockey NS released a new complaint process
 - <https://ehpenguins.org/l/47/EHMHA/news/5003/Hockey-Nova-Scotia-New-Third-Party-Complaint-Process/>
- There is a risk management committee assigned by Hockey NS
- Historically complaints would be dealt at the association level and then escalated to Hockey NS for serious issues. Now any issue can be sent to Hockey NS
- Hockey NS has seen a significant increase in complaints and have hired an independent 3rd party to help.
- The process is completely confidential
- There is a quick intake form, however due to the backlog the process might take longer than one would expect



Goalie Initiative:

- Goalies have always been a challenge in East Hants, we are open to ideas on how to solve this challenge
- It's now an issue in all of NS. Hockey NS came out with a new initiative this year to recruit goalies
- They have offered to pay half of the registration fee for U11 first time goalies, but you must play the full season as a goalie
- EHMHA has agreed to pay the other half of the registration.
- They had 42 kids sign up in mainland for the new program, we had 3 from East Hants
- If we don't have goalies in the future, we won't have as many Rep teams. We need more goalies.
- Hockey NS is open to options. For example, we have been given approval for a U9 player to play Goalie at U11C – providing the player doesn't miss a U9 game.

Comment from membership – at U9 & U7, we need to introduce kids to U7-2 & U9.

Answer from Executive - It's highly frowned upon to dedicate goalies in U9, technically you aren't supposed to do it, but other associations do it.

- We need to think outside the box for how to develop goalies.
- Bryan Gillis is starting up a "Fist Save" program. This program will look for interest for first time goalies, the association will find the gear, and it will launch in January

2-Deep Rule:



- Every team needs to ensure they always have 2 registered “Parent Volunteers” in the dressing room
- Players should not be in the dressing room without 2 Parent Volunteers, this can also be the coaches
- The Parent Volunteers need to be approved by Hockey NS
- Hockey NS is doing audits, and head coaches have already been suspended
- You should expect to be spot checked by Hockey NS

Hockey NS Alignment

- Previously we were under the Dartmouth Regional Director
- We now fall under Jason Hale, Hockey East Regional Director
- C level teams still play in the Dartmouth zone, but fall under Jason Hale for anything related to Hockey NS
- This year, 2nd tryouts for Rep Teams all went through the regional director, players were assigned where associations had a need

Balancing:

- Historically balancing was left up to the individual associations
- The goal is to prevent one association from stacking one team
- Hockey NS is monitoring the scores, and if teams are not balanced, they will intervene and re-balance on behalf of the association

Youth Advisory Committee:

- NaDeana started a youth advisory committee
- The ask is for current players to come up with ideas of how to make hockey better



- We are looking for at least 6 volunteers
- No parents/adults will be involved in these meeting
- The committee will report out to NaDeana and to the Executive
- Players have an opportunity to have their voice heard and influence the hockey experience for future players

New Pro Shop:

- They deal directly with manufacturers
- They have a skate sharpening machine

EHMHA Communication:

- We apologize to our membership for the challenges with the GrayJay system and our communication challenges
- During the managers meeting, time was spent educating managers how the GrayJay communication platform works. Meeting minutes from the mangers meeting have been posted to our website.
- The problems with communication should be resolved. If you are not getting emails, please reach out to your team manager

5. **Fundraising Update** by *Chuck Livingstone, President*

- 50/50 was expected to start in October but was delayed
- Our Fundraising Coordinator recommended we push our first 50/50 draw until the end of November
- Rep Fee & Fundraising Fee deadline has been extended from Dec 31st until Jan 31st
- This past year we expanded the fundraising program to allow more programs



- It must be done at the team basis and approved by the team through a team vote.
- All fundraising programs must be approved by our Fundraising Coordinator, VP Admin & Treasurer

Question from Membership: Could we move to online 50/50?

Answer from Executive: Our players would lose out on a lot more money. We would need sell twice as many tickets to raise the same amount of money

Question from Membership: There have been some challenges with the mismanagement of our officials and their schedules. Some officials are going to the city and leaving EHMHA

Answer from Executive: We discussed many process improvements with our RIC. There is an opportunity for the association to get better. The executive will work with the RIC to improve the process. There is a challenge to get enough officials at the higher age levels.

Question from Membership: The GrayJay schedule for games contradicts the allocation from EHMHA association

Answer from the Executive: This impacts recreation teams and all the U9 teams. Dartmouth lost ice at East Coast Varsity this year, and it has made scheduling more difficult due to the lack of options. Most of the ice available for games is on Saturday and Sunday, vs. the weekdays last year.

We lost our ice scheduler for U9 Intermediate and U9 Advanced, the Dartmouth Recreation ice scheduler agreed to help.



Overall, it isn't ideal, and teams will not always get their home ice slots allocated by EHMHA. This makes it challenging for managers to track their home ice allocations. Teams will get all their games scheduled for the year.

Adjourn 9:19pm