

IMHA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, February 5, 2023

MINUTES – APPROVED: March 5th, 2023



Present: Brooke Ross, Paul Walkom, Jeff Reid, Randy Sheaves, Andrew Ward, Chris Dixon, Kerri Dixon, Kendra Bloomfield, Andy Marshall, Bill Stevenson, Scott Parker, Mark Read, Jeff Sutherland
Regrets: Pat Conlin, Todd Copeland,

1. Paul Walkom agreed to chair the meeting in TC's absence.
2. KB made a **motion to begin** the meeting. 2nd by SP. Carried.
3. JR made a motion to **approve the minutes** from the January 15th IMHA Board meeting. 2nd by RS. Carried.
4. RS made a motion to approve the following **cheques for processing**:
 - MMC \$42, 771.09 (Ice Rental)
 - MMC \$523.59 (Facilities Rental)
 - Kendra Bloomfield \$535.00 (HDI Meat)
 - MCRA \$6,154.00 (Referee Expense)2nd by CD. Carried.

5. Regional 'A' Level Center Discussions

-BR shared for TC that there is no new information as IMHA has not had any more meetings. Lucan has met with South Huron and Ilderton's subcommittee will meet with Lucan in the coming weeks to further evaluate options for OWH and OMHA hybrid amalgamation.

-PW: When considering location and community, Lucan seem like the best fit to try and work with to have hybrid amalgamation together for our 'A' level center.

-RS: Geographically Mt. Brydges and Lucan seem the same distance. Mt. Brydges would give us access to more ice rinks. PW: Mt. Brydges do not need us to move forward. They have more than 4 teams in each age group. They have good depth. Not an equal partner to us with their numbers.

-PW: If we were to consider Lucan and North Middlesex both in the hybrid amalgamation, we would almost be at the tipping point to be classified as 'AA' right away.

-RS: If OMHA are talking boundaries, if we went after Mt. Brydges could we try to re-apply to get Komoka/Kilworth? PW: All boundaries must be negotiated. We should look to set up hard boundaries. We need to consider if we negotiate those boundaries now or when we have chosen a team to amalgamate with because boundaries go from your center point.

-AW: What are the possible chances of getting centers categorized by birth year and not by registration as a whole? PW: Unsure what Shamrock league will do next year with REP centers. We have discussed what we would like to see but OMHA must make decisions. JR: When we go 'A' you do go to Minor and Major Hockey, and it goes by birthyear.

-JR: Does OMHA need to approve these amalgamations? PW: OMHA does get involved and we must get a written consent with the other team we agree to amalgamate with.

6. U21 Hockey in Ilderton

-AM: Shamrock League/Associations are inquiring if there is interest in running a U21 league. They are looking for a minimum of 4 centers to make it viable. Ilderton would not be able to support this team on their own and would look to combine with other associations, possibly Parkhill and Lucan. There would be large rosters of 25 players because of other commitments at this age. There does

seem to be lots of interest from our U18 teams. With these other factors, player movement rules for U21 are more fluid. It would be 12-16 game season.

-CD: There would be interest, but you would have to amalgamate. There is often nowhere for these players to play after U18. The only difficulty is if they go away for school. There are lots of commitments for these players.

-JS: The only concern is ice time but if we are combining with other centers to support the ice needs then we should consider it.

-RS: We have talked to the municipality to try and get more ice. Is it time to make a push to get in front of council and make our case for getting more ice. Hopefully council will support the municipality.

-JR: We need more ice but there are some ways to share ice and make some time to support a U21 team. MR: I think we could share some ice and have the time for this team.

-AM: If we can commit an hour and a half of ice then we can take that information to other centers and take the next step to create a U21 team in our area, amalgamated with other centers.

- AM makes a **motion** that we commit to an hour and a half every two weeks and take that offer to other centers to move forward with a local U21 team. 2nd by KB. Carried.
- **ACTION:** AM will reach out to other centers to see who is interested in creating a U21 team, discuss ice availability and details for making a U21 team.

7. OWA Spring Tryouts

-SP: OWA is approving associations to conduct tryouts for U9 and up during spring tryout dates.

- Wednesday, April 19, 2023 until May 31, 2023 for all divisions

-We don't currently have ice to do tryouts for U9 and U11 in the spring for this year. We currently have booked U13, U15, and U18 times.

-PW: Hockey Canada is talking about no REP hockey in U9 next season.

- **ACTION:** MR will look into booking ice for U11 Girls tryouts. 4 pre-skates and 4 tryouts sessions, after April 19th.

SP: I have messaged OWA for more information about the pathways and other associations to see what they are planning on doing. A concern is if we don't do it in the spring then some players might tryout elsewhere. SP will gain more information and bring it back to the board.

-AW: If our girls' teams are made up of mostly out of area girls, and we need more ice time, could we consider not allowing out of area girls to come tryout. This would have the possibility of opening more ice time. PW: If we don't allow out of area girls to tryout then our girls hockey program will be not having enough players to sustain itself. BS: We have an ice issue but squashing our girl's program is not the way to gain that ice. RS: We would not be able to compete at a 'B' or 'C' level and all our girls teams would be house league. That would cause us to lose our girls players who want to compete competitively because they would go play in other organizations. AM: Remember as we are considering OWA amalgamation with recategorization, this may change the number of out of area players in our OWA program.

8. Coaching Applications for 2023

Discussion took place about when coaching applications will be open.

-JS: Our coaching applications should go up sooner than later while hockey is fresh on everyone's minds. Opening it earlier will hopefully limit coaches missing the opening during the summer. We will need Girls coaches for spring tryouts. JR: Girls U13-U18 would be the top priority because of their spring tryouts.

-KB: Opening it up earlier might also target coaches who need their D1 certifications.

- AM made a **motion** to post coaching application immediately, closing end of March, to see what interest there is and help identify who will need to be D1 certified. 2nd by KB. Carried.

9. D1 Certifications

PW: If you are the head coach at a REP level you must be D1 Certified. This is OMHA policy. Paul has completed 2 on-ice evaluations and 15 coaches have contacted about doing it. Paul will do it whenever he can during the season, but coaches have to get an ice time available. If it is not completed during the season, coaches needing to be observed to complete the D1 certification will need to rent their own ice and get together a team of their own during the summer. This may come with a fee in the summer. Mid-September would be latest to D1 certify coaches.

-There are 6 coaches that are legacy certified who only need to complete an online course (1 has completed it so far).

10. LMLL Level Match-ups

-AW: Our members are asking about the mis-matched games as some games are very lopsided.

-Prior to the meeting, BS sent an email to the board with statistics about Local League team match ups during this season. Teams who have more LL teams than REP teams in an age group had a clear advantage to those associations who had the same number, or less, LL teams as REP teams. BS discussed options that will be proposed to LMLL to limit the number of mis-matched games during the seeding portion of the season. These proposals would only be for the Lambton Middlesex league, and tournaments could decide to run on their own terms. BS asked if anyone had questions about what will be proposed to Lambton Middlesex.

11. Year End Wrap Up: Banquet

-KD has booked the community center to host the Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 23rd. The banquet will be broken up into age groups, but all held on the same day.

-ACTION: AW will put out the award emails to begin to collect information from teams about award recipients.

- AW made a **motion** to rename the Tyke award presented to a player who demonstrates a love of the game as the *Lucas McConnell Memorial* award. 2nd by RS. Carried.

12. Round Table

- AM made a **motion** to send a flower arrangement and make a donation, valuing up to \$250 combined, on behalf of the IMHA association to Pat Conlin and his family to offer our condolences for the loss of his father. 2nd by JR. Carried.

-KD: Hockey Day in Ilderton was a great day and feedback has been very positive. Kerri thanked everyone for their support to make the event such a great success.

JR: A huge KUDOS to the organizers of Hockey Day in Ilderton.

-BR shared on behalf of PC that there is still a plan to have one end of the season, mega draw through Rafflebox.

-BR presented a Jet's logo approval that was submitted via email. There were two items asking to have the Jet's logo: a black CCM Winter Coat bought from Pete's Sports in Strathroy & and a black Under Armour backpack purchased from London's Source for Sports. These items were not available in navy and Pete's does not sell backpacks.

- BR made a **motion** to approve the request to allow the Jet's logo to be on the winter coat and backpack. The logo must be stitched on through Pete's Sports. 2nd by CD. Carried.

- AW: U8, U9 classification next year will all be LL. OMHA will decide that next year.
- RS: Will be sending out IMHA budget VS actual expenditures. Ford/Keast will complete their audit and it will be presenting at our next meeting. They will explain the results of the financial audit and then will finalize it and come back to AGM to present the audit to the membership.
- RS will be putting together the profit vs loss for Hockey Day in Ilderton and update the board at our next meeting.
- JR: Many people are asking about spring tryouts. Based on OMHA there will be no plan to do spring tryouts. There is no benefit for IMHA to do spring tryouts. Currently we have spring tryouts planned only for OWHA U13-U18 and we are looking at U9 and U11 when we get feedback from OWHA.

13. **Next Meeting:** March 5th at 7:30 via zoom.

- Sunday, April 30th will be the AGM at the Ilderton Community Center.

14. AM made a motion to **adjourn** to meeting 2nd by KD. Carried

Online Motions and Updates

February 13th, 2023

- RS made a motion to approve the following **cheques for processing:**
 - MSC \$1424.00 (Ice Rental)2nd by MR. Carried.
- RS made a motion to approve the following **cheques for processing:**
 - WOGHL \$960.00 (All Star Game)2nd by SP. Carried.