



Belle River District Minor Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes November 21, 2017
Atlas Tube Center, Belle River, Ontario

In attendance: Rob Bodchon, John Marchand, Rob Dembinski, Dan Anger, Ken Poisson, Jennifer Lafeber, Paul Gray, Peter Thompson

Absent: Rich Burford, Mark Bateman, Alex Dominato, Lisa VanSickle, Jamie Fick, Darren Crowley, Marco Levesque

Meeting Chair: Paul Gray

Recorder: Jennifer Lafeber

Meeting called to order by Paul Gray at 7:01 pm.

Director Reports

Equipment – Dan Anger:

- Working with Alex to purchase 4 sets of new Goalie Equipment
- Ordered Puck and Water Bottle for next year
- Equipment room combination working well
- Received 2 boxes of Tim Hortons hockey cards – Dan to distribute, John to provide accurate numbers per team

Report accepted by Ken Poisson and seconded by Peter Thompson

Director of Travel Scheduling – Mark Bateman:

- All travel schedules firm through end of Bluewater season play.
- Completed OMHA playdown contract formats for all divisions.
- Travel director must ensure that all teams are aware of OMHA playdown rules and schedule notifications. There will be no changes once a contract is sent to OMHA and the opposing teams.
- Any teams not wishing to compete in Bluewater playoffs should notify me ASAP. This request should be sent by our travel director to all teams (Midget Major is always an issue in meeting Bluewater playoff schedules due to exams and high school playoffs).
- House league schedules as posted in August are firm through March 2018 Day of Champs. NO CHANGES.

- Bluewater OMHA Playdowns start the week of January 8th 2018. All teams must be prepared to play within their assigned dates. Travel teams are not permitted to attend tournament onward from January 8th 2018 through elimination from OMHA playdowns.
- Travel teams eliminated from OMAH playdowns will be reduced to 1 practice a week come the first week of February 2018.
- I will be hosting weekend creating Defensive Offense, Player Shooting, Goaltending and Forward Offense clinics come January 2018. Will post these as first come first serve. These will take place over open ice slots only after posted to the teams. Player ages will be Atom through Bantam. No cost for my or guest coaches time.
- This position needs to be included in coach selection and coaches meeting for travel selection going forward. Too many travel coaches do not know OMAH rules and our scheduling policies when it comes to changes within regular season and playoff play. I will also include a sign off policy requirement going forward at the coach selection and coach meeting regarding understanding of OMHA rules and Bluewater/BRDMHA policies.

Registration – John Marchand:

- The number of registrations as of November 19th is 865. A few Juvenile travel players have not yet properly registered so the number should still go up a little.
- Peter Thomson and I attended a meeting with our OMHA reps in Tilbury to discuss the Initiation Program changes. The bottom line is that for this season no six year old will be allowed to play in Novice, but we will be able to place seven year olds on Novice rosters. Next season Seven year olds will not be allowed to play travel and will have to play half ice. For the 2019/2020 season Novice travel hockey will be eliminated entirely and all players up to eight years of age will have to play half ice hockey.
- Submitted Team Reconciliation forms to delete our Midget A/E and two Bantam House League teams. Added one additional Initiation Program team and had 6 Tyke teams converted to Initiation Program teams.
- Juvenile travel roster is still in the works. Processing player transfers and registrations.
- I have been following up with Coaches and Managers regarding certifications including Gender Identity training. An individual cannot be added to a roster without having taken this training. It is mandatory for all volunteers.
- I have been following up with some parents who still need to take Parents Respect In Sport course or link an existing course to their new player.
- In the process of checking certifications for House League staff and building rosters. Not many roster have been approved due to a lack of certifications, mainly Gender Identity training. All rosters are being submitted so that the players get approved whether the team has certified staff or not. Deadline to submit House League rosters for approval is December 1st.

Report accepted by Dan Anger and seconded by Rob Bodchon

Risk Management Officer – Rob Bodchon:

- Quiet month other than a suspension of a player on the Novice AE1 for behavior that was unbecoming for one game. Parents stood behind the decision. This has been ongoing since the beginning of the season and progressive discipline took place

Report accepted by Rob Dembinski and seconded by Dan Anger

Referee in Chief –Rich Burford:

- Currently working on scheduling for the Merton/Holland tournament
- Checks for September and October were sent out last week
- Scheduling running smoothly for both H/L and Travel

Sponsorship and Communication – Ken Poisson:

- JDRF was a great event, I would like to thank the board for the (awesome) support and would like to propose this as a yearly event and tie this in to the BRDMHA Board Christmas party.
- Froster sponsor not available (limit sponsors with new sponsor patches)
- Review Paid/unpaid sponsors.
- Please see notes below for Hospice registration.

We need a main contact (and volunteers) for tournament. (I am away this year and will not be participating – Paul can we put something on the web site?)

<http://www.thehospice.ca/site-page-15/hockey-for-hospice/registration>

NOTE: The tournament expenses per team, which is paid from registration fees and pledges, is approximately \$850 per team. Please assure your team becomes a contributor to our charities.

The tournament has two important goals; namely:

- I. To raise funds to assist Hospice of Windsor and Essex County as they provide their services, free of charge, throughout Essex County.
- II. To reward fundraising by providing a competitive, friendly and enjoyable atmosphere for all of the players and families involved.

NOTE: We do not encourage “last minute” registration, as player collected pledges are most important to provide the donations to Hospice of Windsor and Essex County.

Team entry registration is \$150 per team. All registration must be completed online and paid by credit card. **Registration closes December 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. EST.**

Report accepted by Dan Anger and seconded by Rob Bodchan

Treasurer – Alex Dominato:

- **Absent**

Parents Club- Lisa VanSickle:

- **Absent**

Coaching Development – Rob Dembinski:

- Following coaching certifications, I have been working on reimbursements for D1, Coach Level 1&2, Trainer & RIS clinics. Every season this proves to be very time consuming for both Alex and I. I recommend that we again look at a paid for administrator in BR to handle this and the many other administrative tasks that increasingly burden our board roles.
- Working with Peter on Coach & Player Development programs within Tyke & Novice to support pending changes to travel and HL divisions at these ages. We will elaborate more at the board meeting.
- Supporting Tuesday Tyke development programs and First Shift programs on Saturdays. This is going very well and would like to thank the dedicated coaches and volunteers that have been coming out to help.
- Lastly, Jerry & Dave have brought up concerns regarding staffing enough coaches for House League teams. We have discussed ideas for recruiting coaches and would like to have this tabled for discussion at the next board meeting.

Report accepted by John Marchand and seconded by Peter Thompson

Tournaments – Darren Crowley:

- Detroit Compuware did not complete a travel permit, and withdrew, Essex Novice AE's filled the void of the final open MD spot, and all is good at 44 teams.
- 42 of the 44 teams have submitted payment and cheques are submitted. Essex and Belle River AA are still required to submit.
- Ice contracts for the ATC and WFCU are signed and confirmed. The Renaud Room is confirmed, and all vendors will be placed in this room. Food will also be served to players in this

room. The cost of the room was \$900 for the weekend, and there is a strong chance that commissions and fees from the vendors will cover the cost of the room.

- The idea of a tournament program has been postponed for a year. The idea was shopped around and a template created, but with initial research, the costs associated did not match the benefit. Next year, we will initiate the process earlier and ensure we do proper sponsorship requests to offset the costs of printing and benefit the association.
- The initial schedule has been released and posted to the website, slight changes may still be made, but not to the time spots.
- Game sheets have been picked up and are being completed.
- The final call for rosters and permits was sent out, and only 2 or 3 teams still need to submit one of the documents.
- The tournament participant gifts have been picked up, and are in the office. (Skate towels).
- Player of the game awards are in and complete.
- Championship medals are in and are being completed.
- Championship plaques are in and are being completed.
- 4 of 6 sponsorships of the championships have been filled, and the final 2 will be filled this week. Letters requesting info and cheques are being sent out today.
- Student volunteers from BRDHS and KENNEDY COLLEGIATE have been finalized and the schedule finalized.
- Student volunteer long sleeve T-shirts have arrived and are being customized with BR logo.
- Tournament Committee volunteers have been finalized and a schedule is being completed today. They will be contacted within days with regard to their schedule.
- Tournament Committee clothing has arrived and is being customized with BR logo.

Items to do:

- Fill remaining sponsor voids
- Contact Chochi's Pizza and ensure they will supply for the weekend.
- Contact Tim Horton's.... ask for gift cards.
- Stock the coaches and volunteers station.
- Purchase drinks for players
- Order tables for Renaud room
- Confirm Refs and Timekeepers schedule with Rich.
- Confirm all tournament items with OMHA
- Ensure we have new Blue and Black pucks
- Complete game sheets
- Volunteer and Committee orientation meeting
- Tourney Committee gift Cards..... Was thinking Sandbar (buy 50's for \$40 at Costco).
- 50/50 draw procedure?

Player Development – Peter Thomson:

- The First Shift program is going well. We have had 2 sessions on the ice so far. Missed last weekend due to a tournament at Atlas but everyone seems pleased so far after a couple of equipment misses and reorders. It has been brought to my attention that Essex is going to be running a Second Shift. This will be additional clinic time after the First Shift Clinics are done. I think that this is an excellent idea. We can charge an additional amount to take care of ice time and offer a reduced rate to join BRDMHA to take care of insurance issues etc. as well as secure

some more registrants. We will have room in Novice to move First Shift players into HL. We may not have much room in Tyke so it will depend on who is interested and what age they are.

- Rob and I along with some interested parents have been having conversations about Select 6 development clinics. The idea is to be able to develop those players who were hopeful to be on the Select 7 team for 2018-2019. We have secured two dates in Dec (9th and 10th) and will be looking at more dates. A charge of \$30 per child for the (9th and 10th) would cover a pizza gathering for the kids as well as looking at being able to purchase more ice time for more clinics. Amherstburg has put together a Select 6 group who are practicing a minimum of 2 times a week now to develop this group and get them ready for exhibitions between associations as well as the potential jamborees.
- On the note of Jamborees and the Select 6 team, I attended the Tilbury Meeting of the OMHA which was called to clarify the issue of 2011's and up regarding half ice, moving to Novice, future decisions on Travel for Novice teams and the reconfiguration of what we call a Novice etc.
- At that meeting, led by VP Lane and Coleen, it was reinforced that no 2011's can be on any travel team and not on any HL Novice team or Travel Team. As a result every association across our area for sure and Ontario (with the exception of the GTHL) had to remove all 2011's from any Tyke MD team, select 7 team, Novice HL team. Tecumseh, Riverside, Amherstburg, Southpointe etc. teams all had to remove players. We did not as we had already taken that action in early Sept when we received notice from the OMHA. Also discussed was that the majority of associations are not classifying the age groups appropriately. Atom is 9, Novice is 8, Tyke is 7, IP is 5 and 6 and Preschool is under 5. We will need to reorganize and rename our groups according these definitions. Additionally, no player can play up a level in these groups.
- A decision has been made that as of either the 2018-2019 or the 2019-2020 season, the first time that a player will play full ice is Atom and there will be no Novice Travel teams. The first year of Travel will be pushed to Atom. Which season is being determined by Hockey Canada but the push is for the change to occur in 2019-2020. This will allow current Tyke MD and Novice teams that are playing travel to continue on in travel. Based on that, it is felt that there is no sense in having a Select 7 team for the 2018-2019 season as the next season these players would have to go back to HL. As a result, we as an association need to be creative about how we develop our 2011 and younger players. Additional development clinics the age groups, jamborees or one day quasi tournaments being set up, exhibition play between associations are all going to be necessary so that we can develop players at the right pace so they are ready to jump into Travel at Atom and at that point know what an offside etc. is.
- As a result, we will have more players available for Tyke and Novice HL which means more teams, more ice, more uniforms, more games, more refs' etc. This is going to take some changes to scheduling etc. This will also result in less ice time being used in the after school times as a result of no Select 7 next year and no Novice AA, AE1, AE2 the year after that. This will take some additional meetings amongst us to ensure we are prepared for all of these changes.
- As a result of the above in all likelihood, the 2017-2018 season will be the end of Select 7 and the 2018-2019 season may very well be the end of the Randy Merten tournament. The tournament ending is not good news as this is a revenue generator. We will need to do some

planning regarding any changes we need to make going forward.

- We are still trying to sort out goalie gear for all of the tyke teams. We are short sticks, blockers and gloves, chest protector and pads. I will forward what we are short to Dan. Goalie Gear
- Lastly, we have not been receiving all of the HL Novice Score sheets for some reason. A reminder needs to be sent out to whoever is in charge of the scorekeepers to make sure the sheets are put into the right box. I have sent a note to all Novice HL coaches asking them to send me the scores after each game so I can update the website results.

Report accepted by Rob Bochan and seconded by John Marchand

House League Atom to Juvenile – Vacant Position:

- **Absent**

Director of Travel – Marco Levesque:

- **Travel Permits:**
 - All travel permits requested for travel have been processed and approved. At this time 71 permits have been processed, with no teams exceeding 4 tournaments
 - All requested travel permits for HL tournaments have been processed, however because of rosters not being complete on all teams, being held by OMHA. Since first tourney is not until Christmas break, no reason to panic yet.
 - Please ensure that all HL teams requesting permits clearly indicate team they are applying for, exact name of tourney, dates and sanction # of tournament
- **Playdown Announcements:**
 - Currently OMHA is in process of hearing appeals on re-categorization. Final listings will be made second week of December
 - We have one appeal in process, submitted Nov 7th for Juvenile to be considered as “A” team rather than “AA”
- **Tournament Play:**
 - Most teams have been performing very well in tournament play.
 - Worth noting is our Atom AE teams, led by coach Jamie Fick, who have won both of their tourneys thus far, winning the South Bend Irish Bend the weekend before last
- **Midget Major All Star Game:**
 - Being held in Lasalle this year on December 7th at 7pm
 - Belle River will be represented by 5 players this year (will announce on website) will need \$100 per player, totaling \$500 to be made to Bluewater for all-star jerseys
- **Next significant tasks:**
 - Once playdown announcements are made, scheduling pairings and completing contacts, which won't be till January. We I relying heavily on Mark Bateman for this task, and continue to thank him for all his work here.

Director at Large– Jamie Fick:

- helping with First Shift Program
- Helping Darren with Belle River Tournament on Saturday and Sunday
- hopefully be able to get out and help Rob with Development clinics soon as my schedule opens up over the winter

New Business - Paul Gray:

- Blue Water meeting last month discussed 6 year old players – progression of upcoming changes to travel hockey starting at Atom minor 2019-2020 season
- Next year Select 7 will not exist. Town hall meeting to discuss this with families to be scheduled, meeting to take place in Jan/Feb
- Associations are moving quickly to adapt to this change.
- Board to look at options for cross ice dividers (look at US) options. Further discussion to take place regarding cost with the town.
- ADM Company from US – Dan Anger to price options NHL size (1 set) – to be presented to the board and Town
- Tyke/Novice rules – cross ice or half ice
- Referee scheduling – back to back ref's for games – further discussion is required with all parties.
- Town to provide new locks, keypads to all BRMHA rooms
- Board Members – need to find recruits for positions that are absent Jamie Fick to possibly help with Dave's role
- Next Year 2018/2019 Season – 50th Anniversary – committee to be formed. January – book committee meeting for planning
- Injuries on boards – Town to fix boards, Town is aware of issue – daily walk of rinks to be completed to verify the condition of each ice pad

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

Paul Gray

Paul Gray, President

1/16/2018

Approval Date

Next meeting – December 19, 2017 at 6:30pm

