



South Muskoka Minor Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting
169B James St. Bracebridge, ON
June 13th, 2023
Location: Bracebridge Arena

P - Present, R - Regrets, V - Virtual

Jody Somerville	P	Chris Broadworth	P	Julie Hogue	P
Mark Jennings	P	Whitney Middlebrook	P	Kevin Babcock	R
Katie Peleikis	P	Kim Ellis	P	Kristin Livingstone	P
Emma Bennett	P	Tina Hamer	P	Jenna Domalik	R
Krysia Schafer	P	Chris Ledsham	P	Norm Webb	P
		Sarah Wheeler	R		

Chair: Jody Somerville

Recorder: Katie Peleikis

Non Board Members in Attendance: Frank Palmy & Jeanette Odman

Agenda Topics		Chair/Presenter
1. Call to order	Meeting is called to order at 7:00 pm on the 13th of June 2023	Jody
2. Approval of Previous Meeting	Minutes: May 16th, 2023 Minutes approval moved by: Chris B Second by: Mark	
3. Board member Reports:		

3.1 President	<p>Virtually attended the OMHA AGM on Saturday, June 10th - no direct changes for our association MPS meeting Wednesday, June 13th - virtual Monthly newsletter - Krysia Gravenhurst ice allocation - Julie Jerseys - Whitney Goalie program - Kevin Jess has another goalie program donation cheque for pick up Bank transfer paperwork has been completed just waiting for emails to get Emma and I set up banquet - should we order 10 more for players that didn't receive one? Welcome BBQ tentatively set for Saturday, Sept 9th. Events committee to start planning Working with Katie to update the form emails - feedback and tournament funds requests **Money Spreadsheet- Every position is required to complete this every month. Will allow for easier tracking of incoming money and outgoing expenses.</p> <p>No revenue or expenses this month</p> <p>Action Items: Discuss the snack bars at both arenas with facility operators</p>	Jody
3.2 Vice President	<p>I am in the process of creating a 2023-2024 VSS spreadsheet. I would like to have a bulletin on the website asking for deceleration and VSS completion's if someone is thinking about volunteering this year. Mps LL is asking for a trophy in the case so they can add a plate.</p> <p>Action Items: Update VSS letter on website with current season dates & update the website VSS page with current dates</p>	Mark
3.3 Secretary	<p>Working on the website issues with SportzHead. Everyone should have a Gmail account now that's connected to the website so please let me know if you are having issues. We need to decide on meeting dates for the summer and going forward for the rest of the season. July & August meetings as per usual.</p> <p>This is the outline provided to me about the VSS rule from OMHA & OHF:</p> <p>After reading the Screening policy and all the appendix, plus talking to OMHA office officials. You must have a VSS working with players under the age U18, within direct contact with players at the rink or away from the rink. The OMHA -OHF Appendix A has a check listed on it. (It doesn't matter if you are in the dressing room or not with the players, you still need one).</p> <p>1 Screening Process</p> <p>1.9 Criminal Record Check (CRC)/Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) (Section 5)</p>	Katie

	<p>1.9.1 The following individuals who are associated with the OHF, Members, hockey leagues, hockey Clubs and Minor/Female Hockey Associations must adhere to the OHF Screening Policy: 1.9.1.1. members of the Boards of Directors;</p> <p>1.9.1.2. full time staff, part time staff, interns and volunteers;</p> <p>1.9.1.3. team officials (including but not limited to head coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers); 3 Page</p> <p>1.9.1.4. on-ice officials; and</p> <p>1.9.1.5. anyone else who, through their duties on behalf of the OHF, a Member, a hockey Club or Minor/Female Hockey Association, may work with children.</p> <p>5. OHF CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK 5.1</p> <p>All individuals holding the title of team official (including but not limited to head coach, assistant coach, trainer, assistant trainer, manager), on-ice official and anyone else determined by the Risk Assessment Tool which is contained in Appendix A of the OHF Screening Policy shall be subject to Criminal Record Checks, which include the Vulnerable Sector Screening and a search of the National Sex Offender Registry</p> <p>Action Items:</p>	
3.4 Treasurer	<p>Nothing to report</p> <p>Action Items:</p>	Emma
3.5 Director of Public Relations	<p>New instagram account set up, please follow and share. Also a social media and marketing calendar with key dates for the association is available, this will assist us all with staying on track with all platforms Please reach out to me with any key dates that you think should be on there.</p> <p>Fundraising:</p> <p>Tags days will hopefully be scheduled for summer at our upcoming Fundraising and Events Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday June 14. Confirmed are YIG's BB and GH, Canadian Tire BB and GH, and Tastebuds in GH. Additional fundraising such as Don's Bakery and other sources will be organized for Fall and beyond- Rich Hill has confirmed they would be willing to partner and would offer the same rate as Don's did 25% gross.</p> <p>First Edition of Newsletter complete - June 2023. If any members would like to feature something, please reach out the month prior to a scheduled edition. Will need to work on a distribution list and use a platform such as Yet Another Mail Merge or Constant Contact to manage this. End recipient should be able to unsubscribe based on Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation, this will need to be a key feature. Not sure where to obtain member list, maybe this can be an additional component for next years' registration: "Would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?"</p> <p>Action Items:</p> <p>Create a referee flyer with Norm</p>	Krysia

3.6 U9 Local League Director	<p>Worked through the U9 programming for the 2023/24 season. Reviewed the latest information from Hockey Canada, OMHA, and OHF. Discussed with the LL Committee (see Committee Notes below) the options for 2023 and sent out a proposal to the board for review and discussion prior to opening registration.</p> <p>We provided and released to our website some information regarding the U9 and u9 Expanded plan for the 2023/24 season along with a Q&A to help parents understand what they should be signing their player up for.</p> <p>I also have a pile of pucks and goalie equipment in my garage for you Whitney.</p> <p>No expenses this month.</p> <p>Action Items:</p>	Chris L
3.7 U18 Local League Director	<p>Nothing to report No expenses to report</p> <p>Can I please get a list of the parents (u11 and up) that checked the "I can help" box, can you also separate them into ones that have tryout cards and ones that don't? Thank you!!</p> <p>Action Items:</p>	Sarah
3.8 Equipment Director	<p>I have sent in three quotes for the board to look over. I also have a story board with some additional styles and colour options. Source has given me a couple additional jerseys to bring for our meeting, including the reversible.</p> <p>Vote taken on whether to use promotional source for jersey supplier - all present in favour, nobody oppose Vote taken on jersey style & to have home and home & away socks- all present in favour, nobody oppose</p> <p>Action Items: Create a spreadsheet for cost of jerseys and socks to ensure inline with budget</p>	Whitney
3.9 Tournament Director	<p>Tournament Committee is recommending to the board: 1) Tournament/Jamboree dates for the 2023/2024 Season. These dates have been provided to Julie for ice scheduling.</p> <p><u>Kris Clement</u> <u>October 20-22 - U13 B/C</u> \$1,300/entry fee 4 games GUARANTEED 12 teams (including 2 SMMHA)</p> <p><u>John Jennings</u></p>	Kim

	<p><u>November 24-26 - U11 B/C</u> \$1,200/entry fee 3 games guaranteed 16 tams (including 2 SMMHA)</p> <p><u>December 2&3 - U7 (Half Ice)</u> \$600/entry fee Saturday (Full Day) & Sunday (Half Day) in GRAVENHURST 16 teams (including 4 SMMHA) With Bear toss and possibly a senior game on the Saturday</p> <p><u>March 22-24 - U9LL (Full Ice Games)</u> \$950/entry fee 3 games guaranteed, Saturday games in Gravenhurst (Mini stick challenge area outside) 16 teams (including 4 SMMHA)</p> <p>After receiving detailed information from HTG services. It is the committee's recommendation that the board NOT enter into any agreements with hospitality services for 2023/2024.</p> <p>VP to communicate with all tournament holders/families as to names for this season.</p> <p>Currently developing tournament sponsorship levels (Still in process).</p> <p>Food & Beverage Operator for tournaments and/or Friday/Saturday night events. Tina will research.</p> <p>Action Items:</p>	
3.10 Off Ice Officials and Volunteer Coordinator	<p>Contacted Tastebuds, Canadian Tire GH, Independent BB and they are all on board for Tag Days. June 14th zoom meeting with fundraising/event committee to finalize details . Contacted GH arena re Sept 9th Hockey Day. They are available and we can host it there if decided. Will require site visit, permits (if serving food /BBQ) , vendor permits, etc.</p> <p>Action Items: Create an oath of confidentiality for bench staff to sign and protocol about BCC emails, sharing of info etc Look into the Rotary Centres to possibly provide food for tournaments</p>	Tina

3.11 OMHA Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U11 and U13 coaches have been registered in Coach 2 and D1 - Helping Chris L looking into the U9 program. Talking to OHF and OMHA - We have been approved for the winter First Shift Program - All iPads have been returned - Family games on OMHA ice is no longer allowed as parents don't have VSS complete - No players are allowed on ice if they are not registered with OMHA <p><i>Action Items:</i></p>	Chris B
3.12 Ice Scheduler	<p>Secured ice for development ice before try outs Ice request has gone in for Gravenhurst and we are suppose to hear this week Bracebridge is due this week Have requested 9 hours from Muskoka Lakes Lake of Bays on Friday evenings may be available Looking at accommodating the longer game times for U11 & U13</p> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p>	Julie
3.13 Player Development Director	<p>Coaches selected for posted openings. Will post for remaining positions as well as LL closer to the season. Working on creating a post for Development volunteers for the season to aid in team development Ice secured for warm up skates in Aug. Will be also setting up the first couple of weeks as far as tryouts and suggested ice according to OMHA Pathways for each level. Will have something for next meeting (July) Working on tryout process to ensure fairness and accountability for all teams</p> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p>	Kevin
3.14 Sponsorship Director	<p>I have my spreadsheet ready and am going to start sending out emails this coming week to last years sponsors letting them know the amount for this season as well as asking them to donate a silent auction item. There are a few companies that would like to sponsor this coming season that haven't already, so once we know the additional amount of teams I will reach out to them. Also, Brady Leavold, (sp?) (hockey related) is reaching out wondering if we would sponsor him doing an event at the Opera House on mental health and substance misuse education.</p> <p><i>Action Items:</i></p>	Kristin
3.15 Registrar	<p>Registrations so far....</p> <p>U5 = 4 U7 = 23</p>	Jenna

	U9 = 16 U9 EP = 29 U11 = 46 U13 = 27 U15 = 32 U18 = 44 Action Items: Send a spreadsheet to Tina of people who said they want to volunteer at the time of registration	
3.16 Referee in Chief	Nothing to report Action Items:	Norm
4. COMMITTEE Reports (as needed)		
4. Committees	SMMHA Committees: Coach Selection Committee: (2022-23 Rep season) Chris B, Shannon, Andrew, Katie External members: Pending- to be approved by Executive Directors 2022-23 LL Season, above list including Local League Directors Additional: Discipline & Ethics: Jody, Chris B, Katie, Norm, Additional: Sarah, Chris L, Kevin, Julie, Mark Ice Committee: Julie, Jody, Emma, Kevin, Chris B, Sarah, Chris L Additional: Purchasing Committee: Whitney, Emma Additional: Mark Fundraising & Events: Krysia, Emma Additional: Katie, Kim, Kristin, Tina Tournament Committee: Kim, Kevin, Julie Additional: Sarah, Krysia, Chris L Local League Committee: Sarah, Chris L, Julie Additional: Katie, Kim, Chris B Content for Committee:	

Hi All,

As you know some decisions need to be made for the 2023/2024 season for U9. Please read the below and let me know your thoughts. Happy to setup a chat this week as I'd forgot registration goes up next week and we need to be on the same page here and with the full SMMHA board etc.. I also added Jeff Barnes here as he was at the MSP meetings and may have some insight to share.

With the changes in U9 we now have a U9 development program, built on the U9 Pathways. Here is the link to what we decided for U9 last season as there were some options to us... ie separating a U8 and U9 program, but we decided its better to have a major and minor in each program, thereby keeping U8 with U9. This also promotes skill based learning over age based learning. The down side is the U9 minor moves from 1/2 ice to full ice back to 1/2 ice when they are the major etc..

Here is the link to our program from last year:

<https://gmail.app.goo.gl/?link=https://mail.google.com&isi=422689480&ibi=com.google.Gmail&mt=8&pt=9008&cid=4400795276781317674& icp=1>

OMHA had indicated MD would end in 2022/23 but changed their mind this past winter allowing MD in 2023/24. Here is the link to the website describing the in's and outs of MD program for U9.:

https://www.omha.net/news_article/show/1263295

The OMHA article reads that MD and LL need to be the same opportunity. It also reads that to mean the MD program has the same hours as LL, ie both 2 hour programs. With the part about players being permitted opportunity to MD if they wish, it seems to be more of a sign up for MD over selected through tryouts. I've asked Chris B to dig into his OMHA contacts to find out what their intent is etc.. it all seems to read no tryouts at U9 etc..

I've also heard that HV has posted U9 MD for their registration etc.. our challenges with MD is 1) they wouldn't have any more ice time, 2) they would have less teams for us to play.

My thoughts, but looking for input:

1) we post registration for U9 LL as per normal with a note as a 2HR program
2) we post a U9 LL 3HR program with a cap at 36 players (2 teams of 18 players). We send communication about this program costing more for the additional hours etc.. guessing but say \$250/player

Pros:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this avoids the MD/Select challenged in the Hockey Canada paths. - this allows parents to decide if their player is a 2hr dedicated or 3 hr dedicated player. This should also separate the skills to some degree as parents will likely push stronger kids to the 3hr program - the 3hr program prepares kids for Rep in U11 - the 3hr program will have to be prepared to go to other arenas. - these teams can play other U9 teams - if we have 2 teams at U9 3hr program they can play against each other too. - U8 and U9 remain together, continuing skill as separators over age. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it may not seem different enough to parents - it's no the same as smaller centers - U9 minor players have to repeat small ice to full ice again next season. <p>Others?</p> <p>The above was further distributed to all Board for open discussion and Q&A on June 1st</p> <p>On June 2nd, Sarah W made a motion to proceed as per this plan, U9 and U9 Expanded programming Emma seconded the motion, and the motion passed with none opposed.</p> <p>Awards Committee: Mark, Emma, Chris B, Sarah, Chris L, Jody Additional:</p> <p>Manual of Ops Committee: Katie, Jody, Mark, Emma Additional:</p> <p>Bylaw Committee: Mark, Jody, Chris B</p> <p>Goalie Committee: Kevin, Mark, Julie, Whitney, Norm</p>	
5. Motions (as needed)	<p>Moved by:</p> <p>Second By :</p> <p>Moved by:</p>	
6. Correspondence	The following information provided by Frank Palmay at the beginning of the meeting:	

First I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your volunteerism and your dedication to the association. I wanted to discuss with you the U9 program and how moving forward we can work together as board members, parents, coaches and athletes to provide the best possible experience for all involved. I realize that for most of you the half ice pathways and change to a LL structure in U9 was not a lived experience. Most of you would have had the option of Rep at this age level and if that was still the case there would be no need for this conversation.

As you are aware the recent changes in OMHA regulations coupled with the effects of the pandemic have not been beneficial to the development of our youngest players. The current U9 players have unfortunately had to live through abbreviated seasons, limited ice times, and the removal of rep programs. Last season the OMHA was allowing an MD program but stated it was for one season only and our previous board decided not to pursue this option as it was limited to 1 year and no other MPS centre was going to provide this. Since the original decision the OMHA has changed course and it appears that the MD program will not be removed from the U9 pathway.

We are now also aware that Huntsville intends to put an MD team forward this coming season with the hopes that other MPS centres will do the same. I would like to propose that our association do the same. If we don't do it this year we run the risk of falling behind in future years putting our teams at a disadvantage that could have been avoidable. I truly believe that at the time of the proposed expansion program the board was acting in the best interests of the association given the available data. Now that the information has changed I'm hopeful that we can pivot and make the appropriate changes to the program.

The boards proposed U9 expansion program will not provide the same benefit to all of the players. As a parent who has been through numerous years of half ice to full ice transition it is apparent that not tiering the kids at this stage does not benefit the development of the group as a whole. The more skilled players end up touching the puck far more often during game play, where the less skilled players are deflated and lose interest in the game. I have heard from a couple of parents of U9 players that their kids did not enjoy last season specifically after January's transition to full ice as they felt left behind and got little meaningful game play and are considering leaving the sport. This is a result of not tiering the players and having 1 or 2 very strong kids on the ice who dominate the play leaving the rest of the kids behind.

I am asking that the board reconsider their position on the MD program. By creating an MD team which removes the top athletes from the LL stream it will only benefit all involved. The MD team will develop at the rate in which they are ready too and the LL players will have more meaningful game times and ultimately will enjoy the game a lot more.

The OMHA U9 pathway is clear that tiering is acceptable at this age so long as there are 4 development skates prior to a minimum of 3 evaluation skates. I understand that there has been confusion around the ability to hold tryouts for this age group, however given the fact that OMHA specifically states that

1. we are allowed to tier and
2. they allow evaluation skates

I see it as pretty clear the MD program can be provided and the team can be selected based on a coaches evaluation of the players skills, and abilities.

Again from the OMHA pathways it is understood that every association must provide equal opportunities to all levels of play, if MD gets 3 ice times then so must all LL teams. Given the fact that our association has limited ice availability

the possibility of getting 4 or 5 extra ice times a week for this group may not be feasible. I believe with the right approach to the season and the right bench staff additional ice time for the MD team is not required and the association can offer 2 ice times to every group in U9.

I want to emphasise that I am not asking for additional ice times or preferential treatment for an MD team. What I am asking for is to tier the players based on skill to provide a development program which is tailored to the players current abilities at both the MD and LL levels. I do not know exactly how this program would look like but I am willing to work alongside the board to iron out the details over the summer in order to be able to provide this to our association. I don't want to be the guy that just points out issues with the current situation, I want to work with all of you to help find solutions that will ultimately benefit all parties.

Huntsville's coach has already expressed interest in playing multiple games (like 15 or so) throughout the year if we are the only other local centre to play. That coupled with a handful of further distance games along with 2 or 3 tournaments would make for a great season for the MD team. This would be no different from last year when the vast majority of the U9 games were played either between other bears teams or against Huntsville.

I think it's relevant to point out that we have lost a lot of very talented players in recent years to other associations. Which I think can be attributed to the lack of competitive opportunities in this age bracket.

- Hudson Bessau
- Liam Grimes
- Miko Schaffer
- Henry Guy
- Bennet Fitzmaurise
- Mack Faulkner
- Tucker Tomlinson
- Barret Tomlinson
- Judah Brine

These are just the players I'm aware of in the last 2 or 3 years who have left the association. For sure maybe they would have left no matter what. But maybe if at the U9 level there was a stream aligned with their skills they would have stuck around.

I realize that this is a large decision for the board and that you are all trying to do what is best for the collective group. My proposal does not ask for additional ice time, does not ask for preferential treatment and it is clear that other associations intend to ice an MD team.

I thank you all again for your time and dedication to this association.

Board points of discussion:

	<p>Information relayed from MPS meeting - Huntsville was the only team looking at a U9 MD program. OMHA challenged Huntsville on their position and format for MD at U9 and that they were not following the guidelines. OMHA also clarified that U9 MD is a LL team and will play within MPS. HV U9 MD would be the only team available to play within MPS. Playing one team all season, how does that impact development?</p> <p>Can we make one expansion team a stronger team - Tiering vs Streaming</p> <p>MD - Do they need to rotate positions?</p> <p>Could we create 2 teams within expansion program to tier top players and still be able to play other LL centers in MPS - Tiering can only be to create equitable teams and evaluating</p> <p>Waiting to see what registration numbers come in and what information comes from the MPS meeting tomorrow</p>	
7. Nomination or election of Officers or Directors (As needed)		
8. New business/other business		
9. Meeting adjournment	Meeting called at 9:32 pm	
	<p>Next meeting: July 11th, 2023 Location : TBD</p>	