

Richmond Munster Minor Hockey Association



Draft Minutes 2020 AGM

Thursday May 28, 2020
7pm, Webex

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by John Sunstrum

Opening Remarks

Discussion on how to use online meeting space
Welcome to all

Introduction of Special Guests

John McEwen- D4 Vice - Chair
Tom Stephens-LCMHL President
Jersey care - reminder to take care while we organize how to collect
Past Season and Looking forward -

Introduction of the current Board of Directors presented by John Sunstrum

Thank you to Sponsors

Covid-19

Hockey Canada and HEO have return to play committees
Always give consideration to Public Health Officials
Registration announcement coming
Question regarding timing of registration - John Sunstrum answered hopeful for weeks ahead

Questions on minutes from 2019 AGM

None

Presentation of Awards/Trophies

Award	Summary
Dana & Lila Smith Trophy (Graduating HD)	Most improved player Hockey Development Carsten Hoffman
Chuck Blanchard Memorial Trophy (Graduating Novice)	Most sportsmanlike/dedicated player Liam Charlebois
Tim Steele Enterprises Wee Loads Trophy (Graduating Atom)	Most sportsmanlike/dedicated player Desmond Payne
Tom Cowick Memorial Trophy (Graduating Peewee)	Most sportsmanlike/dedicated player Nick Conway
Corky Longmire Memorial Trophy Bantam Trophy (Graduating Bantam)	Most sportsmanlike/dedicated player Daniel Grant
The Dave Candeline Trophy (Graduating Midget)	Most sportsmanlike/dedicated player Ben Winger
The Dave Stacey Memorial Trophy (Goaltender of the Year)	Rewarding excellence, sportsmanship and community spirit Reid Wilson
Kim Long Trophy (Referee of the Year)	Referee, who by example, promotes good sportsmanship in the game Curtis Hermans
HD Coach of the Year	Coach providing dedication to player development at the HD level Nate Thomas
Lockie Hendsbee Trophy (Trainer of the Year)	Trainer providing special dedication to player health and safety Matthew Wilson
RMMHA Manager of the Year	Manager providing special dedication to parents, players and coaches Nick Aumont
Dwaine Barkley Memorial Trophy (Volunteer of the Year)	Individual demonstrating exceptional volunteer contributions at the team or association level Michael Houser
Dan Bujold Memorial Trophy (Coach of the Year)	Coach providing special dedication to player development and team play Jim Wallace
The Dick Bissonnette Memorial Trophy (Long Standing Service)	Awarded for outstanding service and dedication to the RMMHA Daryl Kinkade

Questions on Directors Reports

- 1) In light of the roughness and the number of penalties seen at HL Midget games is there any thought to moving to a four man refing system - with two refs? Many of the incidents occur out of the ref's line of sight, with only one ref that is often the beginning of the problems. I think most parents would be willing to cover the slightly high cost for better managed games. Thanks Donnalynn and Paul Hermans

Answer (Lou Matura): I don't see this happening in the near future to be honest. This is something that has been discussed over the years but has always been shut down. If anything, they may go to 2 officials on the ice, rather than 3. There is talk that the current 4 man system games (none of those are within District 4) will be moving to 3 man systems for cost savings.

- 2) The first year of half ice Novice Hockey went okay given that it was the first year. The advantages of using half ice seem clear to me and I think in the long run the kids will benefit. Where I feel that we fell short this year was in our balancing and make-up of the teams compared to the rest of the teams in the league. Given that there are no scores involved, and no stats being taken, I believe the priority should be to get the balance as close as possible. The advantages of the half ice format are lost if one team handles the puck the whole time while the other team never touches it. For this reason, I would ask the association to work with the league to allow and possibly encourage re-balancing teams during the year. This could even involve moving teams out of one bracket into another. If we can get the balancing to be consistent across the league the kids will benefit from the full advantage of the new format. Do you think this is possible? (Mike Houser)

Answer - Provided verbally by Kevin O'Brien and Craig Dunn

- League expectations 20/60/20 split ABC not followed by association or district exactly
- Rep B didn't run in certain places, made issues in A
- Closer work with other association will assist in future years
- Tried to consider expectations with setting teams, where had one team in wrong division effort was made to move team, Hockey Ops went to Lanark and were ready to move team, had meeting with team parents and majority wanted to keep team where it was.

- 3) In a similar thread to my first question, I have noticed great disparity between skill levels within divisions across the House league. Often this can be attributed to one or two associations putting forward a disproportionate number of teams at the A, B and C level compared to the numbers put forward by other associations in the same league. Can this executive move forward with a motion to the league to enforce a mathematical approach to determining the number of teams each association is required to put forward at each level. Given that most if not all of our associations send kids away to support competitive levels, using a mathematical formula based on the total number of kids or teams registered per association, we should be able to come up with a proportional representation from each association for each level. Will this executive bring this concern to the league and will this executive push for a more proportional representation without exceptions for future years of hockey. (Mike Houser)

Answer: Provided verbally by John Sunstrum and Tom Stephens

- Several things can contribute to challenge of balancing levels including strong vs weak birth years
- Exemption process between presidents involves many considerations at district level including historical statistics, low enrollment at certain levels
- Presidents must provide extremely good cases to achieve exemption
- There is no science however a great deal of consideration given to exemptions
- Tom Stephens tracked exceptions and compared to regular season results and found 60%-70% of cases, there was no benefit to exception. There were one or two exceptions that led to benefit and that will be reviewed before next season.

4) In past years I have also noticed the odd bit of difficulty in choosing the final cuts to the A and or B teams within the House league. I have assisted with on ice evaluations and sort outs, and I understand how difficult it can be to make the last few cuts when you only have a handful of opportunities to see how kids show. Can the association look at a model for sort outs which would temporarily set the teams, but allow a few practices and possibly exhibition games to occur such that coaches can make the final cuts to the team based more than just 2 or 3 looks during sort outs? In the end if we get the teams right all of the kids will benefit. If a kid plays at a higher level than they should, they won't develop as much as if they played at the correct level. Likewise, a kid playing at a lower level than they should will not be sufficiently challenged to develop his/her skills. Please consider revising the sort out model to allow for more time to make the final cuts which tend to be very close. (Mike Houser)

Answer: Provided verbally by Kevin O'Brien and Craig Dunn

- Can be difficult to manage time constraints in Richmond given ice availability early in year as well as waiting for final cuts from Rep B
- In the past couple of years we have started sort-outs early, ie. prior to Romans finishing team selection. There was negative feedback on this however benefit was worth it.
- Have also provided a couple of extra games at A,B,C final sort out games in the past couple of years and will further endeavour to do this in coming years.
- The intention of doing the sort outs is to get people on the right team.
- All attempts are made to ensure final decisions are made by impartial neutral volunteers.

Chat on this message question occurred in the messaging of Webex where it was questioned whether additional players could be held at higher levels prior to making final cuts. John answered to say there are competing priorities especially considering need to submit final rosters that make this not possible on a broad basis.

Motions to be considered

A motion was presented regarding the removal of the canteen position from the Constitution however as voting couldn't occur this motion wasn't passed and will be considered as a motion for a future meeting.

Elections for the Board of Directors

As no voting could occur no election was held. However, elections were not necessary due to there being only one nomination for available board positions anyhow. The following board positions were filled by the nomination.

Position	Nominee	Nomination by	Second by
President	John Sunstrum	John Kean	Will Mayda
Vice President Competitive	Andy Castellarin	Craig Dunn	John Kean
Registrar	Michelle Conway	Will Mayda	Chris Harris
Vice President House *	Craig Dunn	Andy Castellarin	John Kean
Treasurer	Erica Leveque	Andy Castellarin	Craig Dunn
Director of Hockey Operations	Kevin O'Brien	Andy Castellarin	Craig Dunn
Director Tournaments *	Kerry Visutski	Andy Castellarin	Craig Dunn
Asst Director of Hockey Operations *	Jim Wallace	Craig Dunn	Kevin O'Brien

*Denotes one year position

Closing

- Comments were made by John Sunstrum in closing regarding the following matters:
 - Sweaters and equipment of RMMHA - we will arrange returns as soon as possible and when permissible. In the meantime please take care of everything.
 - RMMHA has a survey to seek member input for next year - it is being sent right after this meeting and members are encouraged to fill it out.
 - Stay active and Stay safe

Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM by John Sunstrum