



OPERATIONS COUNCIL MEETING

September 18, 2013

Conference Call



In attendance: F. Horbay (Chair), G. Wood, T. Robbins, P. Schmidt, R. Hupka, G. Nesom, G. Parsons, C. Reid, R. Kerr (observer), C. Nichols, P. Cavanagh, A. Rawlake, F. Gagnon, G. Kallay

Missing: R. Friesen, B. MacNaughton, L. MacDonald

Staff: K. Macrae, A. Marriott (recorder)

1.0 Call to Order – F. Horbay

- 1.1 F. Horbay called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.
- 1.2 F. Horbay welcomed R. Kerr to the call as an observer. R. Kerr is a possible recruitment from Zone 9.

2.0 Agenda – F. Horbay

- 2.1 Additions / Deletions
 - G. Nesom would like to add the status of the female elite league. Decided to elaborate under his report at 6.7 instead.
 - F. Gagnon asked about player movement. K. Macrae said he could elaborate under new business at 8.1.
- 2.2 Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: G. Parsons

Second: G. Kallay

Acceptance of agenda as presented.

Carried

3.0 Minutes from April 26 - 27, 2013 – F. Horbay

- 3.1 Errors / Omissions
 - None
- 3.2 Acceptance of Minutes

Motion: T. Robbins

Second: C. Reid

Acceptance of minutes as presented.

Carried

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes – F. Horbay

- 4.1 Review OCNC – TOR, Nomination & Election Policy and Committees and Councils documents and provide feedback to the Committee.
 - F. Horbay asked if there was a status update.
 - P. Cavanagh has not received any feedback. Terms of reference for the council were distributed, if there any questions they can be addressed now.
 - F. Horbay suggested giving people a few more days to read everything over and provide feedback. K. Macrae said to give a deadline date so we can move ahead with final approval at the in person meeting. A 7-day deadline was suggested by F. Horbay.
 - P. Cavanagh asked if there were any objections to approving it tonight if there are no questions.



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Motion: P. Cavanagh

Second: P. Schmidt

To approve the Terms of Reference for the Operations Council Nomination Committee.

Carried

- Nomination – Election Policy document was summarized and elaborated on by K. Macrae
- No questions or concerns.

Motion: P. Cavanagh

Second: T. Robbins

To adopt the Nomination – Election Policy document as presented.

Carried

- 4.2 Forward Hockey Canada Rule Change Procedures to A. Rawlake
 - Complete
- 4.3 Review Match Penalty Procedures document and provide feedback to C. Nichols and F. Gagnon.
 - F. Horbay asked if there was a status update.
 - C. Nichols said the document was reviewed at the Referee AGM and they could not come to a consensus on a couple points.
 - Did not think that the appointment from the Referee Council has to be a Zone Executive Member, could be changed to a member in good standing.
 - Every match penalty should have a hearing so that the player can have their say.
 - Instead of indefinite suspensions, one month set minimum suspensions would be preferred.
 - Asked if anything has been sent out from the office in regards to the severity of match penalties and the consequences? K. Macrae said once the procedures document is finalized it is easy to tweak it to the needs of the coaches and players. So they know what the process is from their end and what the consequences are. There will essentially be an internal document and an external document meant to be circulated for public knowledge.
 - Zone 6 had troubles with referee write ups for match penalties. They need to ensure that is actually a match penalty and not another penalty in the book.
 - F. Gagnon stated that we cannot list something as a minimum, assess it, and then host a hearing. Will be submitting a regulation amendment for the minimum suspension guidelines for the 2014-2015 season.
 - F. Horbay said to review the document and have more discussion at the in-person meeting in October. K. Macrae said that is too late for the procedures to be approved as C. Nichols needs to circulate the approved document to his guys.
 - C. Nichols said everything on the document stands, except for a few changes, and he is in favor with this.



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- G. Nesom asked about the Zone 9 process and why is it different? It is a long standing committee, and they meet every Thursday to review other disciplinary issues as well. R. Hupka confirmed that this only applies to incidents that happen within Zone 9, but that if Zone 8 was interested in the same process it would be a positive step.

Motion: F. Gagnon

Second: P. Cavanagh

To approve the Match Penalty Procedures document with the noted amendments.

Carried

- P. Cavanagh asked if there was a change in authority of Operations Council approving a regulation change?
 - Regulations are approved until we can present to the board, at which point they can review and revert back. K. Macrae said we could technically change the minimums now, but it would be a potential mess because the book is already published.
- 4.4 Develop a new membership definition that speaks to Leagues (ongoing).
- F. Horbay said this is going back to the BRC.
 - R. Hupka asked who is working on that? K. Macrae said the League Liaison Committee is working on it.
- 5.0 Administration Update – K. Macrae**
- 5.1 Appeals
- Not much going on right now. Four files in this season; one was back in early May which was boundary related, and three player movement ones that came out of the elite player movement process from early August.
- 5.2 Position Vacancies
- Currently sitting with three vacancies; a Zone 9 Representative, a Zone 3 Representative, and Senior Council Chair. T. Robbins is the new Zone 5 Representative.
 - K. Macrae said he made Zone 3 aware of what it means for their MHA's to not have a Zone Representative when he attended their zone meeting.
 - F. Horbay said he will speak more about Senior Council Chair under position reports.
 - R. Hupka asked if there were any prospects to fill these vacancies. F. Horbay said there was an inquiry in Zone 3 but nothing yet for Senior Council Chair.
- 5.3 Summit
- Only 8 people from Operations Council made it to the summit, there is information on the website that wraps up the discussions held.
 - The Summit in August had 250 people registered and attend. There was representation from all different walks of hockey. The seven key themes that were identified have been posted on the website. Hockey Alberta is now working on these themes to develop an action plan.
- 5.4 Orientation
- This needs to be a focus of Operations Council moving forward. There will be a plan to go through some sort of orientation as a group to go over job descriptions, look at TOR and transition document.
- 5.5 Committee Appointments



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- Document has been circulated on Adobe.
- A meeting was called by Fred and Terry to look at standing committees at the Board level and Operations Council level. The goal is to find out what the best fit is for all the people of the committees and a strategy to make sure those committees are working, being productive and have full support.
- Awards committee has representation from both the Board and Operations Council. The Chair does not have to be from with-in, perhaps a life member like D. Gatto. There is currently a vacancy on this committee with K. Marsh leaving. F. Horbay asked for any interested participants to email him.
- There is a need to spread the load as there are two Zone Representatives that are working on four different committees and yet there are various Operations Council members on no committees.

6.0 Position Reports

- 6.1 Chairman's Report – F. Horbay
 - Not much to report. Had some meetings with T. Engen, R. Litwinski, and K. Macrae. A lot of little things happenings, some suspensions maybe coming down, but other than that just getting the ball rolling for this season.
- 6.2 Referee Council – C. Nichols.
 - Referee Council is in full swing and getting good support from the office in regards to e-learning and one day clinics.
 - They are encountering a lot of requests for different officiating systems.
- 6.3 Senior Council – F. Horbay
 - K. Marsh resigned his position effective August 29th, 2013. Hockey Alberta staff and F. Horbay will be available in the meantime to provide assistance and to sanction leagues and teams.
- 6.4 Junior A Council – G. Wood.
 - League is up and running. Some staffing set up changes last spring, asked K. Macrae for feedback. K. Macrae said it seems to be a bit slower, so that would should the AJHL that changes are working.
 - The AJHL will be having their 7th annual showcase weekend at the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre in Spruce Grove September 26th – 28th.
- 6.5 Junior B/C Council – A. Rawlake
 - Not much to report. Had a conference call with the league presidents at the beginning of the month.
 - Leagues are just getting going, most starting next weekend.
 - A lot of requests for suspension deferrals this year, which are being dealt with on a case by case basis.
- 6.6 Minor Council – R. Hupka
 - Have had two conference calls since AGM, July 9th and September 3rd.
 - Eight of nine Zone meetings are done, and they have been well attended.
 - There are some big concerns, especially in regards to the AA structure where the wrong message was sent out. There is no AA structure in the province, but it is a work in progress.
 - The Player Movement Review Committee has received 29 submissions; 19 have been granted movement, 1 has been denied, 2 were resolved before calls were made, and there are 7 that are sitting and will be resolved on the next call for September 23rd. Of these submissions, there



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are; 2 midget, 6 bantam, 2 atom, 14 peewee, 3 novice, and 2 initiation. The committee was appointed at the July meeting and has good representation. The boundary issues are still there.

- 6.7 Female Council – G. Nesom
- In the elite model, Bantam AAA lost a team, the Southeast Tigers out of Medicine Hat. They went into tryouts with 8 players, wondering if the body checking changes have any effect on this?
 - Hockey Alberta Female Council wants to sit down with G. Parsons to work on boundaries and possibly a new model for female hockey.
- 6.8 WHL – B. MacNaughton
- Not in attendance. No report submitted.
- 6.9 Zone 1 – C. Reid
- The Zone kick-off meeting on the weekend was well attended.
 - Two big concerns were brought forward; the Hockey Canada rule on not allowing the affiliation rule for a ghost team puts them at a disadvantage, and player releases for players going to AA teams.
 - T. Robbins asked about 10 game affiliation? It was noted that the regulation in Hockey Alberta's books is very clear. We need to work with the MHA's in this position to see what the options are.
- 6.10 Zone 2 – F. Gagnon
- Zone 2 has the same concerns as Zone 1 in regards to the affiliation rule and the AA structure.
 - Eager for Bantam and Midget AA to be in place as that will take away some of the frustration.
 - Need to keep in mind what is meant by 'permission to tryout.'
- 6.11 Zone 3 – Vacant
- K. Macrae went to the Zone meeting where they have similar concerns with the AA structure.
- 6.12 Zone 4 – G. Parsons
- Made it to 19 of the 24 LMHA Board meetings.
 - Was able to explain the AA structure.
 - Player movement is still very passionate subject.
 - There was little discussion on body checking, more positive than negative.
- 6.13 Zone 5 – T. Robbins
- Hockey started on June 24th with the flood relief drive for High River.
 - High River will be back in their home arena as of October 10th.
 - Had 304 registered players as of September 17th.
 - Blackie MHA and High River MHA have amalgamated to become Foothills MHA. R. Hupka asked about the amalgamation being approved, which all the paperwork had been sent to Hockey Alberta in June. T. Robbins responded that Blackie MHA has taken a leave of absence and High River MHA is trying for a name change. High River MHA has submitted all the updated bylaws and regulations with the name change which is all that is required.
 - Need to meet with G. Kallay in Zone 6 about the Bow Island MHA and Medicine Hat MHA boundaries.
 - Question about Novice not being able to participate in provincials. The Board asked for more rational and supporting documentation for making this change. It is now on the agenda for Minor Council meeting in October.



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- 6.14 Zone 6 – G. Kallay
 - Zone meeting was September 15th.
 - Concerns are the same; AA structure and boundaries.
- 6.15 Zone 7 – R. Friesen
 - Not in attendance. No report submitted.
- 6.16 Zone 8 – P. Schmidt
 - Had their first meeting on September 11th.
 - Hockey Edmonton continues to work on a new governance model. It is taking a lot longer than expected as there are more in-depth studies going on, but they are slowly working towards a light at the end of the tunnel.
 - On the development end, recreation league seasons have been delayed to provide more practice times allowing teams to spend more time on development.
 - All novice teams are now working on shared ice.
 - Continue to work with the city on a new ice program as new arenas are being built and old arenas are being revamped.
- 6.17 Zone 9 – P. Cavanagh
 - Things are going well for the new Executive Director of Hockey Calgary, Kevin Kobelka.
 - Received good feedback from associations.
 - On the hunt for new board members. There is a vacancy for D. Sevalrud's position as Director.
 - The bulletin sent out from the Referee Association in regards to mouth guards has been embraced by Zone 9.

7.0 Standing Committee Updates

- 7.1 Awards
 - No update.
- 7.2 Aboriginal
 - No update.
- 7.3 Match on Official
 - Minimum Suspension Guidelines
 - Nothing to add.
- 7.4 League Liaison
 - Moving forward, meeting was very good.
- 7.5 Pond Hockey
 - No update.
- 7.6 ADM
 - No update.
- 7.7 Sport School
 - Approval of Agreements were emailed out today and uploaded to Adobe. There was a need for a standardized agreement.
 - Asking for approval of agreements before presenting back to the schools.

Motion: R. Hupka

Second: P. Schmidt

To approve the six Sport School Agreements as presented.

Carried



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7.8 Bylaw/Regulation Review

- No update

8.0 New Business

8.1 Player Movement / Boundaries – K. Macrae

- G. Parsons has a concern out of Leduc and Beaumont where Midget aged players want to go to Junior B and this is creating a stir with the midget associations. There used to be a rule, within teams, where Junior teams could not touch Midget aged players, wondering if we can get a rule or regulation for Junior B teams to leave midget aged players alone. T. Robbins agrees with this.
- F. Gagnon had an instance where he saw a kid move from A to B, but the regulation wouldn't allow it. He has drafted something to give to R. Hupka to discuss at minor.
K. Macrae said we need to be thinking about the future. Zone Representatives need to be talking to their MHA's about player movement options and what they think an ideal state may look like. There will be flexible hockey options eventually.

8.2 Committees and Councils – K. Macrae

- Document has been drastically amended since last meeting.
- Refer to draft document on Adobe. Action item from April meeting will be reiterated so we can move forward with approving at next in person meeting.

Action - Review Committee and Councils document for amendments, to be approved at the October meeting.

- **All council members**

8.3 Nomination – Election Policy – K. Macrae

- Covered in 'Business Arising'.

8.4 Zone Meeting Policy – K. Macrae

- Has not been drafted yet.
- Three Zone Representatives need to be appointed to an action group to work with K. Macrae on building this policy. This policy will cover when/where/how meetings take place, agendas, expenses, etc.
- T. Robbins, F. Gagnon and G. Parsons put their names forward.

9.0 Next Meeting – F. Horbay

9.1 Need for an October Meeting???

- Minor Council meets October 5th.
- Senior Council and Junior Council meet in early October.
- Asked about the possibility of October 26th. P. Schmidt and P. Cavanagh are not available.

Action - Send an email out to the Operations Council about in-person meeting Saturday, October 26th.

- **K. Macrae**

9.2 Semi-Annual (Nov. 29 – Dec. 1)



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- Will be in Red Deer. No set agenda yet. Likely to begin on the Friday night.

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: G. Kallay

Second: R. Hupka

To adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm.

Carried