



Devon Minor Hockey Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2020

Called to Order: 6:35 PM

Minutes Taken By: Joanna Parnell

Attendees: Joanna Parnell, Brittany Wright, Marc Aromin, Max Rupp, Rainie Gervais, Chris Simonson, Josie Barbon, Nicole Howatt, Peggie Melnychuk, Steven Kuchirka, Tina Pollock, Brent Coutu, Wayne Wolfe, Brandy Fisher, Joe Reynolds, Ali Whelen, Kasia Pelley, Erick Barba

Motion to approve the September 16, 2020 agenda:

- Motion to approve the September 16, 2020 agenda made by, seconded by; All in favour, motion approved

Review and adopt the August 26, 2020 Minutes and the August 12, 2020 minutes

- Motion to approve the August 26, 2020 minutes made by Max Rupp, seconded by Marc Aromin; All in favour, motion approved
- Motion to approve the August 12, 2020 minutes made by Nicole Howatt, seconded by Ali Whelen; All in favour, motion approved
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New Business:

- **Approval of motion from August 26 minutes regarding DMHA contact tracing**
 - Joanna Parnell put forth the motion to approve the motion to add to the September 16 Minutes the motion to approve the mandatory contact tracing module to team snap for all players. Nicole Howatt seconded the motion. All in favour, motion approved.
- **Question from the floor regarding the leaving Midget players**
 - Some suggestions made were in contacting the ToD to conduct a parade around town to hand out the memorial jerseys. Chris Simonson suggested to have the Mayor leading the parade. Another suggestion is to take 30 minutes before a U18 game and hand out the jerseys to the graduated U18 players. A third suggestion is to host an alumni game with past DMHA members and hand out jerseys at the game.
 - Also, we need to discuss how we will hand out all the other awards from the cancelled awards ceremony. Discussion to happen at the October meeting to get a plan of action started.
- **Refunds for the season**
 - Full refunds will not be available as DMHA still needs to pay for the ice that we have used up until this point in the season. As the current global situation is constantly changing, we cannot promise that game plan will become a reality. Partial refunds will be considered **IF** the economy shuts down again and massive quarantine resumes. At this current point in time, POD play is going to happen and games will be played.
- **Mask usage in the Arena**
 - the town of Devon is strongly recommending that mask be worn in all public facilities starting immediately. DMHA will follow the Town's recommendation or strongly using a face covering while in the



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arenas. Web coordinator to post on Facebook and the Website with the link to the Town of Devon website.

Reports:

1. **President:** Marc Aromin

Discussion about Marelli free registration and subsequent withdrawal

- **Background:** during the 2019/2020 season during the DMHA fundraiser, the executive ran a contest to award the person who sold the most raffle tickets one free registration for the 2020/21 season. Fiore Marelli was the winner of the contest. At this point, the Marelli family has withdrawn their player from DMHA due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19. The family has put forth a request to give the free registration to a family of their choice.
- **Currently:** DMHA is discussing whether or not the executive award the free registration to the person who sold the second most amount of tickets or to the family who the Marrelli has requested. The person who has sold the second most amount of tickets is Marc Aromin. Marc has expressed concern that as the now president of the executive, that he should excuse himself from the contest and award it to someone who is in greater need.
- Further discussion about the rules and regulations surrounding the contest itself needs to be made clearer. IE specific contest rules need to be laid out for future winners of contests. We discussed options on how to award this contest. Option one: award the prize to the person who sold the second most amount of tickets. Option two: award the prize to the person the Marrellis asked for. Option three: award the prize to a family in greater need. Option four: do not award the prize to anyone as there are no clear rules surrounding the contest. The executive decided to award the prize to the person who sold the second most amount of tickets. Marc Aromin excused himself as he feels there may be a conflict as he is on the executive.
- Joanna created a poll which will be adopted as a motion to award the prize of the free registration to the person who sold the second most amount of raffle tickets. Marc Aromin abstained from the vote as he feels he should not have a vote due to the nature that he is the person that sold the second most amount of tickets. Results of the poll: 78% for awarding to Marc, 2% for not awarding Marc. 7 Yes, 2 no.
- **Motion to award** the second place contest winner for the most amount or raffle tickets the prize of one free registration for the 2020/21 season. The second place recipient is Marc Aromin. The votes for Marc were 8, the votes against were 2. The motion is passed by a majority vote.
- **ACTION PLAN:** the creation of rules and regulations surrounding any and all contests DMHA conducts in the future. Joanna Parnell to put something together for discussion.

2. **Vice President:** Rainie Gervais

- Cohort rosters – gave the executive via email a report on the current roster sizes. U18 has 17 kids out at camps for AAA/AA and not part of our cohort. Many other players are out at the U15 level as well. As it stands, for play right now, we are within the current AHS guidelines surrounding cohort numbers. Our numbers will of course be updated as DMHA get notification of the players who will not be returning and who has been released back to the home association. We are in a good position at this point with all of the potential players who will be returning as well.
- U15 checking changes. Max will discuss further regarding what the checking changes will mean. Rainie sent out documents pertaining to the changes.



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- The Town of Devon has received government funding to twin the arena. There has been some presence at the town council meeting from residents who are not in support of the twinning of the rink as a waste of taxpayers funding. Rainie would like to see some support from DMHA members in the form of letters or reaching out via social media to the council members in our support of the recreation center going forward.

3. **Past President:** Ali Whelen

- Nothing to report

4. **Treasurer:** Melissa Price

- Not in attendance

5. **Secretary:** Joanna Parnell

- Nothing to report

6. **Coach Director:** Steven Kuchirka

- Has been on the ice with U15's, practice is going well. Has observed other practice times as well. Things are looking good
- Has a few questions about equipment and wondering if there are any of the flat cones available, Brittany responded that she can put some more out. There were about 15 more cones found. We should look into getting a few more pucks as there is only one bag. More info in Equipment report.
- Has had a few emails from some coaching parents about how the scrimmage games will run. An information email should go out to parents that for scrimmages, there will be two equal teams created for each age level so that there is a more balanced squad play until the final team rosters have been evaluated.
- There have been some coach selections made and things are running smoothly.
- There have been some challenges with the Zamboni driver asking coaches to assist with moving the nets out of the way while he is flooding the ice. This has presented some difficulty as there is often only 2 coaches in the dressing room while the players are getting ready and if one is assisting on ice, there is not enough supervision in the dressing room for the kids getting dressed/undressed.
- Suggestions that a parent can become part of the cohort for dressing room support, potentially calling them a "cohort manager". At the older levels, most players just get dropped off and parents do not stay. Also getting a stronger commitment for the coaches to be there for more practice time.
- Whoever we have in the dressing room, must follow AHS guidelines for contact tracing and will have to fill out the health check forms in order to be in the cohort dressing room. A Socially distanced coach could be the person to assist the Zamboni driver with the nets.
- Steven will have Nicole out an email asking for more volunteers to be available to help out with each group for on ice and dressing room support. There is room within each cohort group to allow for 1-2 more parents on the bench, ice or hallway.

7. **Registrar:** Nicole Howatt

- U7 – 26
- U9 – 31
- U11 – 37



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- U13 – 39, with 4 making it at the AA
- U15 – 42
- U18 – 38, with some on a waiting list 43 available to play.
- Has received a transfer request for a U11, U13, U15 players who recently moved to Devon, the request to register will be granted
- Has to submit the team order. She can enter them all as one big group and separate the players out later. Or she can submit the teams as individual teams later once teams are created. No matter how the players get entered, the team numbers per level need to be submitted. Team rosters need to be finalized by November 15, however the number of teams needs to be in by October 15.
- When is U7 starting on ice. At this point no specific date has been set, however they have an ice slot scheduled for September 26.
- Has had three emails from Calmar parents asking DMHA to open registration as the U15 team has folded for the 2020/21 season. We do need to exert caution with accepting these players as there are a number of players still out for AA tryouts. We would be remiss to accept the Calmar/Thorsby players and if all of DMHA players return to have no spots left available. DMHA has no room to create 3 U15 teams, as we will only have 2 goalies ourselves. There is no affiliation this year at all, so a suggestion is made to have the teams be as big as possible to accommodate for injuries, suspensions, and illness. If DMHA was to invite the Calmar players to play with us with under the understanding that they will be able to remain on the team provided there is space available and will be released if all the DMHA players return.
- Rainie will set up some meeting with the groups involved with Calmar players, ToC, and the Calmar hockey association to discuss options about accepting U15 players to DMHA with provisions that decent ice slots be made available as a bargaining chip to the acceptance of Calmar players.
- There may also be some challenges at the U9 level with goalies as well. Many players are not ready to commit to goaltending, they just don't want to commit to the purchase of goalie gear. DMHA does have some pads available to players to play in net with the borrowed gear. HA does not actually want players to commit at this level, instead to work on the development of all on ice skills until they are older.
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8. Referee in Chief: Joe Reynolds

- Has not much to report until he hears from the North Zone regarding clinic dates and gets the go ahead to set those up.
- This year, the high school is unavailable to host the clinic. Needs some suggestions as to where we can host our clinics. The Devon community hall is large enough to support a socially distanced clinic, it is a full day event, and would need to be held over a two-weekend period.
- Discussion about what makes a body contact vs a body checking call.

9. Referee Assignor: Brandy Fisher

- Clarification for referees at the U7 level and the half ice game play.
- Hockey university will not be run and therefore will new officials not be allowed. Should DMHA just not accept new officials during this time of uncertainty? Right now, we will not take a strong stance until further direction be made more clear from HA and NAI.



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- When scrimmage play ensues, will refs be required? No, they are not needed as scrimmage needs to remain within cohorts,
- Brandy has sent out a massive email to all past players regarding the current cohort rules-based on AHS guidelines. Would like to gain some clarification on how the cohort is working and how to assign referees. As of right now, as game play is not happening, referees are not needed. Game play will not start until AHS expands the phase 3 of the economic re-boot. For game play to happen, the numbers for cohorts will need to be expanded. More direction needs to come from AHS.

10. Level Director: Erick Barba

- Level coordinators are still needed for U11, U15, and U18
- Photo night and apparel night discussion needs to start. Mike Saramaga has offered to provide his services for photo night.
- Joanna Parnell makes a motion to approve Mike Saramaga Photography to provide player and team photos. Erick Barba seconds the motion. All in favour, motion passed.
- A date needs to be set to have Mike reserve the date so he can book it in to his schedule.
- Based on social distancing guidelines, we may need to expand the timeline over a few dates to provide the maximum spacing to maintain the 6 feet of distance between people.
- The venue may become an issue as the ToD has strict rules regarding the maximum number of visitors that are allowed in the arena at one time.
- Apparel night may need to be held in a different format due to the increased sanitation requirements that retailers need to adhere to during the pandemic. As DMHA does not make a profit from the sales, we may be unable to host Evolution Sports into the arena to conduct sales. We will have to think outside the box in order to be able to pass along the business of DMHA logoed apparel.
- Set the time frame for photo night to be conducted during the first week or two of November. Erick will contact Mike to discuss options.

11. Fundraising Director: Peggie Melnychuk

- Individual fundraising option would be the Bear tracks ice melt. Each pail is 25 kg, retail is \$14.70, it is recommended to sell them at \$21-25 per bucket. This would be the fundraiser where each member can re-coup the cost of the mandatory fundraising fee of \$200. The profit from each pail is \$10. Sell 10 buckets and the fulfillment of the fundraiser is half done. The ice melt needs to be purchased as a pallet, 60 buckets on each pallet. Each pallet weighs in at 1 tonne, and we need to be able to pick up the pallets (need a large flat deck to pick up) and have the space to store it. Peggie can get more information this option. There is option to run this fundraiser now, through Fort Saskatchewan, or as late as January through a Calmar contact. It's a Nutragen product – pet friendly, grass friendly, natural product.
- So, what happens if the season gets shut down from HA? Will DMHA be stuck with all the product to store and sell. Can we return the Bear tracks? Who is going to store the excess product?
- Additionally, if the season ends prematurely, is the mandatory fundraising fee going to be returned to each member or is it considered as non-refundable? If hockey is cancelled prior to a natural end of season, can we pro-rate the amount of money that we will return?
- Fundraising on an association level. An association wide 50/50 is a great option. We need to set a date if we will run with this as an option it is dependant if there is a hockey season. However, as the prize is less than \$20,000, we



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would need to manually hand out the tickets. It creates more work as an association, we need to print the tickets, hand them out manually, collect and pull the tickets. This fundraiser is pure profit after the prize payout. There are quite a few fees associated with the raffle through Rafflebox. It's a 10% fee of the total monies collected to a profit of 40%.

- What date are we going to start the fundraisers? Fundraising can be an ongoing item and families should be allowed the opportunity to make back the money. Hockey will still be played next season and DMHA will always need an excess of funds for the purchase of new jerseys, ice time, etc...

12. League Representative: Max Rupp

- Non-contact play at the U15 level changes. There had been some discussion at the NAI level that some tier 4 teams may submit as a tier 3 team to have a hitting team and some tier 3 teams may submit as a tier 4 team so as not to have any checking.
- There is some concern regarding the sizes of the players with some players being moved to a hitting team and not being a strong enough player in general being put in harms way with being placed into a team that has higher tiered players. The subsequent discussion surrounding a previous conversation at the August 26 meeting that our teams will be tiered accordingly to level of skill.
- If a team is originally tiered at 4/5/6, they will be unable to move up a tier to play at a higher level with checking. Teams can move down in tier, but not up as mandated by NAI.
- By the end of October NAI needs team numbers and rosters. The payment check for NAI is due at the end of the month as well.
- New this year is that penalties will not start to be acquired during the preseason games and will only start to acquire during regular season play.
- U9 discussion about entering all teams into NAI
- Game books will be out soon
- POD play will be used as the pre-season play and for tiering purposes, starts mid-November. League play is only delayed by 3 weeks. There will be no blackout dates allowed, and there will be no rescheduling of cancelled games due to weather or illness.
- NAI is not allowing any black out dates

13. Ice Coordinator: Tina Pollock

- ToD is taking back some ice for public skate. They are taking back one evening on Thursdays. This will significantly shrink our available ice time due to the increased sanitization practices that must occur between switching organizations. ToD needs to have a complete ½ hour between organizations so our ice will not be available until 8pm on Thursdays. At this point, public skate is not available on the weekends, however this may change.

14. AA/AAA Representative: Jon Morton – not in attendance

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15. Equipment Manager: Brittany Wright

- Most of the equipment is back from last year. One suggestion would be to make an inventory list and have a sign in/sign out sheet so it is easier to keep track of all the equipment that DMHA currently has. Marc has suggested he



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can make some puck handling tutors. He will make and donate a bunch in various lengths. Brittany can assign them to various teams as well.

- The orange pinnies have been found. An old DMHA member found them in her furnace room, they have been handed over to Joanna to get to Brittany
- DMHA will not be at this time purchasing touchless thermometers as they are cost prohibitive at this time.
- New first aid kits need to be purchased. Many have not been returned and the ones that have been contain expired products. Will need to purchase one per team approximately 16-20 kits.
- Purchase of ice cleats for the U7 level to put out the dividing boards for the ½ ice dividers. Marc Aromin has many extra pairs and is willing to donate a few pairs to each team.
- Can we look into replacing the goalie gear? A lot of the equipment we have is falling apart, the padding is thin, and taped to hold the parts together. Brittany will get some pricing or seek out donations of equipment. We should have 3 sets of equipment for use.

16. Evaluations Co-ordinator: Brent Coutu

- Will have the different groups out buy the 26, they are going to be names as colours such as white, blue, red. U13-U18 teams will need to be adjusted as kids return from AAA/AA tryouts.
- For the U9-U11 thee are some plans for a fun round robin tournament style game play within the cohorts. With the “winner” of the tournament a candy trophy could be a potential prize. Two trophies, one for U9, one for U11. DMHA will cover the cost of the candy.

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17. Website Coordinator: Natasha Kuchirka

- Post the link to the town of Devon website regarding the strong recommendation for mask usage.

18. IP Level Coordinator:

19. Novice Level Coordinator:

20. Atom Level Coordinator:

21. PeeWee Level Coordinator:

22. Bantam Level Coordinator:

23. Midget Level Coordinator:

Closing Discussion: The coaches and managers meeting needs to be put on the radar, it will probably not be able to be held until late October or early November.

October’s meeting will be held over zoom.

Next Meeting Date: October 14, 2020, 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 10:12 PM