



Devon Minor Hockey Meeting Minutes **July 2021 DMHA** **Executive Meeting**

Date: Monday, July 19, 2021

Called To Order: 7:11pm

Minutes Taken By: Brittany Wright

Attendees: Raine Gervais, Brittany Wright, Max Rupp, Melissa Blize, Peggie Melnychuk, Marc Aromin, Duane McNirney, Wayne Wolfe, Julie Wagg, Brent Coutu, Tina Pollock, Ali Whelen, Joe Reynolds, Steven Kuchirka, Nicole Howatt

Motion to approve the July 19, 2021 Agenda:

- Motion to approve the July 19, 2021 Agenda made by: Nicole Howatt
- Seconded by: Max Rupp
- All in favour, motion approved

Review and Approve June 24, 2021 Minutes (AGM):

- Motion to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes made by: Nicole Howatt
- Seconded by: Max Rupp
- All in favour, motion approved

New Business:

- Tina Pollock voted in as Ice Coordinator
- Brandy Fisher voted in as Ref Assignor
- Adam Wright voted in as Equipment Manager
- Ali Whelen voted in as Level Director
- Jon Morton voted in as AA/AAA Coordinator
- Joanna Parnell voted in as Website Coordinator

Reports:

1. President - Raine Gervais
 - a. Moving to the EFHL. Executive will be having a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021 to answer more in depth questions about this. EFHL is a new league, this is not the league that operated last year. The prior EFHL league is no longer operating as it was easier to create a new league than make changes to the bylaws. Edmonton Minor Hockey is not our league, we are not part of Edmonton Minor Hockey but they are part of the EFHL. We are a full voting member of the EFHL. There are new rules and bylaws so we will have to get used to some new ways of doing things. Overall we believe this is a very positive step for us and excited to be part of this. More in depth conversations can be had



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- about this on Thursday, July 22, 2021. Game operations have been circulated to the executive and will be posted once they are all finalized.
- b. Season Timelines- Not any huge changes for us. Waiting for finalized dates from the league with tiering breaks and such. These breaks are natural slots for us to have our tournaments. Tournament dates may vary from their traditional dates. We are confident we can get all the tournaments in during black out dates.
 - c. Playoffs would look to start February 26 - March 18 for the ones that qualify for playoffs and make it to the end. Again, all dates will be posted once we receive finalized dates from EFHL
 - d. Edmonton Minor Hockey Week - Hockey Edmonton hosts this, it is a fundraiser for Hockey Edmonton which is NOT the EFHL. All money raised during EMHW is given to Edmonton associations. We can enter teams, but we would have to volunteer for shifts. We have the opportunity to opt out of Minor Hockey week as we would have to fundraise and not actually get any of the money raised, it would go to the Edmonton Association. This would be a blackout time that we could host our own tournament and fundraiser for our own association.
 - i. Motion to opt out of Edmonton Minor Hockey Week made by Nicole Howatt, seconded by Steven Kuchirka - Motion Passed
 - ii. Nicole wanted to know who is opting in and out, nobody has confirmed yet. Sherwood Park and St Albert and Spruce Grove pushed for this new league to happen to get the bylaws to change so that they could opt out. Instead of changing the bylaws it was quicker to dissolve the original league and create a new one. It sounds like there would be a number of teams to invite to our tournaments if we do opt out of Edmonton Minor Hockey Week
 - e. Discussion and approval of committees and committee members - The goal this year is to do a lot of our work in committees as we feel this is more efficient. Nothing will be decided solely by a committee, everything will still be voted on by the executive and presented to the general membership. With the second sheet of ice, we can potentially explore a female team and a junior team. U21 division is currently in the EFHL, it's a rec junior team. Not Junior A, B or C, it's just a rec team. Motion made by Nicole Howatt to accept these committees, seconded by Peggie Melnychuk. No objections made, motion has been passed. These are the proposed committees and members
 - i. Coach Committee - Rainie Gervais, Duane McNirney, Marc Aromin, Steven Kuchirka, Peggie Melnychuk, Nicole Howatt
 - ii. Evaluation Committee - Rainie Gervais, Duane McNirney, Marc Aromin, Steven Kuchirka, Brent Coutu, Adam Wright, Brad Whelen
 - iii. Player Development Committee - Rainie Gervais, Duane McNirney, Marc Aromin, Steven Kuchirka, Max Rupp, Ali Whelen
 - iv. Female Team - Rainie Gervais, Duane McNirney, Marc Aromin, Max Rupp, Nicole Howatt, Brittany Wright, Ali Whelen



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- v. Junior Team - Rainie Gervais, Duane McNirney, Marc Aromin, Max Rupp, Nicole Howatt, Brittany Wright, Ali Whelen
 - f. Sponsorships were voted by last year's executive to carry over to this year.
 - g. Awards missed - What can we do to celebrate and recognize these players? Especially the graduating players from 2020 and 2021. Nicole asked if we had a committee for awards? There was one from the past executive, but nothing was decided last year.
 - h. Community Event in Devon, if this happens, could DMHA put a table here? Max said that Graminia School does this in the fall. Brent said if we do market this somewhere in September, do the brand new members still have to pay the late fees? Ali suggested we waive the late fees. Nicole suggested possibly doing this in the spring? Or perhaps spring and September? Perhaps this is a good option for another committee? Please bring forward to the executive any ideas on getting DMHA out there to possible new players.
2. Vice President - Duane McNirney
- a. Looking at providing some evaluation feedback to parents and players if possible. This could help players understand where they could work on improvements during the season. Nothing to see who ranked better than each kid, just solely to give some feedback to the players. Evaluations committee could potentially look into options for this.
 - b. What are our mandates for this year and future years? Can we make a hard drive to bring up the membership to speed, and bring in people who are on the fence, people who may not have thought of hockey as an option. Looking at ways to grow our association would be great. How can we reach these people in the best way? Meetings are great, but a lot don't attend and maybe people are missing out. Can we reach out through schools?
 - c. Benevolent Fund and Jump Start, most don't even know this is available. What is the purpose of the BF? Who qualifies for this? The BF will top up anything that Jump Start does not cover. Melissa said it was made mandatory that you are approved through Jump Start and Kid Sport, then you put a nomination/application into the Treasurer and President who will approve an amount to pay the registration. The information is on the website and it has also been put out through an email. The BF keeps growing as all late registrations, half of that goes into the BF. It keeps growing and not being used. Some have brought forward families that are struggling at that time even if they aren't approved through Kid Sport and Jump Start. BF does not cover the fundraising money as the families have the opportunity to earn that back. Duane would like to see this posted more vividly on the website so that families are aware of the help that is available. Melissa said that she's had only a handful that have applied for the BF in the 7 years that she has been treasurer. She's sent the form out and people don't fill it out so then they don't qualify for the BF. Steven said we have discussed it in the AGM's and the manager meetings, so it does come up quite



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often, people just aren't using it. We could target the U7 families and new families to DMHA to get this information out as they may not know about it. Rainie suggested we possibly post this on the Facebook page, but that we do keep the process of Jump Start and Kid Sport involved so that they are deciding who is able to get this and it is not the Executive of DMHA.

3. Past President - Marc Aromin
 - a. Nothing to report
4. Treasurer - Melissa Blize
 - a. Cheques that have been made: Joanna for Zoom \$271, EFHL league entrance fee \$1000 (This \$1000 is basically a bond, there will be more fees coming once we start entering teams)
 - b. Motion made by Melissa Blize to remove Ali Whelen from signing authority, seconded by Max Rupp. No objections made, motion approved.
 - c. Motion made by Nicole Howatt to add Duane McNirney to signing authority, seconded by Marc Aromin. No objections, motion passed.
 - d. Need information for the bank for Melissa, she will send out a spreadsheet for you to fill out
 - e. NAI has not said anything about us getting our bond back, Rainie and Melissa are still digging to find out how much it was and if we can get it back
 - f. Nothing has been transferred into the Benevolent Fund yet, but because we gave back percentages, should this apply to the BF? Rainie requested having this sent as a spreadsheet so we can all look at it and discuss. The accountant was asking what would be transferred this year. Melissa will send the information out to the voting members to discuss and make a motion on it.
 - g. Need to vote on the paid positions (update the positions and amounts from the meetings)
 - i. Motion to approve the dollar amounts as stated made by Brent Coutu, seconded by Nicole Howatt. No objections, motion passed.
5. Secretary - Brittany Wright
 - a. Bad debts, I let Rainie discuss this again for the members that were at the meeting. We are a registered society so we have to provide the financial reports. The bad debt is monies we are owed that the accountant has determined that we may be unable to collect. These bad debts have to do with unpaid registrations. In a normal year, we have the registration fees and there is a certain cutoff that if you haven't paid your child is no longer allowed on the ice until you pay up. However, due to COVID, these dates didn't line up very well. The season was shut down, the members didn't come back, and they chose not to pay their registration. The executive has made a motion to attempt to collect the fees from these individuals so we will continue to do so. The new executive will discuss this further. It is larger than normal for sure, but this has to do with the fact that this is a COVID year. Members just felt they weren't going to pay due to COVID. Normally, we would have a way in season to deal with this, but that was not the



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case. This is not necessarily money that we had to pay out, this was just money we were not able to collect. If those families had not registered, that bad debt would then not exist. It was not money that was taken from our bank account, but we are looking at more possible ways to collect this. Any questions? The 8% figure seems like a lot, but that is basically just on the revenue that was left over after we paid everyone their refunds back, that was 8% after the refunds were given, not on the whole season. It was basically that the player was to be considered opted out, so the numbers were adjusted to match this. Names and amounts will not be discussed. The executive will look at strengthening our policies so that this does not happen again in future years.

6. Coach Director - Steven Kuchirka
 - a. Please start putting on the website and facebook that we are looking for coaches so that we can find that with lots of time and it is not rushed this year. Nicole will send out an email to the membership.
7. Registrar - Nicole Howatt
 - a. 92 registrants to date, U7-9, U9-16, U11-20, U13-14, U15-18, U18-15
 - b. Nicole will send out an email that they have until the end of July to get early bird pricing
 - c. Hockey Alberta has requested to have as close to the number of teams that we will have this season sooner rather than later. Hockey Canada switched over to a new HCR system that has been nothing but a headache, so we've had a few parents trying to register and she's fielding a lot of emails and calls about registration problems. If you are transferring into DMHA some associations aren't even seeing transfers on their end so please have patience. The platform is new and they are working out any kinks. All previous members get any messages sent by Nicole. She is trying to get back to people within 24 hours, but sometimes things are out of her hands so she just asks everyone to have some patience with her.
 - i. Rainie noticed and has been tracking that the U15 level is not at the amount we need to make decisions yet. But the 07/08 birth years registered last year were 51 and at least 5 goalies. Some of these kids would go on to play AA and AAA, but if these numbers hold, we may need to potentially look at having 3 teams for U15. We did last year due to COVID, but this could potentially be 3 larger teams. Possible ice considerations to work out.
 - ii. While we are not close to cap at most levels, are we keeping the caps at levels, or should we remove them? Rainie asked Steve and Ali why they were there, past years ice was a concern. It has been suggested to take the caps off as they were put on for the new U9 program. It was stated that we are one season away from having 2 sheets of ice, if we turn away any players, they likely won't come back the season after.



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1. Motion made by Ali Whelen to remove caps on levels, seconded by Marc Aromin. No objections, motion passed.
- iii. Nicole is anticipating a bit of a surge in registrations this next week before early bird ends as there are names not on the list that she's had contact with. She will send out a reminder email, and will bombard everyone the last week with lots of emails to remind so that nobody can forget.
 1. It was suggested that anyone who signs up in Early Bird, they could be entered into a draw for \$250 to a sports store. No license is required as this is a donation and no members are paying towards it. An anonymous donor has offered to give the donation of \$250
 - a. Motion to accept the donation made by Brent Coutu, seconded by Nicole Howatt. No objections, motion passed.
 - b. We will finalize details of the contest outside of the public executive meeting.
8. Referee in Chief - Joe Reynolds
 - a. Preferred dates for ref clinics have been put in. Online for level 3 and above.
 - b. Joe will let us know when kids can sign up
9. Referee Assignor - Brandy Fisher
 - a. Not in attendance
10. Level Director - Ali Whelen
 - a. She was just voted in tonight, nothing to report
11. Fundraising Director - Peggie Melnychuk
 - a. Needs to come up with a new fundraising option for everyone to make back their \$150 - she may ask to put a poll out to the members to see what they would like to do
 - b. Looking at an option to replace Fundsript (last season it raised \$600) Perhaps using FlipGive this year for the membership.
 - c. Swag and raffle ticket options with Evolution - we were going to work with them last year on a raffle, but then it was after Christmas and COVID happened. Evolution would make all the raffle tickets and print them off, we would then distribute and they get some proceeds and we get some proceeds. Anyone who bought a ticket gets a free skate sharpening. Not sure about the split. They are also willing to give us proceeds from the DMHA swag that is purchased from them.
 - d. Casino - EFHL is applying for a licence on that and would get a portion of the money made here. We have not received any updates from the EFHL on this yet, but could be another great option for DMHA.
12. League Representative - Max Rupp
 - a. The managers/coaches could potentially be paying the refs at the game. This has not been decided yet. The associations don't pay the refs, the refs expect half to be paid by the home team and half by the away team at the end of the game.



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This has yet to be finalized, but the membership will be updated once a decision has been made. Once the league finalizes how this will be handled, the executive will meet and discuss how we as an association will handle this with each team. Joe needs to be kept in the loop for the payment to refs

- b. So far we are hoping to plan and follow last year's model for team numbers, but this will depend until we know what our registration numbers are. Hoping this will be a typical year. Tiering should be structured about the same as well. EFHL will follow the Alberta 1 tiering model. Nicole will submit this rough estimate on teams in the 2019/2020 format. It is easier to take away a team, so let's overestimate U15 at 3 teams and remove them if needed. U7 stays on one massive roster, 3 U9, 3 U11, 3 U13, 3 U15, 2 U18
 - c. U9 will likely be the bigger teams to match the EFHL, but we will finalize this as well, if we go to bigger teams, U9 will be moved down to 2 teams
13. Ice Coordinator - Tina Pollock
- a. Ice users meeting is on Monday, games are shorter with the Edmonton league so we are hoping to have some potential practice times on the weekends. We do have an earlier time slot in Thorsby if needed, and have an application in with Calmar to potentially use ice there as well.
 - i. Thorsby ice may no longer be managed by the town, but by Thorsby minor hockey. They are hoping to get us an 8pm-9pm time slot when we usually get it from 9pm-10pm.
 - b. Still having issues with TeamSnap, she will work with Nicole on this
14. Equipment Manager - Adam Wright
- a. Graduating players will get the opposite jersey from what they got last year, Brittany to look in the old minutes to see what was given last year
15. AA/AAA Representative - Jon Morton
- a. He was not in attendance, but Rainie has been signing tryout forms already. AA goes to Beaumont and AAA goes to Leduc. If you are cut from either of these, then there are more options for you after this. Both of these places are taking tryout applications already. Please reach out to Rainie. Duane asked how many of our 92 registrants are going to be trying out for AA/AAA, Nicole will look it up but didn't have that information right now. Tryout forms for AA are still a paper copy, forms for AAA are now an online form.
16. Evaluations Coordinator - Brent Coutu/Adam Wright
- a. Meeting with the evaluators from last year as well as the executive committee. Hoping to get details on what they are evaluating on and what the costs are and how we can possibly save on them. Evaluations from prior, trying to find a way to get feedback to players. This will be discussed that night as well. Community Awareness night is September 1, Brent sent an email to TofD for details on this.
 - b. Brent has arranged with TofD with a grant of \$2000, he is doing a hockey equipment exchange on the Monday of the long weekend. It will be free, and you just bring your old equipment to swap for the first few hours, and then the last



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ones can come and take. The goodie bags will be given to the first 80 families that come and donate something, or take equipment. It will indirectly be a fundraiser for Jump Start. This will strictly be by donation only. TofD has given approval to use the lobby of the arena from 4pm-9pm the Monday of the long weekend.

17. Website Coordinator - Joanna Parnell
 - a. Not in attendance, she was just voted in this evening.
18. U7 Level Coordinator - TBD
19. U9 Level Coordinator - TBD
20. U11 Level Coordinator - TBD
21. U13 Level Coordinator - TBD
22. U15 Level Coordinator - TBD
23. U18 Level Coordinator - TBD

| Action Item | Who is Responsible? | Complete By: |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Find out what the U11 jersey sponsor would like to do as her grandson now lives in the city | Brittany Wright | September |
| See if we can get DMHA advertisement on the message board by DQ | Nicole Howatt | August Exec Meeting |
| Can we participate in Community Awareness night in Devon? | Brent Coutu | August Exec Meeting |
| Get graduating players jerseys | Adam Wright | August Exec Meeting |

Closing Discussion: Rainie wants to thank all the members who stepped up and volunteered for any positions this year. He is excited to work with everyone this year, and we are looking forward to a great year.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 24 @ 7pm (will announce later/closer if it will be on ZOOM or in person)

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:01pm