



## **Thompson Minor Hockey Association**

The Mission of the TMHA is to provide participants in our minor ice hockey program with fair and competitive hockey experience that focuses on the development of individual and team hockey skills, the practice of good sportsmanship and fair play and the opportunity to be challenged while having fun.

**Board Meeting  
February 24<sup>th</sup> 2025  
6:00 pm Mary Fenske boardroom  
Agenda**

**Call to Order: 6:06pm**

**Additions to the Agenda:**

- U15 roster
- Timekeepers

**Adoption of Agenda:** *Motion to accept agenda by Tiffany B., seconded by Evan. Motion carried.*

**Regrets:**

- Michelle- Secretary
- Lynn- Treasurer

**Approval of minutes from:**

- **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2025:** *Motion to approve minutes by Will, seconded by Leslie. Four abstain. Motion carried.*
- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025:** Miner wording changes needed. U15 rostering was discussed however was not reflected on agenda. Added to current agenda.

**Delegates:**

- None.

**Correspondence:**

- Kathy Valentino

Good morning Jessie ,

I have been in receipt of a possible letter to the Minister of sport about changing a Hockey Manitoba rule. The first process is to follow Hockey Manitoba's constitution on how to change or amend rules at their AGM. It will be important for TMHA to follow communications that will be coming out on Hockey Mb AGM and process to submit resolutions for rule changes. The Hockey Manitoba membership votes on changes. This is not a responsibility of the Provincial government. Hockey Manitoba falls under the Sport Manitoba umbrella for provincial sport associations. This letter is completely irrelevant for a minister at this time. If I can provide further clarity to your board on Provincial process please let me know. Please ensure your TMHA board receives my email. I am happy to discuss with anyone .

See you all at Munn Cup !!

Kathy

- Hockey MB: Parents request for reinstatement for U13 player denied due to rostering deadline of Feb. 10 2025.

- No response as of yet from Hockey MB to Evan's letter requesting TMHA representative teams from different divisions be allowed to play exhibition games.
- 2 letters from Hockey MB requesting more information regarding an appeal.

### **Reports:**

- Martin- previous financial policies that were changed need revision, have not be published yet and will send out to board once changes are made.
- Lynn- regrets.
- Brad- two new refs starting from Jr. B. team. Will more likely be available for the 4pm games.
- Dustin- Development update.

#### 4.1 General Rules

n) House League Format will be as follows:

1) All AA teams will remain in their respective house leagues and will be divided up amongst the house league teams as per team selection and balancing policy 4.49

It is the position of TMHA to allow any player who makes an AA team to have the option to advance to the next highest level, in house league. The decision is to be that of the parent/player. At no time will there be any interference from coaches that would influence a player's decision. Players will advance as individuals, to be dispersed amongst house league teams. TMHA may revoke player advancement based on enrollment numbers, to ensure a functioning House League for all divisions.

To fill the void of a team in U11HL due to numbers lost when the players move up (and to further develop), 2nd year U9 will play as a team in a weekly exhibition game up in the U11 HL. Based upon numbers, there may be more than one (1) team. In any case, all 2nd year U9 players will get an opportunity to play on the U9 team up in U11 HL.

These U9 players will still be involved in the U9 program and will practice, play games and travel to tournaments with their regular U9 team. This is not a "AA" program and is to be treated as development and an introduction to level of play they will be involved with next season.

All U9 head coaches will be involved in coaching (i.e. take turns or paired up, etc.) these weekly exhibition games in U11 HL. To be done only at the U9 level, not the U7 (Initiation) level

We had 15 U11s that met the requirements to use this policy. 1 did.

We had 5 U13s that met the requirements to use this policy. 1 was not allowed. It was offered to set up that if players wanted to use the advancement that hitting would have been taken out of U15 house league and clinics ran weekly until it could safely resume. That was a missed opportunity as the it was not recorded in the meeting minutes for the membership to see.

We had 7 (I believe) U15 players advance to U18. Mainly 2nd year AAA players, but one 'U15B' player was advanced as well. We did see most of them request the Board to return to U15 house league.

We had 15 players utilize the U9 development ice this year. Coaching availability and scheduling was an issue. The opportunity didn't come up for U9 development program to play games in U11 house this year. This program is utilized to prepare the up-and-coming kids for their first rep hockey season. This gets the kids together as well as the coaches that are thinking of taking on those rep hockey coaching roles. Hopefully next year we take the opportunities to advance our skilled players so we can utilize this program to its fullest. When play-ups are activated, we strengthen our skill level in all age groups.

Affiliation: Affiliate: a player from a lower category/division team that has been called up by a higher category/division team so that the higher category/division may dress the maximum number of players allowable for a game in accordance with the Playing Rules.

Affiliations serve two purposes. First they allow that requesting team the ability to roster a full team, up to 19 (17+2). And in return, the affiliate player gets developmental opportunities not otherwise available. Some things to consider. You can only be affiliated with one team outside of your regular roster team. The process of affiliation begins with a requesting team. That team needs permission from the parents and regular roster team coach in order for the affiliation to take place. In our house leagues, APs are used for Rep hockey. So, for example, if a U13 rep coach is asking a U11 rep player, they would have to make sure the parents as well as the coach of the U11 player agree. This would be the only team that the U11 rep player could be considered for as an affiliate. Any movement within our house leagues (single player advancement) is allowed through Hockey Manitoba policy. Associations don't choose affiliates in any case regarding U11 rep and above. It is solely done upon request from the coach needing / wanting the player.

It would be nice to see if we can get our coaches, rep or house to facilitate specific skill practices, kind of mimicking the goalie development model we have been doing. Wouldn't necessarily need to be on a weekend, maybe on a Friday evening. Something outside of our normal house league schedule. We could get it started up and then look at seeing if we can get guests to come and assist. Like invite all 2015 birth years for a one hour stick handling session, or something like 2015's for the first half hour, and 2016 for the second half hour (some parents may not want to come up for a half an ice, some may like it). There may be buy in, there may not be. But we won't know unless we try something. I think the shorter ice times will keep engagement at a high level. We can get feedback from the house league coaches on what they would like to see worked on. Stuff they notice. Or we can come up with plans. Shooting, passing, stick handling, checking, skating. We can find age and skill appropriate drills. Looking for feedback on this.

The feedback - It was mentioned that this was an idea of a recent past board member, and although similar, I would not recommend turning individual skill development into a 'skills competition' (as was previously suggested). In competition, it fosters a situation that will highlight and award the top skilled only. Where we want to be offering skill drills with no pressure of competition in a productive and inclusive way.

One of the biggest things I hope we do different next year is unleash the kid's potential by giving them the freedom to use the house league advancement 4.1n2 policy. No one on this board has seen the kids use it and see it's benefit. Our skill level outside of Thompson is going down, relative to the categories that we are in. I have asked a few parents why they don't use the policy, and the responses that I have received were that the Board doesn't allow that. I need to use my position as Development Coordinator to ensure that the Association Members know that these policies do exist and are there to make the house leagues more competitive and give opportunities for our higher skilled players to be challenged. The use of this policy is of no financial cost to the members or association and provide better development.

Here is an excerpt from: Sport for Life; The Challenges Around Meaningful Competition: Every 3 years the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) brings together thousands of Aboriginal athletes from across the continent to compete in the 14-sport event. For many of these athletes, ranging in age from 13 to 19 and striving for excellence in their respective sports, the NAIG is the ultimate moment in their athletic careers. But is this experience as meaningful and positive as it could be?

Initially, these Games were established as an opportunity for young Aboriginal people to come together both to create social connections and to excel in their chosen sport. While these are still the desired outcomes of the NAIG, the concept of meaningful competition is not emphasized within the Games.

Meaningful competitions lead to results that are relatively close and not predictable. Competitors are matched with others of a similar level of ability and are challenged to be the best they can be at that moment in time. They believe they have a chance for success and remain fully engaged throughout the competition. Unfortunately, blowouts frequently occur at the NAIG. These situations hurt both sides. The stronger team or player isn't challenged and therefore doesn't have to perform at the highest level to succeed, which can result in complacency or disinterest; the weaker participants, meanwhile, will be disheartened by a blowout, which can lead to dropout if they feel there is no point in continuing with competition in that sport.

Blowouts aren't solely a NAIG issue, however, and occur in both the mainstream and Aboriginal sport systems across Canada. Lopsided results tend to occur more frequently in Aboriginal sports and communities due to a lack of competition opportunities. Field hockey has tried to address this by implementing a seeding system to match teams appropriately. The idea is that a coach or administrator ranks their team accordingly for better matchups. However, many coaches snub their nose at seeding –they only care about winning the top tier as opposed to the third tier, for example. We need to change the mindset so that it's the meaningful aspect of competition that matters and not just the championship itself.

Another element of meaningful competition is an event that's structured to reinforce the progress of Long-Term Participant Development stage-specific skills and abilities. In order to have meaningful competition, athletes of similar ability or stage should compete together. Traditionally, the sport system categorizes participants based on chronological age (children born in the same year compete with and against one another regardless of physiological maturation), whereas Long-Term Participant Development advises grouping participants based on developmental age (whether an individual is an early or late developer; how competent they are in a given sport). Often age does not equate to ability – particularly if an athlete or team has just started to play the sport or they have not had access to quality, qualified programs or coaches. While NAIG features age categorization ranging from U14 to U19, depending on sport, with some opportunities for younger athletes to upgrade, many sports within Aboriginal communities lack any age category alignment, which can stunt the development of all those involved.

Source – Sport for Life – Challenges around meaningful competition

Clarification on the excerpt was asked about whether it is best to match kids by chronological age or developmental age. The excerpt outlines that Long Term Participant Development models advise to group participants through developmental age as best they can. The only tools we have to adjust for developmental age grouping is through player advancement 2.3, 4.1n2, 4.1n3 policy, as well as the proper use of affiliations, to keep in alignment with TMHA, Hockey Manitoba and Hockey Canada rules.

- Malorie- will order dodge balls. TMHA does not provide helmets for goalies. South paw agreement still needs to be signed.
- Krystal- Canadian Tire and Co-op have asked that TMHA provide one donation letter for all tournaments to prevent their businesses being asked repeatedly by different divisions for donation. This letter is in the works.
- Tiffany B.- three teams are playing on full ice. Tournament coming up that will be on ¾ sheet.
- Tommy- nothing to report.

- Colleen- attended two tournaments with rep team. Gold in Cross Lake and Lundar. Will be attending provincials in Arborg.

### **New Business:**

- Player movement- U15 player who was previously approved to play into U18 has requested to come back. Parent reports concerns with the conduct of certain U18 players. *Motion for player to return to U15 by Will, seconded by Leslie, 2 abstain, motion carried.*
- Player registration- extended season is only two weeks due to spring break until Apr. 7 and the ice coming out Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>. Only 10 days of ice for extended. Discussed possibility of extending regular season, not possible, regular season must be done by end of March. Option of bringing in a camp, however would still require registration for insurance, etc. This would take lots of work with limited man power for so little ice time. Barely broke even with extended season last year. To bring in a camp, they would need to operate completely outside of TMHA with their own registration and insurance. *Motion to not have extended season by Leslie, seconded by Will, 2 abstain, motion carried.*
- Refunds- certain players were charged full registration cost instead of discounted amount for registering late in the season. Registration in spordle was not changed to a discounted amount for late registrations. Those players will need to be refunded a portion. Goalies will be refunded their registration at the end of season.
- Coach selection- will soon post for coach applicants for rep teams with mid-march deadline. A panel will interview, as per policy, and applicants will be scored with a recommendation to the board.
- U15 Complaints- several complaints in U15 regarding 2 players. Hockey MB recommended sitting down with parties in order to mend the situation. Completed. Discussion in executive.
- Referee concern- TMHA member posted a “gif” following a “chippy” game. The post stated it was regarding Thompson refs. “Gif” showed person in crowd coming on ice and assaulting ref. *Motion to not send to discipline committee by Will, seconded by Dustin, 5 abstained, motion carried.* An email and post will be completed to remind membership of appropriate conduct on social media.
- Application for motion- previous concern regarding Hockey MB policy that does not permit players to play on two separate teams in one tournament. This policy was felt to impact girls in the Munn Cup negatively as they had to choose a team to play on rather than be on both. This left the girls team short of players and consequently AP’d from below division. Female team from Norway House did not end up coming to tournament. After discussion, it was felt that if an application for motion was completed, it still may not get support by Norman. Norman does not meet until May so therefore do not have a scheduled meeting before March 3<sup>rd</sup> when the application needs to be received by Hockey MB. *Motion to not complete the application by Martin, seconded by Evan, all abstained, motion defeated.*
- Live Barn- City of Thompson has completed agreement with Live Barn for both rinks. Live Barn will be coming in to do wiring. Organizations will need to request camera be on and provide schedule for their ice, otherwise the city will not have the feed on due to privacy reasons.
- Showers- U15 players would like to be able to shower after ice and feel that they are suffering because of the mistake of one player. Discussion around coach’s ability to supervise shower area, players compliance with base layer, etc. Flin Flon Minor Hockey does not permit players to shower after ice, they are told to do so when they get home. Will revisit topic next season.

- Munn Cup- tournament went well. Only feedback was about refs, initially in tournament they were a little late. This was resolved. Requests for more senior refs, which would also be the goal of the TMHA however this depends on ref availability. Over \$36,000 in revenue, cleared approximately \$17,000.
- Time keepers- issues in U15 provincials with time keepers having no experience and signing up. Tournaments have provided training to parents but often there isn't much attendance. Discussed having paid positions like Flin Flon Minor Hockey, approximately \$16 per game per time keeper. Could use ref scheduling system. Flin Flon has a time keeper coordinator that works closely with the official's coordinator for games.
- U15 Roster- provided correspondence from VP Tech to goalie.

**Motion to Move into Executive Session:** *Motion made by Brad, seconded by Evan at 8:15pm. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**Motion to Move out of Executive Session:** *Motion made by Evan, seconded by Brad at 9:44pm. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**Standing Agenda Items:**

- None.

**Next Meeting February March 10 2025 at 6pm.**

**Adjournment 9:45pm.**