



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 – August 26th 2024
7:00 pm Mary Fenske boardroom**

Agenda

Quorum

Call to Order: 7:05

Adoption of Agenda: Sean motions to adopt the agenda with the additions, seconded by Will. All in favour, motion passed

Additions to the Agenda:

- Add Dustin to Reports for Odd Years
- U18 Coach
- Child Abuse Registry
- U9 Director

Regrets:

- Charlene

Approval of minutes from: 07/22/2024, 08/20/2024 Michelle motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Will, 6 in favour, 5 abstain, motioned carried.

Delegates:

- N/A

Correspondence:

- N/A

Reports (ODD YEARS)

- Martin, VP Admin
 - Martin sent our policy updates. Went through the policy and fixed up formatting issues. Should be ready to be posted. Martin sent out a list of things that were inconsistent which we will tackle when the season is running. There is a section about running a tournament that is inconsistent that will take some work to make it better.
 - The Leisure Mart is coming the weekend of September 14th. Michelle will make a sign up sheet for certain times to run the table and will send out to the board members to sign up to man the table.
 - Sent out a background check update
 - Child Abuse Registry - Coaches are being asked to reimburse for child abuse checks. Discussion about what is reasonable for reimbursement. We believe we will tal
 - **Martin motions to approve Matt as the U13 Thunder coach, seconded by Colleen, 9 in favour, 1 abstain, motion carried**
- Treasurer
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- Nicole, Registrar
 - Registration current numbers
 - U5 - 9 players
 - U7 - 14 players
 - U9 - 27 players

- U11 - 20 players
 - U13 - 17 players
 - U15 - 9 players
 - U18 - 5 players
- Tryout registration numbers
 - U11 - 19 players
 - U13 - 16 players
 - U15 - 5 players
 - U18 - 3 players
- Deadline for signing up for tryouts for September 6th. Week before the tryouts.
- Parents and people are asking for a schedule. Arbiters might have a way to make a schedule and post.
- Dustin, Development
 - Talking about dryland for the Rink camp coming up. Looking at costs and providers. First invoice has come for the camp. Another invoice will be coming for jersey's
 - Reached out to the HMB about coaching clinics and grants.
 - Start of the season Dustin wants to be able to sit down and talk to division directors about development and long term development. Dustin quoted Paul Kariya on practice vs games "I think 2:1 or 3:1 practice to games is the way to go. In practice, that's where you become a better hockey player. You get to have the puck on your stick more, and take more shots on the net than in any game. Even as a professional you don't have the puck on your stick that much, and at a young age it's crucial to develop your skills, you can't do that in an organized game".
- Sean, On ice Officials Coordinator
 - Sean discusses his proposal for his Officials budget which is posted below:

Referee Program Budget Proposal

August 26th, 2024

Proposed by: Sean Weatherill – Director of Officiating

TMHA has one of the most successful officiating programs in Northern Manitoba and one of the most promising rural programs in Manitoba. Thompson had 34 active officials last year that officiated 978 slots in 397 games. While some officials worked more than other officials, the average official worked 28 games last season. The 2022-2023 season saw great growth in programming offered to officials including Referee Night at the NCN Flames game and a large wrap up party. 2023-2024 saw less off the ice events but TMHA officials traveled to two provincial championships, one regional event and one national championship. Two officials were recognized by Hockey Manitoba as regional award winners. Flin Flon and Thompson hosted for the first time in nearly a decade a pre-advancement clinic, that saw 7 seven Norman officials enter the Hockey Manitoba High Performance program.

I am very proud of the work TMHA has done to help grow officiating, including support officials from Nelson House and Norway House.

We were not without incident last year, there are several notable occurrences that most of you are aware of that are in the process of being corrected.

In addition, I had the pleasure of participating in the regional referee and chief's meeting hosted by Hockey Manitoba, this past weekend. One of the major directives coming from that meeting is to increase mentorships for new officials.

Now here comes the concerning part,

TMHA is set to lose 5 adult officials to start this season and could lose another 5 by Christmas time. This is a combination of retirements and relocations. That will leave us with 7 adult officials to referee all of TMHA's hockey, U15AAA, U18AAA, KJHL and any regional events that are hosted by the north. We have a duty to make sure that our youth officials become adult officials to the best of our ability.

I am proposing the following budget and policy amendments:

I would like to set a budget for the Officiating Program of: \$6500.00

Mentorship – \$2500.00 – (\$1000.00 Previous)

- 2000.00 for Mentorship – Possibility of being supplemented by Norman (50.00 per game with a minimum of 2 official supervisions being completed).
- 500.00 for facility rentals

Administration - \$2000.00 (New Category)

- Arbiter Assigning Software \$775.00
- Clinic 1 – \$500.00
- Clinic 2 - \$500.00
- Other – \$250.00 (Radio Headsets for mentorship)

Wrap Up/Awards - \$1000.00

- Awards - \$500.00
- Prizes – \$250.00
- Food - \$100.00

Clinic Stipends – \$1000.00

Advancement Clinic - \$600.00

Two Selection Spots - \$400.00

For a total of \$6500.00

These funds will be in addition to the funds provided by TMHA for first year officials having their clinic fees refunded, Tournament Supervisor Fees and Game Fees.

I would like to propose the following policy updates:

Tournament Supervisor Fee: I would like to see this raised from \$250.00 to \$300.00 for the 2024-2025 tournament season. This can be payable to board members who are certified officials. I would like to see this offered on a rotating basis to our mentorship committee of four officials. The supervisor is required to be onsite for all tournament game play, responsible to working with the Director of Officiating to schedule officials and will need to submit a minimum of 6 supervisions through the HCR. Supervisions submitted during tournament play by the Tournament Supervisor will not be eligible for the Mentorship Allowance. The Tournament Supervisor would be required to sit on the discipline committee of the tournament. I would like to see this fee included in tournament budgets and the cost passed on to the tournament committee and that should be mandated to the tournament.

Mentorship Allowance: There was a lot of hesitancy in allowing board members to collect honorariums for completing mentorship. This is not consistent with associations across the province, for example Flin Flon allows for their Referee in Chief to collect their mentorship stipend of \$40.00 per game. Should it remain the board's wish to not want to adapt this policy, you would be removing up to three of the four senior officials from the mentorship process. In order to complete a proper mentorship, it requires a senior official to dedicate one hour away from their personal hockey and an additional hour completing the required reports. TMHA is compensated \$5.00 dollars for every completed report in the HCR.

To support these additional funds, fundraising may be completed by the officiating program and these funds will return to TMHA general revenue. Officials will be tasked with acts of community service such as assisting in "Showcase Week." The officiating program also was responsible for the majority of the Munn Cup social last year, a job that we are willing to put on again. There was a missed opportunity to collect 1500.00 in sponsorship funds last year dedicated specifically to officiating mentorship.

The officiating program is going to change from an unstructured approach to a structured approach this season. We are going to host monthly meetings and we have a commitment of resources on a weekly basis from Hockey Manitoba. We also will be developing curriculum around the possibility of a "Showcase Week" that will focus the majority of mentoring on those higher intensity games.

I would also like to motion for \$600.00 to complete the awards process from last season to be consistent with the season previous. These funds would not be included in this seasons budget.

200.00 – Officials Gifts – Socks + Visor towels

225.00 – Award Winner Gifts (Hoodie + Matte Black Whistle x3)

75.00 – Gift for Amanda Smith – Assignor (Hoodie + Gift Card)

100.00 Shipping for awards – No one was able to pick them up by the deadline in Winnipeg.

I look forward to questions and/or comments!

- Sean discussed referee attrition. Nationally we lose about half the referee. Sean has lived and worked in 4 different provinces and has seen positive and negative programs ran across the country and he wants to bring things here to have success. We are losing 5 adult officials, and potentially losing 5 by January. This is a huge concern for the amount of hockey they will be expected to officiate just outside of minor hockey. Sean wants to focus on mentorship to help grow the skills of our officiating team as we are losing adult referees. Had 4 officials go and upgrade their levels. Looking for more engagement to help keep our youth officials, who eventually turn into our adult officials.
- Jessie wants to know what the mentorship fee is getting for us and what the admin fee is
 - The admin fee is partially from the scheduling service they use and the money is the room booking and facility uses for clinics.
 - Mentorship, we have the most registrants in the North. We have the most amount of games. We recognize that game plan can happen without officials. Our tournaments could not have run without our qualified and confident officials. Having a supervisor helps keep the young officials confident and help stop bad habits and grow their abilities. The mentors will write up a report about their mentorship and this will be available to see. Would get feedback on our young referees and this could help with additional training.
 - Discussions breaking down costs and where each section will be going.
 - Dustin mentions why we have to worry about Junior B. Sean explains that if we do not pay for mentorship that those referees would go somewhere else where the money is.
 - ***Motion to spend up to \$1400 for arbiter and clinic bookings for referee program by Evan, seconded by Nicole, all in favour, motion carried.***
 - We will return to the discussion about the rest of Sean's budget next meeting.
- Evan, Equipment Manager
 - DQ will kick in \$2500 for U9 jersey's. They will also be willing to make donations for tournaments. These jerseys would be used for multiple years
- Kristal, Fundraising Coordinator
 - N/A
- U9 Director
 - N/A
- Tom, U13 Director

- Does not have enough coaches to begin
- Colleen, U18 Director
 - Needs to find some more coaches for U18.
 - If we are separating U15 and U18 that we might lose money on two divisions.
 - Had someone interested in coaching. ***Evan motions to approve Cody Genaille pending approved criminal checks, seconded by Sean, 9 in favour, 1 abstain, motion carried***

Old Business:

- Tryouts and Evaluations
 - Meeting with the head evaluator when he is back. Going to go over coaching plans. Will simplify the evaluation forms. It is extremely time consuming to send an email to every applicant, however, the parents liked to see this.

New Business:

- House League Proposal

“Showcase Week”

Thompson Minor Hockey Association’s Plan to Revamp House League Play

Preposed by: Sean Weatherill – Director of Officiating

Northern Manitoba has struggled with creating competitive and meaningful hockey due to several factors including but not limited to: Distance, Cost and Adverse Weather. Representative teams are forced to head south several times a year to seek the right environment for their development. However, there is a gap in which some players fall because they play house league. Players who either elect or their ability is not quite at the level to make a representative team, remain in Thompson year-round. While our coaches do their best, one of the things that is missing is meaningful hockey and team identity. Should a player be the last cut from a representative program, it is possible to be in that position for the duration of their playing career. How can we expect one to get better if we do not provide opportunities for meaningful hockey. TMHA has gone a great distance in making camps, dryland, nutrition available to all players which forms the building blocks for players of all abilities to work on their skillset for the following year. A player’s desire to succeed is second to none in defining their success. There have been discussions at a regional level to create either a northern house league so more communities can access competitive hockey, but this is at a standstill.

We also have issues keeping players attention due to an over saturation of ice times throughout the season. A player who plays representative hockey likely is on the ice 2-3 times a week with their rep team and an additional 2-3 times a week in house league programing. This could be addition to any other ice that is sought by the parents such as private camps, little chiefs and other opportunities not in TMHA’s scope. One of the number one complaints/comments from parents is that they want to see more games starting before the Christmas break. Hockey is a big form of entertainment for the community, especially game play.

I would like to propose a model that removes the ratio of 2 practices to 1 game/ 2 games to 1 practice for the entirety of this season and replaces it with a monthly blitz of games.

For example, U11 could look like this:

Week One: 1 Shared Practice, 1 Solo Practice, 1 Game

Week Two: 1 Solo Practice, 1 Game

Week Three: 1 Shared Practice, 1 Solo Practice, 1 Game

Week Four: 3 Games + Skills Night

Provided U11 has four teams as projected it would require the following bracket:

1v2, 1v3, 1v4

2v3, 2v4

3v4

For a total of six games for that division, depending on the numbers I would propose U13 would look similar. U15/U18 who could have as many as four teams due to the influx from Nelson House may follow this model or could elect to play best of three series as detailed below.

U15 (1) v U15 (2) x 3 (Monday Tuesday, Thursday)

U18 (1) v U18 (2) x3 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)

To complete this programming, we would require up to 18 ice slots from Monday to Thursday, which appears consistent with the ice we already utilize but with limited room for practice. Representative, female teams and teams wishing to practice on their day off could elect to use morning ice, weekend ice or unused slots mid week.

I would propose that we record statistics from the game play including the score, number of points. I would propose that each division has a weekly winner and then the league has a regular season champion. These statistics could then set a playoff bracket for March after provincials.

U11-1 (5) v U11-2 (3)

U11-1 (7) v U11-3 (6)

U11-1 (7) v U11-4 (2)

U11-2 (8) v U11-3 (5)

U11-2 (2) v U11-4 (1)

U11-3 (2) v U11-4 (1)

U11-1 (3-0)

U11-2 (2-1)

U11-3 (1-2)

U11-4 (0-3)

If this format occurred, U11-1 would be the weekly champion with 6 points. Should this be replicated all season long, they would be the season champion and would hold the number 1 playoff spot. The number 1 playoff spot would play U11-4 in a playoff series.

I propose that we complete "showcase" weeks in the last week of the following months: October, November, January, and February. Coaches would be encouraged to play their entire team or roll lines as usual. Team rosters would not change from when they are selected unless changes were made by TMHA for balancing. If a team was unable to play due to the majority of their players being away for representative play, a decision could be made to alter the schedule or have them not participate via forfeit.

I believe this will be beneficial for the referee development model that I am working outside of this proposal. I would tailor content for officials on a weekly basis, including work on the two, three and four

official systems, game management and exposure to a higher intensity hockey. I would ask that U11 games happen in the earliest time followed by U13, followed by U15/18. This is already our current model but will allow for the older age groups to still have the opportunity to officiate and play.

On the Friday, I propose we use our exhibition ice to host a skills competition on the first ice slot and a feature game on the second slot. I have some general interest from other associations willing to come in Friday evening and play one game Friday and one game Saturday.

The skills competition could be organized in 2 ways.

1. We select four kids from every team, forming one U11, U13, U15 and U18 team and put them through the skills competitions.
2. We select one division to have their skills night, for example starting with U18 and finishing with U11.

The Skills would be similar to the NHL Allstar skills competition, including events such as fastest skater, hardest shot, accuracy, puck handling etc. Division coaches and volunteers could set up and run stations.

This also provides the opportunity to attract new and exciting sponsors. For example X, Pizza Place may wish to provide the winning team in each division or a certain division a pizza party. This would be the X Pizza Place Champion of the Week. Other businesses may wish to donate monetarily to the costs of the program. We could run weeklong 50/50 draws, using raffle box or other similar sites, drawing at the end of the second period of the final showcase game. There was also talk of moving the Munn Cup Social, or having another volunteer/coach's appreciation event, which could be done either the final regular season week or after the playoffs. There would have to be some fine tuning around our tournaments, special events and provincials. All other hockey would remain the same as usual under this proposal. Once the formatting is complete, we would just need to adjust house league schedules and announce to the association. I would like to reward the teams who are most sportsmanlike, league champions and overall champions with a banner we can hang in the arena for one year.

In sum, while this would provide a goal for players to win and may not exactly fit with our constitution, it will provide fun competitive game play for participants of all levels. I am hopeful this will also positively reduce incidents of bullying and other behavioural issues as there is a team identity. Should this be announced in short order, I would hope that it also may attract more volunteers to our programming as it is more like the hockey they remember playing. However, that is just an assumption rather than fact.

- Jessie states that we can't do all games during a week because of Hockey Canada. Like the idea of the skills competition. Jessie believes this would be a deterrent as many kids would not want to participate in a skills night. Jessie states that Flin Flon is trying to create a Norman House League which would make this plan redundant. Discussions about whether or not the Norman House League is actually happening due to it having to be made and planned within the next 6 weeks to get running. Discussions also went on about how we can still maintain the correct amount of practices throughout the year while also still doing this week of games.
- Jessie questions about the proposal mentioning representative teams. Sean clarifies that the only mention of representative teams playing would be for a fun game against other Norman teams during the skills competition night to make it a bigger community event.
- Martin talks about how sometimes kids feel like they have been banished to House league and that this proposal could potentially help House League feel better. It could also help with the bullying in the rooms by making the house league team feel more like an actual team and foster comradery.

- Will talk about a program that comes with our website that would allow us to make teams and have schedules with resulting team standings and player points. In prior house league, players used to be able to look at their stats.
- Race to the Rink
 - Move to next meeting. Waiting for a budget to be made and proposed to the board.
 - We were able to outfit 16 kids in equipment last year which helps get more registrants.
- Fundraising for Team Clothing
 - People are divided on this topic. How would this work with sponsorship. What kind of limitations and policies are in place that could hinder this.
 - Look at policy before we decide to vote.
 - Some numbers were thrown around. 250-300 seemed to be a reasonable number that would pay for a track suit and potential a toque or something.
 - Table this for next meeting after we go through policy.
- Goalie Registration Fee
 - Hockey Canada would trump. We cannot reimburse U9s as there isn't allowed to be full time goalies in U9. We also provide equipment for the U9s.
- King Miner Jerseys
 - They have out of date names. The sizing and wear is making it time. All jerseys will be the same for A or AA. Allow for us to use smaller jerseys for the kids that need one and the larger ones.
 - Last time we ordered jerseys:
 - The 3 sets cost upwards to 700. Wants to change who we order from for next year.
 - Do we have a jersey upgrading system? U13 and U15 are in
 - Are we getting any rebounders? They are all gone.
 - Evan is looking into allowing us to get sponsorship for jerseys for representation.
 - Matt is going to give contact information to Evan for Home Run Sports and Keener's Jerseys.
 - Matt asks if Evan has considered looking at going paperless with game sheets. Which would be the cheaper option. This would also bring technology into the mix and could be hard for the parents to do.
- Non-sanctioned Hockey
 - Little Chiefs plays tournaments outside of the season and are allowed due to the 94 calls to action by the TRC
 - Staffers would be a different league and they would be operating away from Hockey Canada. TMHA players would not be able to play for the staffers and play here. If a player was caught playing for both they would be suspended for a year from the day they were caught. TMHA will not allow this type of situation.
- U7 into U9 Player
 - We will be willing to look at him in October as he is not here for September to do the process of play-up evaluations
 - Jessie and Matt will be in contact with all the people who have put in play-up evaluations and give them the dates they will be able to go skate with the group they are trying to play up in to be evaluated prior to tryout weekend.

Standing Agenda Items

- N/A

Next Meeting September 4th 2024

Adjournment Tiffany motions to adjourn, will seconds, all in favour, motion carried.