

NorWOSSA Annual Spring Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 4/2006

Madrid Room, Travellodge Airline, Thunder Bay

9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Atikokan – Darryl Gannon, Diana Coutts

Beaver Brae-Dan Shankowsky, Reg McDonald, Sean Monteith

Dryden- Geoff Zilkalns, Carol Gardam, Scott Urquhart

Fort Frances-John Gibson, Shane Bliss

Ignace-George Lotsios, Laura Latus

Pelican Falls- Ray Allan

Rainy River- Guy Arpin, Casey Slack

Red Lake- Randy Wills, Taryn Vachon

Queen Elizabeth DHS- Mike Lalonde, Janine Lavoie, Craig Myles

Thomas Aquinas- Bob Kowal

Whitefish Bay- Patty Chisholm, Jack Chisholm

President-Gord Brooks

Vice-President- Jim Robertson

Past President- Geoff Zilkalns

Secretary-Treasurer-Steve Poling

1. President's remarks- Gord Brooks

Gord said the presidency is a great position and he encourages people to get involved in the executive when we discuss the election component later in the meeting. Soccer begins this weekend and we look forward to a great season. We have a 4 page agenda and therefore need to move quickly through the items.

2. Financial Report - Steve Poling

Motion 1 (Zilkalns/Arpin)

That NorWOSSA accept the 2005/2006 financial report as presented.

CARRIED 11-0-0

3. Minutes of Fall Meeting (2005)- Errors or omissions

Motion 2 (Zilkalns/Lotsios)

That the minutes of the fall 2005 NorWOSSA meeting be accepted.

CARRIED 11-0-0

4. Mike Smith Award and NorWOSSA Recognition Award

Committee formed Bob Kowal, Taryn Vachon, and John Gibson.

The winner of the 2006 Michael Smith Award is Corriisa Hanson.

The winner of the 2006 NorWOSSA Recognition Award is long serving member George Lotsios.

5. Presentation and Discussion with Carey Lasuik MHSAA

Carey did a presentation about the MHSAA system and outlined how their system worked. He said that their members were willing to discuss the options and that there had been conversation with OFSAA as well. Gord outlined that NWOSSAA approval would be required in order to consider the move as without it OFSAA would not OK the move.

A question and answer session followed:

a) How do your schools feel about this possibility?

The are open minded to sit and listen. They recognize that NW Ontario is in a unique situation.

b) How are your classifications organized?

More than school population is considered. AAAA is 400+ and urban, AAA is 300+ and rural etc.

c) Which sports do you not have?

Cheerleading, Wrestling, Girls Hockey (only in Winnipeg). We do have team golf, track and field, cross country. Soccer is split with city soccer in the spring and rural in the fall. As well BB/VB are at the same time in line with your boys season.

d) Do you have defined seasons?

No games are allowed outside of the season of play as laid out. There is no definitions related to practices.

e) Can you give us a general outline of how a Championship runs?

You have to win your division. You can't go to a championship without playing someone else. There is no automatic berth. The Zone champs and 1 wild card (they apply with an outline of their whole season, a letter from their principal, and a \$50 cheque). The primary purpose of the championships is the competition. Special events attendance is mandatory as part of the championship experience. 99% of all costs are fundraised. There is no entry fee.

f) What are the annual fees?

A \$275, AA \$325, AAA\$450, AAAA \$500. There would be extra costs associated with extra refs which would be borne by NorWOSSA.

g) What about meeting representation?

Each zone is allowed 1 rep (administrator) and 2 others and 3 votes per zone. Every zone had a right to bring forward items. There is a \$120 AGM fee which includes meals and accommodation.

h) Other differences or items we should be aware of?

No Grade 8s are allowed., Eligibility is Aug 31st, There is an age cap (19) and players can only play for 4 years.

i) What are the advantage to NorWOSSA from your mind?

Really that never crossed our minds. Northern Manitoba as well is in a unique situation. We are here for the kids and what is best for them.

Geoff Zilkalns mentioned that in football there has been a growth in the sport and no animosity when NorWOSSA teams have success. But 4A basketball and Volleyball may be less willing to leave the perimeter.

j) Is it all Varsity?

We have Varsity in all divisions. JV in Volleyball and Basketball for rural and urban. Cross Country and Track also have JV. Championships are rotated with the North hosting less often. Verden hosts a lot.

k) Would there be hockey politics involved?

From MHSAA perspective it would be all or nothing.

There were a number of issues we have had with OFSAA brought forward by the membership.

l) When are the championships?

AAAA is weekends Thurs, Fri, Sat. Wild card games are the week before (except the north which use neutral sites as much as possible). Zones are 10 days previous.

MHSAA tournaments are 99% on weekends. Mike Lalonde mentioned their website and said there are about 25 tournaments for Volleyball and Basketball.

If there are any further questions call Carey at 204.925.5642 (or 5624 fax).

6. Ron MacDonald Presentation

Ron is a grade 8 teacher who wishes to involve Whitedog students in Hockey. They tried on a trial basis 10 years ago but now wish to try again. They are asking to join high school hockey 'A' as soon as possible. They would have their home games in Whitedog (indoor full facility) 1 hour north of Kenora. They would have to bring in qualified referees. They have 20-21 players each game. They were advised that teams

looking to get involved arrange an exhibition schedule so they can learn more about what is required to be successful.

7. Business arising from Fall Minutes(2005)

(a) MHSSA option Gord suggested that NorWOSSA move at NWOSSAA that they approve further investigation of the MHSAA option for NorWOSSA.

(b) Recruiting Guidelines (Poling, Gannon, McCabe)

Motion 3(Poling/P.Chisholm)

Moved that NorWOSSA implement an Ethics Bylaw for September 2006

CARRIED 11-0-0

(c) Constitutional Review Committee (Poling/Arpin)

Motion 4

Moved that the NorWOSSA amendments to the constitution proposed be accepted with the amendment that wording be changed in 2.1.5 from “for students” to “for all members”.

CARRIED 11-0-0

(d) Motion 5 (Bliss/Beckett) Moved that the NorWOSSA soccer finals be a two day competition.

Withdrawn

(e) Volleyball score sheet errors (OVA vs Local) (MacDonald)

Withdrawn

(f) Junior player eligibility for NWOSSA and OFSAA competition (Arpin/Lalonde)

Motion 6

Moved that junior players be declared ineligible for NWOSSA playoffs but may be added to rosters for subsequent competition.

DEFEATED 0-11-0

(g) Referee's Insurance Report (Brooks)

It was suggested that this be discussed with senior refs.

6. Convenor's Reports- Winter Sports

(a) Hockey -

Boys Hockey AA(Ste. Croix) Report accepted. Greg felt that the 3 NorWOSSA teams played and represented us well. Playoff dates should be booked early in the year to avoid scheduling issues later on. There were emails, cards, and many compliments on Fort Frances' hosting of OFSAA. The tournament was first class and

congratulations to the organizing committee. The whole town was in support of the tournament.

1) Motion 7 Move that the playoffs for AA and A hockey be scheduled on different days. (Zilkalns/Bliss)

Rationale: Less competition for neutral officials and ice time. As well points were made regarding flexibility for refereeing and ice time.

CARRIED 7-0-4

2) Motion 8 That the hockey regular season, for both boys and girls, not start any earlier than the Tuesday after NorWOSSA court playoffs. (Zilkalns/Tremonti)

Rationale: allows most kids to finish their commitment to first season without loss of hockey time

Parents won't question paying the same fee as non BB/VB players and not being able to play all games

DEFEATED 2-6-3

3) Motion 9 To be eligible to participate in the playoffs, an athlete must (friendly amendment)..be on the original eligibility list or ...play in a minimum of 20% of that team's regular season games. Sports with more specific guidelines would still have to have those guidelines met. (Zilkalns/Gardam)

Rationale: impression of picking up "ringers" is gone...also kids who played all year do not get benched for "new guys". Concerns were raised regarding injuries and academic eligibility.

CARRIED 7-0-4

Motion 10(Ste.Croix/Bliss):

Be it resolved that once playoff dates for boys' AA hockey are established they should then stand. If the home team does not have ice time booked for the date then the home team should have to play the game at the visitor's rink. The home team will then play game #2 at the visitor's rink. If both teams do not have ice booked for the playoff date then the convenor will select a venue closest the home team venue to conduct the playoff game.

Rationale:

Boys' hockey playoff dates are established in the spring previous to the hockey season where each coach and athletic director knows and understands that they might have to host a game on these dates then these dates should stand. If a school

cannot get ice time then why should the visiting team be inconvenienced by the host school. We need to maintain the integrity of the schedule.

DEFEATED 1-4-6

A (Schardt) TA won the gold medal. Report received. Concerns were raised regarding Trainers on the bench, insurance for participants including referees, and exhibition games with non NorWOSSA teams (the response was that this is a school based decision).

Girls Hockey AA(Dan Shankowsky)
A (Wilkins) QE won gold.

Motion 11 (Lavoie/Lalonde)

Moved that NorWOSSA update the NorWOSSA Playing Regulations for Girls Hockey. As per the attached the changes in order to bring the Playing Regulations in alignment with Girls Hockey Rules.

CARRIED 6-0-5

(b) Girl's Volleyball - "A" Division – Gold medallists were Junior girls: Whitefish Bay Winterhawks and Senior Girls: Thomas Aquinas Saints.

"AA" Division- FSAA went well and was webcast to the world. The CFL and 3 AHL teams will be using the same technology next year!

Motion 12 (Zilkalns/Lalonde)

Move that the amendments to the volleyball playing regulations be accepted.

CARRIED 11-0-0

(c) Boy's Basketball - "A" Division

"AA" Division – Gold medallists were Junior Boys – Beaver Brae Broncos, Senior Boys – Dryden Eagles.

Motion 13(Lotsios/Lalonde)

Moved that the tiebreaking procedure for basketball be amended to read as follows:

1.6.0 Tie-Breaking Format (for end of season positions)

The format for breaking ties in basketball is as follows:

Should a tie occur for any of the top 3 positions, the position shall be determined by applying the following criteria in the order listed until the tie is broken:

- i) the greatest number of game points in the games between the teams involved (ie) 2 points for a win, 0 for a loss
- ii) fewest points allowed in the games between the teams involved. If three or more teams are tied, the team(s) with the least points is ranked higher than the other(s). The remaining team(s) begin at Tie-Breaking Format 1.6.0 i) .
- iii) fewest points allowed in all league games in games played with all teams.
- iv) a format decided upon by the President in consultation with the convenor of the sport.

CARRIED 11-0-0

(d) Curling – The proposal in general was accepted but due to the huge agenda the changes were tabled to the fall.

(e) Cheerleading (McDonald) Report received. There was positive feedback on the new format. QE has an up and coming squad and Reg gave an open invitation to them. There will be a Fall Athlete's clinic. Call Debbie if you are interested.

Motion 14 (Gibson/McDonald) Moved that cheerleading remain a temporary demonstration sport for the 2006/2007 season.

CARRIED 4-0-7

7. Spring Sports

(a) Badminton – Report received and amendments accepted

CARRIED 11-0-0

(b) Soccer AA (Beckett) A (Pias) It was felt that the convenors did a great job cooperating and coordinating the new schedule. They are thanked for their efforts. The playing regulations were accepted as suggested. Thanks to Heather Pais A NorWOSSA Soccer convenor for rewriting these.

8. Eenchokay Birchstick High School Hockey Program Presentation.

Kurt MacRae and the principal made an impressive presentation with respect to becoming involved with NorWOSSA high school boys hockey as part of the next step in their school wide retention program.

9. Fall Sports

(a) Football – Geoff Zilkalns reported that there were a couple of new teams in the league and that things were going well.

(b) Girl's Basketball AA -There will be a refs clinic in Dryden at the junior Girls BBall tournament.(October 21/22) Floor evaluations can take place in Fort Frances at the senior girls tournament.

A

(c) Boy's Volleyball AA - Dryden is hosting AA OFSAA.

A

Motion 15 (Arpin/Poling)

Moved that NorWOSSA update the volleyball playing regulations as follows:

1. Change 1.2.0 Age restrictions to read Jan 1 now rather than Aug 31 for Seniors?
2. That 1.6.2.b be clarified.

WITHDRAWN

10. New Business

(a) Discussion of hockey presentations – It was suggested that the presenters arrange exhibition games for a period of two years. The participants of these games must meet NorWOSSA eligibility requirements. They should make every attempt to play at each Single A site, play a minimum of 3 away games, and host 3 games. In the fall they should be invited to contact A schools to arrange games.

(b) Rainy River and Lake of Woods twinning (Arpin/Slack)

Rainy River was asked to discuss the possibilities of twinning with Lake of the Woods school in Baudet. The combined population of the school would be over 500 students and would be classified as a AA school. The item was discussed and the league did not recommend it.

(c) Motion 16 (Poling/Robertson)

Moved that NorWOSSA accept the submission of the NorWOSSA Constitutional Review Committee and that the Constitution, Bylaws, and Playing Regulations be adjusted to reflect these proposals. (to be implemented in September 2006).

Each of the constitution, bylaws, and each playing regulations (with the exception of Curling which is to be finalized at the Fall 2006 NorWOSSA meeting) were reviewed and accepted.

CARRIED 11-0-0

(d) OFSAA Rule changes (Brooks)

From the OFSAA Gossiper there are no rule changes pending that we are aware of right now.

(e) NWOSSA Issues – Concerns were raised about the interruption of the Volleyball AA rotation which was interrupted by OFSAA being hosted in Dryden.

Motion 17 (Zilkalns/Arpin)

Moved that NorWOSSA ask NWOSSAA to support us in our investigation of joining the MHSAA League.

CARRIED 11-0-0

Mike Lalonde is to invite Doug Gellatly to our November meeting to discuss our concerns and this investigation.

(f) OFSAA Issues – Please fill in your data sheets and give them to Mike Lalonde as soon as possible.

(g) Elections of Officers – Secretary/Treasurer(Zilkalns) Nominated by Mike Lalonde and George Lotsios congratulations is in order for Reg McDonald the new secretary treasurer for NorWOSSA!

11. Selection of Convenors for 2006-2007

Convenors

Football Ron Gustavson Winnipeg
Volleyball Boys A Guy Arpin
Volleyball Boys AA Reg McDonald
Basketball Girls A George Lotsios
Basketball Girls AA Carol Gardam
Hockey Girls A Mark Wilkins
Hockey Girls AA Clinton Breutsch
Hockey Boys A Andy Schardt
Hockey Boys AA Greg Ste.Croix
Volleyball Girls A Bob Kowal
Volleyball Girls AA Geoff Zilkalns
Basketball Boys A Mike Lalonde
Basketball Boys AA Reg McDonald
Curling Bonnie Szczerkowski
Cheerleading Debbie Allan
Badminton Mike Krassey
Soccer A Heather Pias
Soccer AA Shane Beckett

12. Date of Fall Meeting – Wednesday, November 22nd in Dryden at DHS at 10:00 am. Team Skyline will be doing a presentation and buying lunch.

13. Adjournment of meeting