

**Twin Centre Minor Hockey Association
Executive Meeting Minutes**

December 2, 2020 – 7:30pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: David Dienesch, Laura Albrecht, Andrew Martin, Troy Cluthe, Greg Gedcke, Brett Bartlett, Kyle Mavin, Mike Ellison White, Krista Edwards, Tammy Egli, Tonya Monro

Absent: Bob Crawford, Stefan Mitani, Linda Chamberlain, Dan Schaus, Luke Piasecki

1. Call to Order – 7:39 pm

2. Minutes from November 18, 2020

Motion: To accept
Moved by: Tammy Egli
Seconded by: Mike Ellison-White
Vote: All in favour
Motion: Passed

3. Association Reports

Treasurer Report: Tammy Egli

One more cheque was received for the Jack Lichty fund, update coming mid-month when Tammy can pull the next report.

Registrar: Tammy Egli

Banquet Chair Report – Krista Edwards

Krista asked if she should book the hall and will look into if a deposit is required. The cost of the rental is unknown, Greg suggested reserving the date for now.

Photo Coordinator Report: Luke Piasecki

Nothing to report.

Fundraising Chair Report: Open

Nothing to report.

Compliance Report: Linda Chamberlain

Nothing to report.

Community Development Chair Report – Luke Piasecki

Food drive set for December 13, over 25 volunteers to pick up, routes sent out, and thank you to all that partnered.

4. Hockey Operations Report

U11-U21 Convenor Report: Greg Gedcke

Checked in with the coaches and haven't heard a lot of feedback with the recent changes. Tammy has assisted with the required coaching credentials and police checks, waiting on two qualifications for one of the younger groups. Tammy confirmed that everyone has been rostered except for one U13, U15 and U18. Greg has not set up a meeting with the other centers with the new restrictions, plans to set up a time in the near future in case we are able to move forward.

U7-U9 Convenor Report: Stefan Mitani

Nothing to report.

Equipment Chair Report: Andrew Martin

Andrew sent an email with his proposals from 4 different suppliers with cost estimates and the amount they would give back to the association. One supplier has contacted Andrew a few times to see if we have decided. Andrew would like to decide if we are going forward or waiting until next year. Troy felt the options look good and feels we should go with two, he liked SG and Affiliated. Andrew felt SG wasn't overly generous with their information. Affiliated said they would provide a sizing block for all items for convenience and would give back 10% rather than 5%. Some people have gone ahead already and ordered on their own. Sports International provided the jerseys, Affiliated provided a quote but wasn't the chosen provider. David appreciated what Andrew put everything together and likes the excellent selection and range of costs and brands offered compared to SG. With the season the way it is, no budget or fundraising, it is difficult to decide. Most people who would want to get Christmas gifts, we are too late for that. Andrew had asked for each to provide the range and put something together, he was most impressed with Affiliated. Mike likes to stay local but two offerings would be nice. Greg doesn't think there is any rush this year, likes that there would be two options for the coaches and SG would need to stay competitive. SG's response at one point was basically questioning why we were looking elsewhere or if we were looking for more money, he feels they are a bit disappointed. Currently, there is not a link under apparel, Andrew suggested updating with the two suppliers or provide a contact. SG does not want to pay a licence fee, Affiliated would. The online store may be limited if we don't use Affiliated as a sole supplier. Is it possible to post the offerings on the website? Andrew will ask but he feels they may want more of a commitment. Andrew feels we should not commit this season and allow everyone to order on their own for this season.

Motion to put communication on the website indicating that we do not have an apparel agreement for the 2020/21 season and include Andrew Martin as a contact if they would like further information, artwork or logo.

Moved by: Andrew Martin

Seconded by: Troy Cluthe

Vote: All in favour

Motion: Passed

Andrew will reach out and thank them and advise that we are not going to formalize an agreement this year. Andrew will send Barb information to update the website.

Pucks seem to be disappearing faster than Andrew can replace them, they have not been locked and nothing has disappeared, except the pucks.

Coaching Committee Chair Report: Troy Cluthe

Nothing to report.

Game Coordinator Report: Mike Ellison White

Adam, the referee in charge, would like to encourage people to sign up for refereeing as the Ref's Association is putting it back on the center itself to have a good amount of referees. We currently have only 4 referees for local, 5 next year. If we don't have more, we will have to pay travel to get referees to come for our games. Mike suggested to put the word out if you know of anyone that may be interested in becoming a referee. David suggested posting something on the website. Mike will ask Adam for more details, although he doesn't feel it's our responsibility, but will get something to post.

Ice Scheduler Report: Tonya Munro

Ice is scheduled until Dec 20th, after that they will let us know what ice we will have. Each team gets one ice time per week but some ice times have changed. David thanked Tonya for making all the changes. Ice is cancelled from Dec 21st to January 3rd. Brett wondered if we should cancel the break as we likely won't be changing the bubbles. Greg felt that the two weeks gives everyone a break and ice cost wasn't considered for this period. Andrew suggested asking what teams would be interested, Greg feels that people are likely expecting a refund. Greg wanted to make sure that if we add a week to make sure the two U18 teams aren't missed. Mike wondered considering if we move into the grey zone, those weeks may be cancelled anyway, the two week break will give us some time to change or balance out the teams if we chose to do so.

Hockey Development Report: Brett Bartlett

Had 2 successful weeks of skills, two dropped out last minute and one dropped out for the second session. Cost is approximately \$16 per player per week, much less than the Zone. Overall went well, Brett will have to refund once all costs have been confirmed. Would cheques be an option, what is the best way to track this? Tammy hasn't received the money yet, Brett can transfer all the money to the Association, Tammy would pay for the ice, North Ice and issue refunds through cheques. Brett will check with North Ice about the bill. With the switch in structure, Greg asked if Brett would be able to provide some guidance to the coaches, Stefan had something very generic, some coaches may only be used to traditional practices. Brett is willing to put something together and wants to make sure coaches are aware of the skills apparatus that is available. Greg and Brett will schedule something to make sure there is variety and the kids don't get bored. Tammy confirmed the ice cost per hour is \$140.38 for skills. The ice cost reduction will be in effect while we are in the red zone as per Council.

Tournament Chair Report: Kyle Mavin

Nothing to report.

5. New business

Programming Plan-

- Currently in the red control zone, ice cost is now half price, one team per ice time once a week
- Cost needs to be revisited and do a budget review, look at projecting until the end of the year
- What if- we stay in the red, what are we going to do?
- David has received two official refund requests, one was because of the families schedule change and the other was because of the skill level of the team, it was agreed at the beginning that refunds would only be issued if we cancel the season. He has heard of others questioning the reduction in ice time, one parent asked 'what are our kids getting out of it?'
- David feels we are obligated to review the refund requests as we will be revisiting the programming plan
- With our return to play, we said we would try to give each team two ice times, if we start to give refunds, we will end up running out of money
- Krista feels we should hold out and if at the end we have funds remaining, we provide a refund or apply it to the following year
- Tammy confirmed the one family has personal circumstances change and feels it is that one parent can't manage the ice times, the other one asked for the refund prior to us going into the red, it was more a personal preference
- Tammy feels that if it is a financial issue, they could consider the refund, Krista agrees that if it is a financial situation the circumstance should be revisited, Tammy said they can confirm if it is a finance related issue and then determine if a refund will be given
- David feels if one is given a refund it will just continue and their will end up not being enough kids for a team, Greg feels there should be compensation at the end of the year based on the reduced ice cost
- One parent brought up the discount we received, David had to clarify that we pay a different rate than what was published
- David confirmed we are looking to break even with money that we have collected and expenses we have incurred, he feels if there is funds left at the end of the year, we could issue refunds
- Could we take each case on an individual basis and bring it to the Association? In a normal season, refunds would be considered before December 15th, and provided at a pro-rated amount, Tammy confirmed refund requests were not denied in the past
- Tammy confirmed there is a cost associated with refunds, as cheques would have to be purchased, we also dropped our fundraising fee, and used some funds from the prior year, unless we fully close down and are no longer running the program no refunds should be issued
- Greg feels we need to communicate something about the reduced ice cost, other than that refunds will not be issued
- Kyle said there may be a specific circumstance that should be addressed whether it be financially or schedule driven, David said if it is indicated as a financial hardship, the board would need to vote on it based on the constitution
- Tammy also noted that anyone who is in a position of financial hardship, we do have funds to help people out
- One of the refund request includes a portion of the constitution, however this is overridden this year based on our return to play
- As far as David knows, all the kids are still attending

- Kyle asked what the refund is for if the kids are still coming to hockey, are we offering refunds now based on these situations?
- Tammy doesn't feel we should give refunds based on these two situations
- The reason we put the override in place this year was because of COVID and we based the costs on everyone stayed registered, Tammy feels if we start to say we will give refunds, the word will get out, and it could cause us to have to close the program
- Did we indicate that the return to play would trump the constitution? David doesn't feel that we specifically mentioned that the return to play would trump the constitution, but we did call it out and did provide it to everyone
- We wouldn't have hockey without the return to play program approved by OMHA, the policy for refund this year was put in the policy
- Mike feels that making decisions on a case by case basis could open up for a lot of requests, if we open it up for one it opens it up for everyone
- Laura noted that we are not being consistent, if we are considering the refunds on a case by case basis we are following the constitution, if we are saying the return to play trumps the constitution we need to follow the return to play and not provide any refunds no matter the circumstance

Motion that the Return to Play plan, including refunds, overrides the constitution based on the fact that the plan had to be approved by OMHA to run our 2020/21 season.

Moved by: Tammy Egli
 Seconded by: Kyle Mavin
 Vote: All in favour
 Motion: Passed

- Mike feels we need to be fiscally responsible based on the reduced ice cost and should put out that we will make adjustments at the end of the year, if we flip flop from orange to red, it makes sense to wait until the end of the year
- Tammy confirmed we are already using funds from our bank account as the registration fees were not covering our costs this year
- Mike said we will need to be very clear and explain exactly how we came with our numbers and budget

Motion that we inform everyone of the reduced ice cost while in the red zone, and look at providing a refund at the end of the season once all expenses have been covered.

Moved by: Tammy Egli
 Seconded by: Mike Ellison White
 Vote: All in favour
 Motion: Passed

- Mike asked if we are going to offer a refund to the Lichty family? Tammy feels we should definitely but unsure of the time period we should address this, this should be added to the next agenda and also think of ways to honour Jack

- Mike feels that we should consider adjusting the teams to make it fun for everyone, he feels that this year it is important for everyone to enjoy themselves and not have some teams losing all the time
- Should we revisit the programming plan, what are people hearing? Greg hasn't heard anything from the coaches, only saw the one email shared with the group
- Kitchener polled the parents and cancelled the program and has had a lot of backlash, Greg commended the group for pushing forward, if we stop refunds would have to be issued
- David has received a few comments from U13, U15, U9, and U18 with regards to how the teams were divided, now that we aren't playing games the competitiveness doesn't factor in at this point
- U9- there's a very different skill gap, some kids are lighting it up, when one player can get up to 10 goals per game
- U13- based on competitiveness, one team was more dominating, is it goalie related?
- U15- one team has lost a couple strong players and that team is really struggling
- U18- overall competitiveness, some games are lopsided, some aren't, Greg confirmed one team hasn't won yet, but they have been close
- The two week period would allow for shuffling, should the coaches be involved? It is felt that would be important to have the coaches input as they have seen all the teams play and all the players, this would provide more well-rounded feedback
- Krista has heard from many parents that they are very thankful that their kids can get on the ice
- Greg feels they should schedule a discussion to even out the teams per age group with Stefan and Troy. No motion required, as this was part of our plan
- Greg feels that if we have a couple people to mediate for each group, and have the coaches being involved in the exchanges
- Mike feels there may be a lot of pressure on the coaches as they may not want to say anything
- Greg is ok with having more people involved it will just take more time, Troy asked how we are going to adjust the teams, based on skill or arrange the teams to be even
- The goal would be to even out the teams so that if and when we play games again, all teams would be even, Troy feels people are now going to be upset if we move players or don't move players
- Greg suggested making the plans for changes, and only put the plan in place if we move back to orange
- Maybe for the U9's we may need to break them into U8 and U9, Greg has all the scores posted on the website and there are some large score gaps
- Tammy asked the coaches if the players enjoy the group they are with while we are just doing skills, Brett said from what he can see the players are enjoying themselves, he said the most improvement he saw was with the LL players. It seems that having the teams mixed has shown more improvement with the lower skilled players than the higher skilled player
- David feels his team is also enjoying themselves
- Kyle said he has a couple first year players that are enjoying themselves as well as experienced players, he feels his team is the weakest and would like to see the same group of kids stay together
- Greg suggested that if we have playoffs, we could have something like a handicap based on the lack of balance

- Krista said that with U11, some of the kids are just getting used to the kids/ coaches, and changes may be taken personally and perceived in the wrong way
- David feels that they will leave it with the return to play group to work with the conveners with how to address the unbalanced teams
- Mike wondered if we consider moving with other centers if we would adjust the teams at that point, it seems there is mixed feelings with adjusting the teams as some feel they should keep them together but would they be ok with it if we tier?
- Krista asked mike if we should change the teams now and again if we tier? Mike thinks it would be nice to balance the teams to make sure it's fun for everyone
- Kyle feels we would have look at things logistically to make sure the coaches and trainers don't get moved and teams are left scrambling for coaches and or trainers
- David confirmed we are going to leave this with the committee, and doesn't feel it makes sense to make any changes before the break
- Are we going to take 2 full weeks or restart on the 27th, we would have to work around New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
- Mike wondered if we give the coaches the contact info to book their own ice and allow them to book under our rate, David feels this would be an issue as any ice we rent has to be TC sanctioned, Greg doesn't feel this would be the best idea as we would likely get more negative feedback
- The two weeks were originally required if making any team changes, which isn't required now as they are all still in the same bubble, two weeks are not required

6. General Discussion

- OHF – screening – has not been implemented – new version is not as straightforward and this is proving challenging; decide if we need to use the new version or keep the current one – Hurricanes, Waterloo minor hockey staying with the existing version – suggestion to keep our current version with possibly one new question added about COVID test – work the Township to add; then use additional forms to support the new information if required – Luke to continue working on the go forward
- Suggestion to send out a reminder about the importance of being truthful and accurate on the questions
- Luke will update when he has something further to share

7. Next meeting: December 22nd, 7:30

8. Adjournment **10:05 pm**
 Motion to: Adjourn
 Moved by: Troy Cluthe
 Seconded by: Greg Gedcke
 Vote: All in favour
 Motion: Passed