

NORTH METRO GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

General Managers Meeting

PLACE: Thornhill Community Centre

DATE: October 19, 2006

Executives Present: John Chandler, Doug Tiffin, Lindsay Oliver, Tracy Hutton,
Mandy Patterson, Colin Graham, Chris Soucy

Regrets: Sherry Hobe

Members Present:

Ancaster	Chris Rowles	X
Aurora	Rick Smith	
Baltimore	Bryan Rose	
Barrie	Paul Palmer	X
Belleville	Beth Ramsay	X
Bluewater	Terry Nield	
Brampton	Ivana Sproviero- Occhiogrosso	X
Brantford	James Leeming	X
Burlington	Chris Hanlon	
Cambridge	Gary Roberts	X
Chatham	Zeke Milkovic	
Clarington	Dan Hilker	X
Clearview	Glen Godovitz	X
Cobourg	Bill Poelstra	
Cold Creek	Randy McDonnell	
Dundas	Julia Crouch	
Durham	Rob Bois	
Etobicoke	Colleen Muise	X
Georgina	Dave MacDonald	
Grafton	Jen Keller	
Guelph	Gayle Porcellato	
Hamilton	Hub Harris	
King City	Ken Walker	
Kitchener	Bruce Woolner	X
Lady Bugs	Laura Healy	X
Leaside	Mike Sanderson	X

London	Ted Sheehan	
Markham-Stouffville	Sharon OShaughnessy	X
Mississauga	Joanne Moody	X
Niagara Falls	Tom Hamilton	
North Halton	John Santos	X
North Simcoe	Gary McIlravey	X
North York	John van den Hoek	X
Oakville	John Burgess	X
Orangeville	Rob MacLachlan	X
Orillia	Gord Gregus	X
Oshawa	Mike Nicholson	
Peterborough	Richard Watson	X
Sarnia	Rob Filip	
Saugeen-Maitland	Robert Wagner	
Scarborough	Brian Canham	
St. Thomas	Dave Scidmore	
Stoney Creek	Tammie Weston	X
Stratford	Brenda Bannon	
Toronto	Greg Bridgwater	
Uxbridge	Charles Ramsey	
Vaughan	Lino Milano	
Waterloo	Tony Bolger	
Whitby	Pattie Paling	X
Willowdale	Rick Campbell	X
Windsor	Ray Charron	
West Northumberland	Dave Boyko	

The meeting was called to order by John Chandler @ 7:11pm.

MINUTES

The minutes from June AGM had not been posted to the website due to an oversight. The May GM meeting minutes were available on the web. There were no comments receiving on the minutes.

Business arising from previous minutes

None

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Head Convenor

Lindsay thanked all involved with the scheduling meetings and suggested that for the most part these had gone very well. She noted that she was getting a great number of questions coming through the website and she reminded the GMs that the first line to obtain knowledge about the league should be the GMs and would they remind teams that they were there to answer questions.

She reminded the GMs that people need to fill forms out before their first game. Most importantly, ALL TEAMS MUST use the labels from MtW on game sheets. There will be penalties if these are not used. Considerable discussion ensued on this issue. Lindsay pointed out that with over 3400 games this year it is impossible to check the integrity of every game sheet if the teams do not use the appropriate labels which contain embedded information that lets her identify that it came off the web site. While we recognize the labels still present an issue with spacing for staff, and the fact that you can only get 6 on a page, everyone will have to live with it because Microsoft does not allow a universal work around that will allow everyone to print labels regardless of printer used. DO NOT make your own version or you will be fined. The integrity of the teams is an important aspect of NMGHL for many coaches. They do not want to see a different team every time they play them.

There were some comments about how much data should be available on the web site, at least to various levels of personnel. One request was that the GM list be available to the GMs when they sign into the site. The Executive undertook to look into this aspect.

Discipline Chairman

Doug Tiffin noted that the Discipline Policy had been upgraded to reflect the new rules emphasis. This involved a 25% increase in the allowable limits in most cases. This had the effect of not resulting in disciplinary actions against the average team. The average team last year did not have any disciplinary action.

It was noted that the table was correct, but the percentages in the text on page 24 and page 25 of the book needed to be updated.

Doug distributed his projections for discipline issues for this season based upon early results. There is a major concern with M3 where behaviour is no better than last year. 11 of the 35 teams on the top 10 and ties list with respect to penalty minutes were M3. This represents nearly half of the teams registered in M3. M1 by contrast only had 6 teams in the top 10 and ties list, and this was less than 20% of the registered M1 teams. Doug pointed out the list was based on very

limited experience but the top team had played 2 games and already had 56 minutes in penalties after playing 64 minutes of hockey. Clearly coaches and staff have to educate the players and take some responsibility for the situation or they will face disciplinary action. The 1st VP noted that one thing teams could do was to show all the players the Hockey Canada material on the rule emphasis available either from the Hockey Canada web site or the GTHL web site.

Head Referee

Tracy noted that all the officials should have copies of the Green Rule Book for NMGHL. Books were available at the meeting.

The Referee's Committee has had members out monitoring games. Observations include an inconsistent application of the 3 minute warm up rule. Timekeepers need to be instructed on the procedure.

The rule emphasis will be difficult for all. The referees are questioning themselves on some of the calls they are making and it will take a while for them to become comfortable calling the new rules. Tracy suggested that teams can ask an official to come to practice to instruct the team on what is and what is not a penalty.

Treasurer's Report

Colin reported that the league had \$79,200 in the bank. Not all Clubs/Teams had paid their entry fees as of the date of the meeting. Colin said expenses were running about at the level expected.

2nd Vice-President

Mandy reported that aside from some questions about the need for 3 officials, everything is going well with the senior division. It was pointed out that 3 officials is optional at this level.

1st Vice-President

Chris again emphasized that Clubs and staff are responsible for the effectiveness of the new rule emphasis. Coaches have to accept responsibility.

President

John noted that there were some questions about how the tiers had been set up for this season. Some of this had been prompted by a concern from the M3 tier about how the splits had been arranged. It was pointed out that the intent for all divisions was to provide a reasonable variation of competition, that is not have teams playing the same opponents too many times. The second criteria was to address the travel issue. We may not have done it correctly in all divisions, but we tried. John suggested that there was a need for planning and it must start when Clubs start trying to determine what teams they will have for the next season, ie. January. It should follow through with the Exec trying to do the splits before the AGM so people can see the implications. The Exec are however soliciting input from clubs as to what is right and what is wrong.

At the meeting it was noted that M3 had long travel distances and the split was strange, ie they would have thought if the matches would have been closer.

It was pointed out that the A1 division ended up with two teams seeing each other too many times.

The Exec said that they would look at these two issues. M3 was rearranged but the majority of the teams said they wanted the status quo since their players had become resigned to their fate for this season. The changes were not pursued.

The third complaint involved the late entry of the west teams in Atom and PW. John pointed out that this was to address the lack of competition down in that part of the province and we had tried to minimize the travel with the mix we ended up with. It actually helped in PW1 because it allowed us to split the group more. Question though: are the splits too small?

Another issue was the level of competition. There are B teams in Tiers where there are BB teams and it was stated that it was a waste of time for a team to go and play a B team and beat them 8-0 because nobody learned anything. Coaches need to be more realistic of the quality of their team. This implies that Clubs need to monitor coaches more than some appear to be doing. One suggestion has been made that NMGHL define more tiers and align them with the skill category, AA/A/BB/B/C. This is particularly important at the older age levels.

As to voting at the AGM, there is likely a need to change the procedures. Let the teams involved in the division make the decisions. Alternative ways of handling this situation will be examined before the next AGM.

Should travel time targets be different at different age and skill levels?

One complaint was the lack of viable game ice for some centers. There needs to be a buy-in from Clubs that if they are going to play in the league they will provide enough suitable ice to meet the needs of the opponents to travel to the specific centres. This was apparently a major concern in M3.

It was stated that travel times will vary depending upon where you are situated and people should be aware of this fact.

John suggested that this was a work in progress and we will be looking at alternatives and also setting meetings up with the SW and CE leagues.

Motion to adjourn: Tammie Weston /Charles Giliberto:
CARRIED Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: John Chandler
President, NMGHL