



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
www.noha.on.ca



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
98TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
64TH ANNUAL MINOR MEETING
MAY 6TH, 2017**

A) APPROVAL OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Moved/George Suszter – East Nipissing
Seconded/Jim Hall – North Bay**

“That the minutes of the 97th Annual General Meeting and the 63rd Annual Minor Meeting be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

B) PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

John Jamieson read the President’s Report from the Annual Meeting Package.

C) RECEIVING AND READING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

There were 99 present. A simple majority would require 50 votes.

D) READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

None.

E) REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Included in Annual Meeting Package.

F) READING OF TREASURER’S REPORT



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Derek D'Angelo of KPMG presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements as outlined in the Annual Meeting Package. Jason Marchand presented the Operation & Budget for the 2017-2018 season.

G) APPROVAL OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Moved/Bryce Kulik – South Porcupine
Seconded/Hugh Riddle – Garson

“To approve the auditor's report for the year ended June 30, 2016.”

CARRIED

Moved/Bryce Kulik – South Porcupine
Seconded/Ted Zajac – South Porcupine

“That KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of the NOHA to hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting of the NOHA at such remuneration as may be fixed by the Board of Directors and that the Board of Directors be authorized to fix such remuneration.”

CARRIED

H) Approval of the Acts of the Board for the 2016-2017 Season

Moved/Fred Burrows – Englehart
Seconded/Hugh Riddle – Garson

“To approve the acts of the NOHA Board of Directors for the 2016/2017 season.”

CARRIED

Barry McCrory – Sudbury – In years past, we have ninety-nine people voting, before House League could only vote House League, I was just informed House League can vote on everything now?

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Yes.



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Barry McCrory – Sudbury – Why is there two different colours on the table?

Jason Marchand – It was a misunderstanding from our end when we printed.

Michael Creasey – Copper Cliff – How can House League vote on everything? Where did this come from?

Jason Marchand – As part of the process last year when we revised the By-law, the By-law wording changed and the wording no longer referred to House League voting, but still refers to who is eligible.

Barry McCrory – Sudbury – I'm still confused. Is that in the By-laws from Timmins last year that just got restructured?

Jason Marchand – Yes.

Barry McCrory – Sudbury – There was a differential between Rep and House League and now there's not?

Jason Marchand – That's correct. Each team at the Rep level gets a vote, whereas at the House League level each Division gets the vote, so the differential is still there.

Barry McCrory – Sudbury – I don't think that was clarified well last year.

D) MOTIONS

1. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Pages 54-136 – NOHA By-Laws and Regulations

Presently Reads:

See pages 54-136 of the NOHA Constitution.

Change to Read:

See the enclosed submission.

Rationale:

At the 2015 NOHA Annual General Meeting, the NOHA Board of Directors asked for support from the membership to conduct a review of the NOHA Constitution so to comply with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, while also simplifying and creating a better understanding of the Constitution.



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The membership supported the first step of the process, which allowed us to implement new By-Laws for the NOHA. Over the last several months, the NOHA has worked to re-organize the Regulations into a clearer and more concise document, while also moving the old By-Laws that remained in effect through this transition period into the appropriate section of the Regulations. Several documents have been made available to the membership which show all the changes that have been made to the Constitution, along with the rationale for any changes or deletions. It is important to note that all changes that have been made in the document do not change the intent of any of the rules.

Moved/Hugh Riddle – Garson **Seconded/Claudette Myre – Azilda**

Hugh Riddle – Garson – This process began at the AGM in 2015 and the analogy that was used last year, which still holds true, is the Constitution is a tree. Last year we established the trunk of the tree, and this year we're asking your support in dealing with the branches. One of the things we tried to do this year was to ensure we were dealing with an informed membership, and so a lot of time and effort was put into making sure the documents were sent out with explanations well in advance. Last year we approved the By-laws, some of those will become Regulations this year. We looked at the Regulations currently in the Constitution, some of which have been around for 98 years, so we've tried to bring some of the language into the current year without changing any of the intent, and some of them are renumbered. We're looking for your support with these. We're not complete, there's still work to be done, following the analogy of the tree, next year would be the leaves of the tree, so there's still some reorganization. My good friend John has volunteered to continue that process. If there's something that is really bothering you in this, please bring it forward and we can address it at this meeting, or we can look at it another time. John will help if you have questions or need explanations, he's the lawyer. I can't thank John enough for the assistance he's provided for the last couple of years. He has graciously donated hours of his time, so thank you.

John D'Agostino – North Bay – As we've touched on last year we've really tried to stick true to the spirit and intent of what was in hand in the past in terms of the Constitution, we've tried to separate critical or fundamental items from regulatory or procedural items that might not need to be voted on at the constitutional level. Step one we completed last year in Timmins, step two is a clarification of the regulations and some of the rules. We're on our way to thinning out, clarifying, and modernizing our Constitution. We should be very proud of it; it's very cutting edge now. Jason and Hugh spent an enormous amount of time going through every word in that Constitution, so thank you. Hugh touched upon the continued refinement process, step three, it's a living tree and it will grow and expand. We want the membership to be involved. Please continue to review it, if you find something that's not right, please let us know. We want to



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modernize and stay consistent with Hockey Canada and the OHF and other Associations across Canada.

Section 5 of your booklet shows the actual changes we did.

Item #1: Memberships: The changes we made reflect the changes made last year to the Constitution. We've made changes in references to "Club." We've reorganized the wording to be consistent with Hockey Canada.

Item #2: Registration: We've removed redundancies.

Item #3: Team Registration: Clarified and updated.

Item #4: Team Composition: Removed JR C, Senior, and deferred wording to Hockey Canada Regulations.

Item #5: Participants

Item #6: Residence: Coupled with Hockey Canada, simplified, updated Referees

Item #7: Games: Clarified and simplified

Item #8: League Policies: Clarified and simplified

Item #9: Affiliation, Clarified and simplified

Item #10: Suspensions: Added definitions for Team Officials to include Trainers.

Item #11: Playoffs: Added House League

Item #12: Tournaments: Removed Fun Day restrictions and simplified

Item #13: Appeals: No Changes

Item #14: Protests

Item #15: AGM: Added Special General Meeting as per Ontario Corporations Act

Item #16: Amendments: Hockey Canada or OHF

Steve Vachon – Timmins – Looking for clarification on Regulation 2.2. I haven't had a chance to look at the OHF book, but what we're proposing here is the current wording which was revised at the 2002 AGM states that "All NOHA... by the branch. We're deleting this completely and stating the boundaries of the NOHA. If the OHF Constitution is saying the boundaries of the NOHA are this, I don't believe that covers the actual regulation.

Jason Marchand – R.2.2 says all NOHA Teams are located in the NOHA territory. There is also an error on 3.3b of the new numbering, registering for House League Team registration date. The date says August 15th where it should be October 1st. It was an error on our behalf.

Friendly Amendment

Moved/Hugh Riddle – Garson

Seconded/Claudette Myre – Azilda

"To update 3.3.b. The Registration fee for House League Teams will be \$45.00 per Team and must be submitted by October 1st."



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CARRIED

Motion including Friendly Amendment

CARRIED

2. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 57 – By-Law 1.15

Presently Reads:

Two or more Associations and/or Single Entry Teams that participate in a season schedule must sign a letter of participation agreement and submit to their Council Director a schedule for approval.

Change to Read:

All Leagues of two or more Associations and/or Single Entry Teams that participation in a season schedule must provide to the NOHA their list of Board of Directors, contact information, League schedule and rules and regulations/constitution.

Rationale:

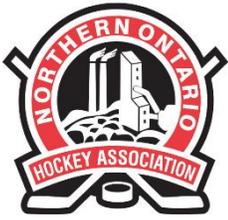
There are currently Leagues within the NOHA that do not register with the NOHA. There is a rule that requires Leagues that wish to have voting privileges to provide information to the NOHA. This proposed amendment has been submitted so that the NOHA is aware of all Leagues that are in existence within our boundaries. This By-Law will be placed into the Regulations of the NOHA if approved.

Moved /Hugh Riddle – Garson

Seconded /Oscar Clouthier – Sudbury

Hugh Riddle – Garson – The Rationale explains everything, it's just to have correct information.

Joe McColeman – Sudbury – Concerning schedule approval, we used to go through Council Directors. Will it be going to the NOHA now? What is the process for scheduling?



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Hugh Riddle – Garson – What we're trying to establish is just to have contact information, not necessarily finite details. The intent is just to get information because often conflicts come to us, so we would just like to be able to have contact information.

CARRIED

3. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 73 – Regulation 1.1. and Page 73-74 – Regulation 1.4.

Presently Reads:

R.1.1. Teams will be registered in divisions, sub-divisions and categories by the Northern Ontario Hockey Association Board of Directors in the following order:

Senior A
Junior A and B
Juvenile AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Juvenile to Novice BB, CC, if applicable
Midget AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Bantam AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Peewee AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Atom AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Novice AA, A, B, C, and D

That a local Association, club or single entry team be allowed to enter a second team into a category of a lower classification than guided by that municipality's population, with the approval of the NOHA Executive.

R.1.4. Minor Hockey teams in each age division will be classified into "AAA", "AA", "A", "B", "C", "D" categories by the Northern Ontario Hockey Association Board of Directors. After considering all factors, teams are classified as to calibre with other conditions involved including ice conditions, minor hockey organizations and population. Population figured for each series used as thumb rule only, are approximately as follows:

"AAA" - Open; "AA" - over 35,000; "A" - 10,000-35,000; "B" - 5000-10,000; "C" - 3000-5000; "D" - under 3000.

The NOHA Board of Directors will revisit the populations for all Associations every five years starting in 2012.



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NOTE: The NOHA will only accept entries into the AAA category beginning at the Major Atom Division.

Change to Read:

Teams will be registered in divisions, sub-divisions and categories by the Northern Ontario Hockey Association Board of Directors in the following order:

Senior A
Junior A and B
Juvenile AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Juvenile to Novice BB, CC, if applicable
Midget AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Bantam AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Peewee AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Atom AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D
Novice AA, A, B, C, and D

Classification is based on a number of factors, including population, player registration history, the number of other minor hockey organizations in the region and other pertinent information which may impact the calibre of an Association or Team.

Population figures for each series used as thumb rule only, are approximately as follows:
“AAA” – open; “AA” – over 35,000; “A” – 10,000-35,000; “B” – 5,000-10,000; “C” – 3,000-5,000; “D”; under 3,000.

The NOHA Board of Directors will revisit classification for all associations every five years.

Where a change of classification is being considered, due notice will be provided to the member association and consultation made by the NOHA Board of Directors.

An Association, or Single Entry team will be allowed to enter a second team into a category of a lower classification than guided by that Association’s classification, with the approval of the NOHA Executive.

Requests from Associations to change classifications of teams outside of the five-year time frame must be presented with all pertinent information to the NOHA Board of Directors by September 1 of any given season.



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Rationale:

It has previously been said that population is only one factor for determining the classification of an Association, however based on R.1.1., it is ultimately the only factor that is looked at. Given that R.1.1. and R.1.4. deal with Association and Team registration, we have proposed merging them.

The proposed change also allows the NOHA Board of Directors to deal with requests outside of the five-year time frame where it would be in the best interest of the NOHA and the participants within an Association to be classified into a different category.

Moved/Claudette Myre – Azilda Seconded/Hugh Riddle – Garson

Claudette Myre – Azilda – The NOHA Board has received requests in the past to reclassify. This change will allow the Board to deal with these requests if documentation is brought forward.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – I thought the gist of this was we would address the top category, not the lower category, which is what I'm bringing forth in the fourth motion. Here you're passing that top AA category and dropping down to an A, B, or C level, which is a concern of mine.

Hugh Riddle – Garson – We're trying to address situations that have arisen that we could have serviced better if we had a little more latitude. There have been situations here and in the Timmins area with a AA Team before an A Team, and sometimes the AA Team doesn't suit the best interests of where or how to play. By approving this, it gives the Board more discretion if, say Timmins wants to run four Novice A Teams instead of one AA and three A, this provides us with the discretion when the rationale is brought forward as to why we don't have to go strictly by population. We're trying to help situations that have arisen in the past where we may not have had favourable press. It's just to allow that latitude.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – In this paragraph you're referring to the second Team. I thought the objective here was we would look at the primary Team. The rebuttal that has been given to other Associations, you're not referring to the application for a AA Major Team but a secondary Team underneath. I feel it's important that Associations not be forced to put forward a Team they can't.

Jason Marchand – That sentence is still there, but this allows the Board to reclassify the main team. The last sentence is key, so if your primary Team is A, then your secondary Team could be reclassified as B, C, etc. So if West Ferris feels they should be classified as A, that allows the Board to deal with it when you provide your rationale for asking for reclassification.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – It doesn't really spell that out. The primary Team was my concern.



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Jason Marchand – But the last sentence in the motion, in dealing with requests for reclassification, that’s the key. Right now the classification is looked at every five years, and we get requests similar to what you explained where Timmins wants four Novice A Teams, West Ferris wants A Teams versus AA Teams, and the Board has been bound by that five-year timeframe, so this allows them to look at those situations outside that timeframe once you provide rationale.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – It is my understanding that if this moves ahead, then my motion won’t be looked at.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Yes, so are you okay with that, do you wish to make an amendment to the motion that’s on the floor?

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – I really feel that Motion #4 addresses this issue more directly. My proposed motion is focused on a lot of hockey centres made up of different Associations. When multiple Associations make up a centre, this causes a lot of problems, but when you have you have an Association with a AAA team, then West Ferris must bring forward a AA Team. If we don’t have the kids or the ability, then why should be forced to do it. We should have a more direct avenue out.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Does this motion deal with their concerns?

Jason Marchand – I believe it does. The only difference is ours addresses all the Associations in Northern Ontario, so for example if there’s a C Centre and they don’t feel they are a C Centre, they can request to the Board to be a D Centre, so it applies to everyone, and the other issue the West Ferris motion has is that it takes the authority from the Board to make a decision based on what is the best for hockey in Northern Ontario, and conflicts with another regulation that does say that. It’s not guaranteed to get approval, however if the rationale is brought forward, the Board would review it. Because of that rule in the past, the Board has not been able to handle the small amount of situations involved.

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – The only thing I have questions about regarding this motion is there is no timeline. Is there a timeline, because we see Teams that participate that shouldn’t be there as A or House League, and we want to respect the dignity of those kids.

Jason Marchand – The date in the motion is September the 1st, with the reason being that our first Board meeting is usually the weekend after labour day so that would allow these requests to be dealt with.

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – Isn’t that a little early?

Jason Marchand – It’s meant to be a general thing, not necessarily year to year, and at that point most of our Rep Teams would have some sort of skate to know where they’re at overall.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – Jason addressed about 50% of my concerns. I think it’s too open, which is not in the motion I’ve put forth. I think the NOHA should trust our Associations. If we feel we don’t have the players and the ability, then why should be forced to go ahead? I think that call has to come from the Association as long as we provide a basis for that saying why we are making this decision.



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Hugh Riddle – Garson – It works the other way as well. We have Associations that are not, by population, AA who wish to be AA, and they provide the rationale for that. What we're trying to address here is the situations presented to us over the last couple hockey seasons, and we're trying to help and promote teams by allowing the flexibility to approve those Teams without going strictly by population. In Timmins, for example, they would like to create an internal league where they have four Teams that are the same and not need to make one of them a AA Team. We're asking to be able to support those requests that come to us from the membership. If you support this, then we have the ability to deal with those situations. That's why we've crafted this. We're looking for a mechanism to support what we're trying to do, and all we ask is that you give us the information required to make that decision. It doesn't affect Tournament of Champions, but the initial carding and building competitive Leagues without people travelling large distances.

Steve Vachon – Timmins – If we want to host a AAA Team over AA, if we apply on June 1st, will we need to wait until the September Board meeting to get the response?

Jason Marchand – September 1st is the date because that's when Rep Teams are required, but hockey has become a twelve-month sport, so our Board has conference calls over the course of the summer, so if there are enough situations to deal with, I believe we could deal with those types of requests over the summer.

Steve Vachon – Timmins – The way I see it, the difference between the motions is West Ferris wants certainty that if you have a AAA Team specifically, it's automatic to have an A Team as your next, while this motion doesn't have that automatic, there's a chance the Board will not approve it.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Exactly.

Dave Shaw – Timmins – I appreciate the motion, and I understand where it's coming from, and there are a couple things I don't think we're capturing, but I think we want to. For our Novice program we've made completely balanced Teams to create a League. We are required to have one of those Teams as AA, but we don't play NOHA AA at all. The weaker Novice Team ends up being classified AA so they can affiliate up to Atom, so I would like this motion to be clear that it's in regard to the primary Team, and for the second Team, does this apply just to the secondary Team, or does it apply to both the primary and secondary? I would suggest a few things: where a change in classification would be considered, if you can specify both Association and Team classification, what I think is missing is how would we make that decision? I would suggest two things, that you add "where a change of classification is being considered for an Association or a Team." And how will we make this decision? We don't want sand-baggers. We want players playing at the level they should. I suggest adding something in here for the criteria, the rationale of that decision.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Are you making an amendment to Motion #3?

Dave Shaw – Timmins – Yes I am. I would suggest that on page 4, where "A change of classification is being considered for an Association or a Team, due notice will be provided." I



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would also suggest that instead of “by September 1st” it be “No later than September 1st.” So that means we can apply earlier.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – Please just give the wording to the Amendment of this Motion.

Dave Shaw – Timmins – “Where a change in classification is being considered by an Association or a Team,” and then the first paragraph above rationale: “Requests from an Association to change the classification of a Team, blah blah blah, give the information to the Board of Directors no later than September 1st.” Keeping in mind calibre of players, and the spirit of development. I’ll add a last paragraph “These requests will be considered keeping in mind Association’s player number, calibre of players, in the spirit of development.”

Jason Marchand – If I can address that, Dave, the first paragraph on the page says: “Classification is based on a number of factors, including population, player registration history, the number of other minor hockey organizations in the region and other pertinent information which may impact the calibre of an Association or Team.” So that covers the rationale and what they’re going to be looking at.

Dave Shaw – Timmins – It includes the facts, but not on what basis a decision will be made.

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – The amendment I heard didn’t change anything, it didn’t say anything new.

Dave Shaw – Timmins – It didn’t say anything new based on an interpretation, so I think that amendment will clarify it.

Friendly Amendment

Moved/Dave Shaw – Timmins

Seconded/Jamie Roach – Timmins

“That where a change of classification is being considered for an Association or a Team, due notice is provided...no later than September 1st. These requests will be considered by the NOHA Board keeping in mind an Association’s calibre, number of players, and including population, player registration history, the number of other minor hockey organizations in the region and other pertinent information which may impact the calibre of an Association or Team.”

DEFEATED

George Suzster – Callander – When I look at that motion, is an Association or Single Entry Team may enter a second. If you’re classified as a AA Centre, does that mean you still have to have a AA Team? Or should this motion actually be “an Association entering a primary team?”
Jason Marchand - The last paragraph deals with a request for reclassification, so if East Nipissing as an “A” Centre don’t feel they’re “A” calibre, they can request to be “B”, “C”, or “D”. If you have a second rep Team, you can have a second Team at the same or lower.



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George Suzster – Callander – We're always told by the NDHL League that our Associations are classified at a certain level, and they have to have a Team at that level before they can ice a Team at the lower level. So I think the difference with West Ferris's motion, you could have different Teams at the "A" level and maybe the "B" level.

Jim Lecappelain – North Bay – All I wanted to do here was to establish that all Associations have options. The whole objective here is to be fair with this. If an Association can't put forward a Team, I don't feel that Association should be handicapped, or need to apply and put themselves in a position where their destiny is controlled by a group of people. I feel that Associations know they can't field a Team at that level and shouldn't be told what to do. If you are stuck at a AA level, then you're handicapped at any tournament. The route for my motion is that we're open enough and trust Associations and give them the right to control our Associations so they can enjoy the sport, and that's the rationale.

Bryce Kulik – South Porcupine – The NOHA Board's Motion addresses your concern, and it addresses your concern as well, and it's very simple. For one, you have to go through the NOHA Board to get approval, and for the other it's automatic, and it shouldn't be automatic, and just for the reasons you said, because people are going to sandbag. Does the NOHA Board trust your Association? Sure, they do, but we're getting carried away. At one time you had to have a Major AA Team to have a Minor AA Team, and this will address that. If West Ferris wants to have a Minor Team, they don't have enough kids to have a Major Team, then the NOHA Board will look at it with the appropriate information that will be provided by the Association, and it says that right in the motion. All your concerns will be addressed in the NOHA's Motion, but you still need to go through the Board which you should be. If the information isn't there, it won't be approved.

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – Are we currently debating the amendment? I like everything that's been said and I think the intent is there, so let's get it done.

Pierre Labreque – Sudbury – Just for clarification, if we don't have the kids for a Major Team, do we lose the cards?

Dick Farrow – Moderator – No.

CARRIED

4. –SUBMITTED BY WEST FERRIS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Page 73 – Regulation 1.1. and Page 73-74 – Regulation 1.4.

Presently Reads:

R.1.4. Minor Hockey teams in each age division will be classified into "AAA", "AA", "A", "B", "C", "D" categories by the Northern Ontario Hockey Association Board of Directors. After



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considering all factors, teams are classified as to calibre with other conditions involved including ice conditions, minor hockey organizations and population. Population figured for each series used as thumb rule only, are approximately as follows:

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The NOHA Board of Directors will revisit the populations for all Associations every five years starting in 2012.

NOTE: The NOHA will only accept entries into the AAA category beginning at the Major Atom Division.

Change to Read:

R.1.4. Minor Hockey teams in each age division will be classified into "AAA", "AA", "A", "B", "C", "D" categories by the Northern Ontario Hockey Association Board of Directors. After considering all factors, teams are classified as to calibre with other conditions involved including ice conditions, minor hockey organizations and population. Whereas a hockey centre ices a team at the highest level (AAA) than the established minimum as set out in regulation R.1.4., an Association may apply for and shall receive an exemption from having a team at the next underlying level. The Association's application should be supported by data pertaining to the quality or quantity of the players in that division.

Population figured for each series used as thumb rule only, are approximately as follows:
"AAA" - Open; "AA" - over 35,000; "A" - 10,000-35,000; "B" - 5000-10,000; "C" - 3000-5000; "D" - under 3000.

The NOHA Board of Directors will revisit the populations for all Associations every five years starting in 2012.

NOTE: The NOHA will only accept entries into the AAA category beginning at the Major Atom Division.

Rationale:

From year to year challenges are presented to Associations such as reduced player numbers, caliber of players, competitiveness, thus Associations need a clear option to ice teams that are competitive in the spirit of development. Currently AA programs are challenged regionally but even further challenged in centres that are much larger.



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WITHDRAWN

5. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 77 – Regulation 1.23.

Presently Reads:

All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches that Coach teams in the division of Initiation must be Intro to Coach “Trained”.

Change to Read:

Initiation teams must have at least one (1) Coach with Intro to Coach Qualification for every eight (8) registered players. Initiation teams with a minimum of two (2) qualified Coaches may register on-ice volunteers, who will have Respect in Sport Activity Leader or Speak Out and meet the Criminal Record Check requirements of the NOHA.

Rationale:

The Initiation Program recommends a ratio of 4:1 Instructor to Player. We recognize that it can be difficult to recruit volunteers, while also acknowledging the importance of the Initiation Program and ensuring that there are enough people to help in the delivery of the Program. The proposed change will ensure that each Initiation group has at least two (2) Coaches with the Intro to Coach training, while also allowing for on-ice helpers (i.e. parents) to set up drills, etc. and meet the recommended on-ice help to player ratio.

Moved/Hugh Riddle – Garson
Seconded/Claudette Myre – Azilda

CARRIED

6. -SUBMITTED BY SUDBURY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Page 78 – Regulation 1.27.

Presently Reads:



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Each player registering with the NOHA shall be required to wear an intra-oral mouthguard during all on ice activities that conforms to the specifications set out by the NOHA and is approved as suitable for use by the team's trainer.

Change to Read:

Each player registering with the NOHA shall have the option to wear an intra-oral mouthguard during all on-ice activities as long as a full-face mask is worn. Should the player elect to wear an intra-oral mouthguard, it must conform to the specifications set out by the NOHA and is approved as suitable for use by the team's trainer.

Rationale:

On several occasions, players have been assessed 10-minute misconduct penalties for failing to properly wear their mouth guard. This rule appears to be used incredibly rarely with the exception of a few officials. The assessment of a misconduct penalty should be reserved for infractions that are detrimental to the game. Children should not be penalized for an inadvertent misuse of a mouth guard during the course of play.

Mouth guards have not been shown to prevent any injury (oral, dental or concussion) in minor hockey where full face guard protection is mandatory.

Many minor hockey associations have made the use of mouth guards optional because of the lack of evidence in injury prevention with full facial protection.

Moved/Barry McCrory – Sudbury Seconded/Pierre Lebreque – Sudbury

Pierre Lebreque – Sudbury – This was spear-headed by one of our Board members, Dr. Jason Prpic, unfortunately he had to work in the emergency department today. He sent this to read for rationale: "Mouthguards are currently a mandatory piece of equipment for children playing minor hockey in the NOHA, it has occurred on several occasions that children are being assessed ten-minute misconduct penalties for improper wearing of a mouthguard. It's hard to justify this penalty when almost all mouthguards are non-fitting within the first few months of the season. Most children use their mouthguard as a chew-toy in practice and in games, and by the time November rolls around, all the mouthguards are flat pieces of plastic. Furthermore, mouthguards have not been shown to protect against dental injury in patients with full-face masks, and although research into the prevention of concussions is abundant, there is no convincing evidence that mouthguards help prevent the incident of concussions. Several hockey Associations have now made mouthguards a recommended piece of equipment, removing the mandatory nature of their use. Most notably the Ottawa District Minor Hockey Association in



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2013, citing a lack of evidence for their use. Sudbury Minor had a committee at the Telus Cup out west, and out of the six Teams, only two were still using mouthguards.”

Claudette Myre – Azilda – The NOHA does not support this motion. There are countless amounts of research out there such as the Canadian Dental Association, the American Dental Association, among others, which proves that properly-fitted mouthguards do prevent injuries, in addition concern has been expressed by Hockey Canada about eliminating a risk-management initiative.

CARRIED

7. -SUBMITTED BY NICKEL CITY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Page 79 – Regulation 1.33.

Presently Reads:

All players in Bantam and Midget AAA must complete a designated off-ice skill testing program two (2) times per season. The testing is to be completed by September and January of each season.

Change to Read:

All players in Major Bantam and Midget AAA must complete a designated off-ice skill testing program two (2) times per season. The testing is to be completed by September and January of each season.

Rationale:

The Nickel City Minor Hockey Association recommends that the Hockey Tech testing, both on ice and off ice be eliminated for AAA Minor Bantams due to its limited benefits and significant cost.

Moved/Gus Lescault – Hanmer
Seconded/Dale Lafrance – Hanmer

Gus Lescault – Hanmer – As a group we feel there is no benefit for this testing at this time. It adds an additional cost of up to \$2500 per team, and we haven't seen an improved benefit since putting it into place. With budgets of over \$120,000 per Team, we fear we're pushing kids away with too high a cost.



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Jim Hall – North Bay – I sat on this committee when we put this together, and I think at this time, can we take a second look at it? I think it's a good program, I think the kids should be tested if they're going to play at that level, and I'm going to ask that we set it aside, try to get another committee going on it, and try to make it work. Testing is important. We need to treat kids in Northern Ontario equally as the kids in the south.

Mike Creedon – Sault Major – My question is probably best answered by Jason. It would be \$2500 give or take for the Minor Bantam Team, but as the majority of the expense is the travel, would the other two teams be bearing the majority of that cost? For Sault Ste. Marie, for instance, is it \$7500 now between two teams?

Jason Marchand – As I explained to the group yesterday, we're looking at a new group for the on-ice testing, and based on that change it would be the same or slightly lower cost regardless of the Minor Bantams, but with the Minor Bantams it would be quite a bit less, roughly \$10 per player plus travel, accommodations, and meals.

Mike Creedon – Sault Major – So those other two teams are making a big difference in the cost?

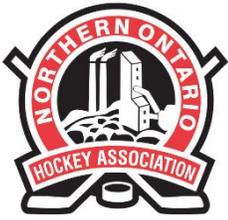
Jason Marchand – If you're looking overall, the cost for the program will remain what it has been in the past.

Oscar Clouthier – Sudbury – I speak against the motion. I'd like to give a little history with respect to the off-ice testing. A few years back we formed the Elite Hockey Committee, a group of people from Associations with AAA hockey. We looked at AAA hockey and decided this is what we would do with the elite players playing AAA hockey. I'm totally not against the motion so much as I think it should be referred back to the Elite Hockey Committee for further study, and find out what's wrong and what is right. I'm asking the motion be deferred until next meeting so the committee can look at it.

Andrew MacDonald – Garson – There has been a lot of discussion about the Elite Hockey in Northern Ontario, and if we can have any mechanism in place to help follow the development of the kids, and this gives us a reference point and further information for years to come, and it gives us reference for where the kids fit in overall. This is why these things need to be implemented and carried on so it helps track. There's a lot of criticism to our coaches who put a lot of time in, and we won't have a mechanism to follow what they're doing. This is one of those mechanisms and could be used to show whether a coach is doing a good job. These mechanisms will help us continue to be here for the kids.

DEFEATED

8. –SUBMITTED BY NICKEL CITY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



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Presently Reads:

All players in Bantam and Midget AAA must complete a designated on-ice skill testing program two (2) times per season. The testing is to be completed by September and January of each season.

Change to Read:

All players in Major Bantam and Midget AAA must complete a designated on-ice skill testing program two (2) times per season. The testing is to be completed by September and January of each season.

Rationale:

The Nickel City Minor Hockey Association recommends that the Hockey Tech testing, both on ice and off ice be eliminated for AAA Minor Bantams due to its limited benefits and significant cost.

WITHDRAWN

9. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 112 – Regulation 10.3.

Presently Reads:

All games in the NOHA shall be officiated preferably with one Referee and two linesmen system.

Change to Read:

Games in each division shall use, at the minimum, the following officiating systems:
Representative Games House League Games

Novice – Two Officials Novice – Two Officials
Atom – Two Officials Atom – Two Officials
Peewee – Three Officials Peewee – Two Officials
Bantam AAA – Four Officials
Bantam (below AAA) – Three Officials



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Bantam – Three Officials
Midget AAA – Four Officials
Midget (below AAA) – Three Officials
Midget – Three Officials

Associations and Leagues cannot use less than the number of Officials listed above, however may use more with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors.

Rationale:

The current wording is vague, and while it recommends that the three official system be used, it does not provide any further information or direction. The proposed change is presented based on research with the District Referees-in-Chief with respect to which systems are currently used and provides clear direction as to the number of officials needed for any given game. It also provides clear direction as to the process for requesting to use more Officials in any given league.

Moved/Ted Zajac – South Porcupine
Seconded/Shawn Essery – Powassan

Ted Zajac – South Porcupine – It’s a resolution of what we’d like to do, it’s a two-fold thing. One, we feel it will help Associations with costs, as we all know, rising costs is keeping kids out of hockey. And the other is we feel the safety of the children won’t be compromised at this level, and it can be used for shadowing and Officials learning.

Del Weber – Sault Major – I have a suggestion for a change in the motion. I’m going to suggest to move flexibility to the Associations, and change “at minimum” to “wherever possible” and to use Hockey Canada Rule 5.2k if only one shows up. The way it’s worded, if there aren’t the minimum amount of Officials, the game would be cancelled, with the ice time costing the Association. How often was there not enough Officials? Small Associations may have more issues. AT Pee wee/Bantam B, two Officials should be enough. Utilize rule 5.2k.
“...should use, whenever possible... if necessary, use rule 5.2k to get minimum.” Delete the paragraph at the bottom.

Friendly Amendment

Moved/Del Weber – Sault Major
Seconded/Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard

Games in each division shall use, whenever possible, the following officiating systems:



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Representative Games House League Games

Novice – Two Officials Novice – Two Officials
Atom – Two Officials Atom – Two Officials
Peewee – Three Officials Peewee – Two Officials
Bantam AAA – Four Officials
Bantam (below AAA) – Three Officials
Bantam – Three Officials
Midget AAA – Four Officials
Midget (below AAA) – Three Officials
Midget – Three Officials

CARRIED

Ted Zajac – South Porcupine – Just a clarification, we're not saying a game will be stopped or not played, we're suggesting is three Officials assigned to games at the levels we're talking about. If there are only two Officials who show up, the game wouldn't be canceled and would go by Hockey Canada rule. The game wouldn't go with one, and it wouldn't go with zero. I see where you're coming from, but in no way are we saying if not all three Officials show up not to go with the two-man system.

Mike Landry – Soo Peewee – In our District we have tournaments with hundreds of Teams, it's crazy and we sometimes cannot get more than two Referees.

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – Point of order, was the amendment accepted? I speak strongly in favor of this amendment, because the way the motion is currently worded, we are handcuffed to a minimum of three Officials.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

10. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 116 – Regulation 11.7.

Presently Reads:

If a player leaves his/her residence association and registers with another association, he/she cannot be affiliated with the new association's "rep" team until he/she gets the proper releases as per the NOHA Constitution.

Change to Read:



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If a player leaves his/her residence Association and registers with another Association, he/she cannot be affiliated with the Association's Representative Team unless a letter of permission is provided by the player's home Association.

Rationale:

To clarify the process by which a player who is released to play House League is able to affiliate with a representative team. There is currently no separate release form for this process to take place.

Moved/Fred Burrows – Englehart
Seconded/Claudette Myre – Azilda

Bryce Kulik – South Porcupine – It says unless a letter of permission is provided by the Home Association, doesn't say who sends it. The last sentence is very vague, so anybody could send it.

Jason Marchand – This would be a situation like if Timmins releases a player to Porcupine, those Teams play against one another, so if Porcupine would like to affiliate that player up, they can't unless they get a letter of permission from Timmins, because the player's residence is in Timmins.

Derek Potvin – Kapuskasing – If, for example, Kapuskasing released a player to Minor Midget, they would need a letter to play Major Midget?

Jason Marchand – Yes, and they need a release currently, it's in our rules, but there is no official release form for this, so this is adding a process to do so.

Jim Hall – North Bay – Is this from boundary to boundary?

Jason Marchand – Yes.

Andrew MacDonald – Garson – In the Sudbury area where we have a Rep Association separate from the House League program, so if Nickel Centre releases a player to Sudbury to play House League, who is signing the letter for them to play Rep when Nickel City holds the rights?

Claudette Myre – Azilda – Since the players from District Two have to go to Nickel City to play Rep, then they would require a release from Nickel City in order to play for Copper Cliff. They could go from Nickel Centre to Sudbury to play House, but wouldn't be able to affiliate to Rep without a letter from Nickel City.

Andrew MacDonald – Garson – For players to go to Nickel City, they would still need a release from their Home Association, even though Nickel City carries the Rep cards for District Two, the Home Association is still Nickel Centre.

CARRIED



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11. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 117 – Regulation 11.17.

Presently Reads:

All NOHA Bantam and Midget House League category playoffs will be in a Tournament of Champions 10 team format. The teams will be comprised by randomly selecting from each District a team that has previously shown intent of participation as well as a host team. Where District that do not have house league teams or have no team interest additional teams will be randomly selected from all teams that have shown interest. All teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four games in the tournament format.

Change to Read:

All NOHA Pee wee, Bantam and Midget House League category playoffs will be in a Tournament of Champions 10 team format. The teams will be comprised by randomly selecting from each District a team that has previously shown intent of participation as well as a host team. Where District that do not have house league teams or have no team interest additional teams will be randomly selected from all teams that have shown interest. All teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four games in the tournament format.

Rationale:

There has been an interest in adding the Pee wee Tournament of Champions for House League. This change allows for this to happen.

Moved/Sue Shepherdson – New Liskeard Seconded/Ted Zajac – South Porcupine

Sue Shepherdson – New Liskeard – We sent out a survey to the membership asking if they would like to add a Pee wee Division, and we received 80% wishing to do this.

CARRIED

12. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 117 – Regulation 11.21.



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Presently Reads:

Midget - three period of 13 minutes, stop time.
Bantam - three periods of 13 minutes, stop time.

Change to Read:

All divisions - three periods of 13 minutes, stop time.

Rationale:

This change makes the period length consistent across all age divisions which have a HL TOC.

Moved/Shawn Essery – Powassan
Seconded/Ted Zajac – South Porcupine

Jacques Vincent – Azilda – Is this for all Teams?
Claudette Myre – Azilda – No, just for the Tournament of Champions.
Jacques Vincent – Azilda – Should there be an amendment to clarify?
Claudette Myre – Azilda – It's in the TOC Section of the book.

CARRIED

13. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Page 124-125 – Regulation 13.14.

Presently Reads:

“One Day Fun Competitions” may be organized under the following criteria:

- All Participating Teams require written approval to attend from their respective Council Directors, which will be forwarded to the NOHA Office.
- The Host Association is responsible for submitting payment of \$10.00 + HST per participating teams to the NOHA Office ten (10) days prior to the start of the Fun Day.
- One letter of permission shall be issued by the NOHA Office upon receipt of the fee and Council Directors' approval.
- The Council Director representing the Host Association shall approve the schedule of games prior to distribution.



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- No team shall play more than three (3) games.
- Two (2) divisions shall be the maximum permitted.
- Six (6) teams per division shall be the maximum permitted.
- No winner shall be declared.
- All games shall be considered exhibition games.
- NOHA-approved Officials shall Referee all games.
- All game sheets to be submitted to the NOHA Office.
- No team shall attend more than two (2) “One Day Fun Competitions” in a season.

Change to Read:

DELETE.

Rationale:

The Hockey Canada Initiation Program strongly recommends that any games that are played at this age category are in a fun or jamboree environment. As such, we are suggested deleting the regulation so to not limit the number of jamboree-type events that a team participates in, and to eliminate any costs for these groups to play in the events.

Moved/Hugh Riddle – Garson
Seconded/Claudette Myre – Azilda

Hugh Riddle – Garson – We’re trying to be in line with the recommendation from Hockey Canada Initiation program, and want to remove the limit so there can be as many jamborees as those groups want.

CARRIED

J) CORRESPONDENCE

None

K) ELECTIONS

President



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Claudette Myre—Accept

First Vice President

Hugh Riddle—Accept

Second Vice President

Dick Farrow – Moderator – There are four nominees for Second Vice President: Fred Burrows, Oscar Clouthier, Gayle Payette, and Ted Zajac.

Ted Zajac—Withdraw

Gayle Payette—Withdraw

Oscar Clouthier—Accept

Fred Burrows—Accept

Fred Burrows – Englehart – I've been on this Executive for a few years, I hope I can continue with your votes. Thank you.

Oscar Clouthier – Sudbury – Thanks to my nominators for nominating me. I was President of Sudbury Minor Hockey for a number of years, I was Commissioner of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League. I do have experience in Minor Hockey from the Coaching aspect. I appreciate you voting for me so I can continue to serve all the Association in the NOHA in the upcoming years. Thank you.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – The Second Vice President will be filled by Oscar Clouthier.

Third Vice President

Dick Farrow – Moderator – For Third Vice President we have two nominees: Fred Burrows and Sue Shepherdson.

Sue Shepherdson—Accept

Fred Burrows—Accept

Fred Burrows – Englehart – I was voted to Second Vice, and was there for two years, and I'd still like to go back and learn some more. Thank you.

Sue Shepherdson – New Liskeard – First I would like to thank the people who nominated me, I'm very humbled and appreciative. I really look forward to being on the Board of Directors. I've learned a lot the past few years and I've worked hard for you and hopefully all Associations. Thank you.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – The position of Third Vice President will be filled this year by Sue Shepherdson. The Districts that are open this year are as follows:



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District One—Ted Zajac—Accept
District Three—Derek Crowell—Accept
District Five—Shawn Essery—Withdraw
District Seven—Gayle Payette—Accept
District Nine—Lisa Stewart—Withdraw
District Nine—Sam Gaulin—Accept

Motion to Destroy Ballots

Moved/Bryce Kulik – South Porcupine
Seconded/Ted Zajac – South Porcupine

CARRIED

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President—Claudette Myre
First Vice President—Hugh Riddle
Second Vice President—Oscar Clouthier
Third Vice President—Sue Shepherdson
District One—Ted Zajac
District Two—Open
District Three—Derek Crowell
District Four—Open
District Five—Open
District Six—Tracy Hautanen
District Seven—Gayle Payette
District Eight—Open
District Nine—Sam Gaulin

L) NEW BUSINESS

Richard MacDonald – New Liskeard – I'm not sure if I can ask this, but is it possible that we explore a Referee system where we have two Referees and one Linesman in the future? You're always facing the play, there are always two Referees and one Linesman. I'm just putting that out there, hoping it may be discussed this year. I know in Saskatchewan they use that system. No four-man saves money for the AAA Teams, so I just wanted to put that out there.



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Dick Farrow – Moderator – Okay, thank you, and that suggestion will be recorded and we'll ask the Board to look into that possibility.

Mike Creedon – Sault Major – We had a discussion earlier about dryland and on-ice training, and the Board obviously talked about working on it or putting together another Elite Hockey Committee. Could we also look at a development model where a guy wouldn't have to drive all the way to the Sault? I'm sure we have trainers and coaches who could handle the dryland testing just as well as someone from Toronto, and I'm sure we have people with the equipment to accurately measure on-ice, so that most of the costs will be alleviated because $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost is for travel for people to do it. So if there was an online module, someone could learn how to do it. I think this would be the most economically feasible way to do it and still maintain the integrity of it.

Jason Marchand – This was also mentioned at the AAA meeting, but for the off-ice testing, there will be two options presented, which will be put forward to the groups. An app has been created through this, so a Coach or Trainer would essentially be able to do this with that app, so depending on which direction we go, there will be a cost. They are still willing to do the training as well, but I know the equipment they use for this is pretty expensive, and I'm not sure if there are any companies in Northern Ontario who do that. Hockey Canada will be reasonable with us when the time comes to finalize the costs.

Jim Hall – North Bay – I'd just like to add that anything we can do to keep the program running would be great. It's a great program, there was a lot of work put into it. Thank you.

Jacqueline Morvan – Kapuskasing – Since I left the NOHA I have continued to come to the meetings. It's so beautiful to see you still working. You are all fantastic and I really thank you for the time you put in. The NOHA is doing a good job of trying to improve lots of things for you. The lunch today—I think it's a great thing. Lots of people didn't stick around the last few years for awards. I think it's a plus for you guys. The List of Motions, I think it's fantastic. It's a way to know what they worked on and how they worked on it. The presentation booklet they made, don't you think it's great? It's beautiful, it's chic, and you can keep it as a souvenir. They are doing that for you guys. I didn't always agree all the time, but they have to follow the rules. You have to participate; you have to work for hockey because at the end of the day we are here for the kids. It is important that we keep those kids in hockey. I appreciate and thank you NOHA.

Dick Farrow – Moderator – The NOHA Board has nominations to fill for Districts 2, 4, 5, and 8, so if the Association in those areas have someone in mind, they should submit them to the NOHA Board as soon as possible. Next year's meeting will be in Sudbury, and then it will be the 100th Anniversary of the NOHA. The first NOHA meeting was held in Cobalt, the 50th Anniversary meeting was held in Cobalt, and we're hoping the 100th Anniversary can come back in some part to Cobalt. It's not the same town as it was a few years ago, but hopefully the NOHA Board will grant us permission to bring the 100th Anniversary back to its roots in Cobalt.



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M) Motion to Adjourn

Moved/Steve Vachon – Timmins
Seconded/Barry McCrory – Sudbury

CARRIED