



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019  
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### MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

#### 102<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MINOR MEETING

MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021

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#### 1) APPROVAL OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

“That the Minutes of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting and the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Minor Meeting be approved as presented.”

**CARRIED**

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#### 2) PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

Sue Shepherdson read the President’s Report from the Annual Meeting Package.

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#### 3) RECEIVING AND READING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

There were 177 present. A simple majority would require 89 votes.

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#### 4) READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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#### 5) REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Included in Annual Meeting Package.



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### 6) READING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Derek D'Angelo of KPMG presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements as outlined in the Annual Meeting Package.

#### Questions:

**Mike Creedon, Sault Major Hockey Association:** Yeah, so I was just wondering, you know, at the end of that 2020 season, you know obviously we had to go to Zoom meetings and stuff like that, and there was, you mentioned, some deduction in expenses because, you know, the AGM was cancelled, or postponed, the, you know, and the playdowns were cancelled and all that kind of stuff, but so, forecasting that forward, do you see a continued reduction based on, based on Zoom meetings and all that kind of stuff, and then projecting that, you know, in the future years, would that be something that the NOHA, and I guess maybe that's more to Jason and Sue on this last part. Would that be the direction of the NOHA to continue with Zoom meetings once we get back to, say, a new normal, because of that cost savings?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So Mike, I think both of your questions kind of tie into the next part of the presentation in terms of kind of where we're at at the present time, and going forward, so if you still have that question or if I didn't answer the question after this, we can gladly address it for you, but I believe we'll kind of touch on both of those, those topics.

**Mike Creedon, Sault Major Hockey Association:** Okay, perfect. Thanks.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Great. Thanks, Mike. If there's no more questions, then Jason will do his portion of the financial report at this time.

### Financial Report as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Presented by Jason Marchand.



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### Questions:

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So Dick, I've received a couple questions via the chat. I'll read those out to, and address those for everyone.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, Jason.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, there's a question about refunds being in the form of a cheque, that's how we will issue the refunds. Kiersten's just working on creating the reports to be able to reconcile everything, but next week we'll be, we'll be looking after that to get the monies back to the Associations. The question's from Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association. Another question from Pete Thibeault, Coniston Minor Hockey, do we know what the numbers look like per player when all refunds are totaled? And I'll rely on Kiersten for that one, just give me one moment. We will get back to you on the exact amount, but it is roughly twenty dollars, but we can give you the exact amount here momentarily. And then there is a question with a hand raised from Nicole Clouthier.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Go ahead, Nicole.

**Nicole Clouthier, Soo Peewee Hockey Association:** I was just wondering, I saw in our expenses that we pay approximately \$43-44,000 in rent, or lease, a year, for the NOHA building. Has there ever been talk of purchasing a place that might lower the cost of that expense in a year?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Jason?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** We have looked at it previously, our lease was ending last, last year prior to the, obviously, things changing in the world, here, but at that point, there were limited options, quite frankly, and the, we did end up signing a new lease here for, I believe it's ten years, so something, obviously we can consider going forward, but that's where we were at, at the time of going through all of this.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you Jason, any other questions?

**Jason Marchand, Executive Director:** And Dick, sorry, just to address the question from Pete in Coniston, it should be \$21.02 going back to Associations on a per-participant basis.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, I think we're ready to move on to the Approval of the Auditor's Report.

**Moved by** Samantha Gaulin, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

"That we approve the Auditor's Report with the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020."

**CARRIED**

**Moved by** Derek Lalonde, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

"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**

**Moved by** Matt Duquette, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Kevin Eshkawkogan, NOHA Executive

"To ratify and approve all acts taken by the Directors and Officers."

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I think there's a question? Adam, can you unmute the question?



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**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Jason?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Yep.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Sorry, it's Albert Corradini calling. So, I apologize, I guess you didn't see my hand up and I was just typing the question in, so I want to circle back to the refund of the Development fees? I'm trying to wrap my head around what that looks like, you said that \$28,000 would be refunded to Junior Teams, is that correct?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** No, we collected \$28,000 from Junior Teams, whether it be from the NOJHL or Junior A, B, or C teams from Southern Ontario. Typically, we send that money to the Minor Hockey Associations earlier in the year, obviously because of what's been happening, have not had an opportunity to do that, so we will be issuing the funds to the Minor Hockey Associations in accordance with the OHF regulations, which would be—

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Perfect.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** —the player to play from U10—

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Okay perfect. I misunderstood, I thought it, I understood that it would be refunded to the Junior teams. Perfect, thank you.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** You're welcome.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Albert. The Approval of the Acts of the Board, that motion was carried.

**CARRIED**



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### 7) MOTIONS

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We're now gonna move on to the Proposed Amendments for this year's Annual Meeting. You have two of them that have been sent out in the package to you, and Jason has ninety-six more that'll be coming to you in an email shortly. No, actually, I can see Bear having a panic attack, there. He thought he was gonna miss lunch. Okay, the first Motion will require two-thirds majority, and that's two-thirds of the majority of those people voting on the Motion, the same as Motion Two when we get to it, it's 50% plus one of those people voting. So, let's move to Motion Number One. This is submitted by Thessalon Minor Hockey Association.

#### 1.-SUBMITTED BY THESSALON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Page 4 – DEFINITIONS – L) (iii)

##### Presently Reads:

"District" shall refer to the nine groupings of regions that have been established for the purpose of determining residency and for the purpose of electing representatives to serve on the Board and until changed, shall include, without limitation the following:

(...)

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE – SAULT STE MARIE: DUBREUILVILLE (Dubreuilville, Lochaish), NORTH CHANNEL (Bar River, Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Desbarats, Echo Bay, Hilton Beach, Kentvale, Leebrun, Ophir, Poplar Dale, Richard's Landing, Rydal Bank, St Joseph Island), SAULT STE. MARIE (Batchewana Bay, Garden River, Goulais River, Gros Caps, Havilland Bay, Heyden Lake, Montreal River, Pointe aux Pins, Sault Ste. Marie, Searchmont), THESSALON (Sowerby, Thessalon, Wharncliffe)

##### Change to Read:

"District" shall refer to the nine groupings of regions that have been established for the purpose of determining residency and for the purpose of electing representatives to serve on the Board and until changed, shall include, without limitation the following:

(...)

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE – SAULT STE MARIE: DUBREUILVILLE (Dubreuilville, Lochaish), NORTH CHANNEL (Bar River, Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Desbarats, Echo Bay, Hilton Beach, Kentvale, Leebrun, Ophir, Poplar Dale, Richard's Landing, Rydal Bank, St Joseph Island), SAULT STE. MARIE (Batchewana Bay, Garden River, Goulais River, Gros Caps, Havilland Bay, Heyden Lake, Montreal River, Pointe aux Pins, Sault Ste. Marie, Searchmont), THESSALON (Sowerby, Thessalon, Wharncliffe). **The following regions are "Right to Choose" areas: Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Leebrun, Ophir, Poplar Dale, Rydal Bank.**



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### **Rationale:**

The fair action will be to allow the players in the above stated regions of Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Leeburn, Ophir, Poplar Dale and Rydal Bank the “Right to Choose” whether they wish to play with North Channel or Thessalon, as have been granted for players from Iron Bridge region in District 7. School numbers from Algoma District School Board have been collected, which shows that the current by-laws allows for North Channel to draw from 526 school-aged children up to ages of Grade 6, while Thessalon can draw from 170. The current by-law also reflects North Channel playing out of an arena in Desbarats. The 2020-2021 season saw that arena close and North Channel playing out of an arena in Echo Bay. Due to distance of travel and proximity of the Echo Bay arena, the above stated regions should be granted the Right to Choose. Approving this amendment could allow for Thessalon to have a slightly larger catchment, however they will still have far lower potential participants than North Channel. This could also allow players to continue playing with local family support in getting them to the arena of their choosing for practices and games, as it is known that without extended family support in these rural areas some children would not be able to participate in the game of hockey.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Do we have a Mover and a Seconder for the Motion?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** If there’s a Mover and Seconder, if you could please raise your hand?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We need the Mover from Thessalon Minor Hockey Association.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Now I’ve unmuted Allison.

**Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, it’s Allison here. Can you hear me?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Yeah.

**Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Sorry, I would like to move it please.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you. Do we have a Seconder for that Motion?

**Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, it's Katie, I'll Second it.

**Moved by** Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you. The Motion that you have is fairly lengthy, here, I'm not sure that you need me to read through the Motion again for you. The Rationale for it is that the fair action will be to allow players in the above regions of Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Leeburn, Ophir, Poplar Dale and Rydal Bank the "Right to Choose" whether they wish to play with North Channel or Thessalon, as have been granted for players from Iron Bridge region District 7. School numbers from Algoma District School Board have been collected, which shows that the current by-laws allows for North Channel to draw from 526 school-aged children up to ages of Grade 6, while Thessalon can draw from 170. The current by-law also reflects North Channel playing out of an arena in Desbarats. The 2020-2021 season saw that arena close and North Channel playing out of an arena in Echo Bay. Due to distance of travel and proximity of the Echo Bay arena, the above stated regions should be granted the Right to Choose. Approving this amendment could allow for Thessalon to have a slightly larger catchment, however they will still have far lower potential participants than North Channel. This could also allow players to continue playing with local family support in getting them to the arena of their choosing for practices and games, as it is known that without extended family support in these rural areas some children would not be able to participate in the game of hockey. So, I will invite someone from Thessalon Minor Hockey to speak to the Motion if they wish. Please raise your hand, and you'll be unmuted.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** I have unmuted, or asked to unmute, Allison, who has her hand raised.

**Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** I believe that Jeff Seabrooke was going to speak on this.



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**Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, everybody. I'm Jeff Seabrooke from Thessalon Minor Hockey, just to kind of touch on this proposed amendment quickly. Am I not unmuted?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Yeah, I think you are, Jeff, you may have to get a little closer to your microphone.

**Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Can everybody hear me now?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** That's better.

**Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Okay. So, yeah, we kind of submitted this Amendment in just because it's kind of been an ongoing situation between the two organizations for, probably pushing twenty-five years now. In the past, there's been some cooperation together to kind of move players back and forth to keep both of these organizations viable and sustainable, but as, you know, as time goes on, and memberships change with each executive or whatever, the perspective of that partnership changes. Not saying that it's in a negative light now, but it would be easier to maybe move forward if there was something more set in stone with the similar idea of what's enforced with Iron Bridge right now, where they have a right to choose whether they go to play in Thessalon or they go to Blind River. So, basically with the Bruce Mines area, it's approximately the same distance West of the town of Thessalon that Iron Bridge is the distance East of the town of Thessalon, and we just think it would make more sense, you know, if people had the right to choose whether they went towards the North Channel organization or whether they went to the Thessalon organization as noted in the rationale about there being family members, you know, and stuff to make it easier because these, as we saw this year, access to arenas was limited, in some case where only one parent was allowed in and kids were getting dressed out in parking lots. If you have a family member in a certain town that's closer, or, you know, it makes a little more sense to go one way or of the other, it just kind of makes things a little easier, and you know, at the end of the day we're fighting, not, sorry, fighting's not the word I'm looking for, but we're trying to keep as many kids on the ice as possible. So, if there's a roadblock, or, you know, we don't want to make it harder for people to get their kids to the arena to play hockey, we want to make it as easy as possible because we want to see them all out on the ice at the end of the day. So whether that makes sense that they go to North Channel for them, or if it makes sense that they come to Thessalon, I mean, it just, it's more of a case of a scenario for these people because there's nowhere for anybody to go in these towns, either, at the same time between



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games, because most of the time we do play one or two games in a day and we try to group it where multiple age groups attend these arenas, you know, we could be in these towns for five, six hours out of a day, and you, you don't want, and these days with COVID and everything and sitting in a vehicle, you're not gonna sit in a vehicle for five or six hours, so if you have the ability to attend a family member's house, or whatever, I guess technically we don't at the moment, if that option was there, it would just make more sense, and we feel that it would probably allow for the most—the maximum number of kids to attend. And that's all we're looking for is just to kind of make it easier, in that sense. So, I'll kind of close that long-winded spiel with that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you, thank you Jeff. Is there anyone from Thessalon Minor that, anyone else that would like to speak to it? Allison? Or has Jeff pretty well covered it? Yeah I'll take that as a yes, and now Gayle Payette of the NOHA Board would like to give the Board's perspective on this. Gayle?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Yes, apologies, Curtis Martin, who's from North Channel Minor Hockey has his hand raised, so if we can let Curtis—

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, for sure.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** I see his hand raised, but I'm not seeing the audio function, so if he's in here in another way... Okay, I see you're unmuted, there, Curtis.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** No luck getting him unmuted?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** It shows he's unmuted.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** If you can hear us Curtis, you can come in any time.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Okay, we are having some difficulties, but I have a message here from Trevor Bailey, so I'm going to unmute him to speak.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Trevor Bailey, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Hi there. If Curtis can't get on, I think we're on the same page here. We, we understand the difficulty with the COVID and the arenas shutting down and the distance to travel to the arenas causing quite a stir. We, we, you know, we worked, I've been on the Board almost twenty years. We've worked with, almost, as mentioned, many partnerships between Thessalon and ourselves. We, we do have a friendly amendment that we would like to add if Thessalon would accept it. And that is, if Desbarats does not open, as an arena, then Bruce Mines can have the freedom to choose wherever they want to play, and that isn't an issue. However, if the Desbarats arena does reopen up, then that portion of freedom to choose no longer exists. It's all we want to offer, I mean, you're right, the kids want to play hockey, the distance to Echo Bay is a lot farther than the distance to Thessalon, so yeah, we see that, and if Desbarats doesn't open up, then yeah, and that becomes their home arena, then there's no issue there.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. Yes. I guess the problem that there seems to be with that is I'm not sure that it can go into the Bylaws that way. That's the concern. Jason, is that the concern that you have from your end?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Yeah, I think that's something that can be addressed separately if, you know, regardless of whether this, this Motion passes or not, well if it doesn't pass, then, you know, that's something, that I think the two groups can work together, and I, not to take over from Gayle, but there have been conversations that the NOHA has been a part of between the two organizations, so, but that would be a, you know, the intent of the Bylaws is to essentially be, you know, the base of the tree, anyways, that's just a comment.

**Trevor Bailey, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Yeah, no problem.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Are you okay with that, Trevor?



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**Trevor Bailey, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Yeah, I just, we, we understand the difficulties, and you know we're trying to keep our numbers just as well as they're trying to keep theirs, so, we appreciate it, and, and if we can come to some agreement, not necessarily put in or cut in stone, then we can certainly work our way through it.

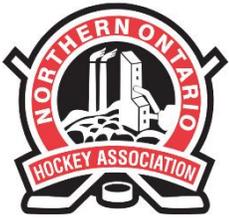
**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, super. Thanks a lot, Trevor, and maybe after we hear from Gayle, you may have further questions from there, so at this point Jason will bring in Gayle Payette to, to speak from the NOHA.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Apologies, I just unmuted her.

**Gayle Payette, NOHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Thank you. So, more than twenty years ago, the community of Bruce Mines had a Minor Hockey Association under the umbrella of the NOHA. Bruce Mines, like the North Channel Minor Hockey, has, was, under District 7. At that time, Thessalon Minor Hockey. Sorry. Like North Channel Minor Hockey, has been, was under District 3. At that time, Thessalon Minor Hockey was under District 7. Now, they are a part of District 3. When Bruce Mines folded a number of years ago, players from this area then fell under North Channel Minor Hockey. The town of Bruce Mines is 12.9 km from Desbarats arena, and is 20.4 km from the arena in Thessalon. NOHA regulations are currently based on residency, and as such, the NOHA Board of Directors does not support this Motion. The NOHA has facilitated meetings earlier this season between the two Associations, and North Channel Minor Hockey provided some flexibility in terms of releasing players should Thessalon Minor Hockey have difficulty fielding teams. Finally, if this Motion is supported by the Membership today, it will create a number of other challenges down the road with respect to freedom of choice. There are many other situations across the NOHA that are similar in nature, and it will create significant issues. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Gayle. Are there any other comments or questions with regards to this Motion? Please raise your hand.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** I think Allison from Thesslon has her hand raised, so start with her.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, Allison?

**Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, can you hear me?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We can, just give us your name and your Association.

**Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Allison Cooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey. We've been in talks for a while over this and, in a couple different levels, and I'm just wondering, like they're saying it's going to cause, like, other effects, but there was nothing specific to this, and from what I see, like, Iron Bridge is right to choice, and I'm not sure that it causes any effects down, so I'm just wondering if you could explain a little bit further on that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Allison. Gayle, I'll go back to you to respond to that.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Apologies, again. So, we've unmuted Gayle I hope.

**Gayle Payette, NOHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Okay, thank you. So, Allison, just to clarify, you're looking for—

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I think what she's looking for, Gayle, if I, and let me know if I'm wrong, I think they're, they're confused about the other implications that, that passing this Motion would cause within the NOHA.

**Gayle Payette, NOHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Okay, thank you for that clarification. So, I was just thinking about the response to this, and the way I see it is if we allow this to happen in District 3 for this area, there's possible situations within District 2 and possibly District 4 that would have the same issues, and this could open a whole new ball, or new can of worms, so to speak, in, in regards to right to choice, which would make it difficult for some Associations to, to operate, and I know how Thessalon is feeling, and I believe we had a good meetings previously to alleviate



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some of these issues, and I believe that North Channel, like Mr. Bailey had said in his remarks, are more than willing to be that cooperative agent to make sure that hockey is viable for both Associations. So, I don't think that this is going to be in any way detrimental to Thessalon Minor Hockey. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you Gayle. Any other comments?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There's a question from Jeff Seabrooke. We'll unmute him for you.

**Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** So, just to go back to the, Thessalon—

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Jeff, Jeff, just one second, Jeff. Just if you can just give your name and your Association again, it's just for the record that, so when the girls are doing up the minutes after that they have everything in the audio.

**Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association:** Yeah, no problem. Jeff Seabrooke, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association. I just want to circle back one more time to the right to choose thing, and it causing issues in other Districts. Thessalon, as of 2013 was part of District 7, and then we were removed, or sorry, not removed, then changed to District 3. So given the fact that Iron Bridge is a right to choose area, I mean, we just have a hard time understanding why it would cause implications with other Districts, given the fact that a town that, you know, in the similar proximity, has that right, but a town West can't. And I'll just leave it at that, like I'm not, I'm not going to argue it any further than that, it's, it appears that there's been a decision made, so I'm just gonna leave it on that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, well, thank you, Jeff, I mean, the decision's gonna be made here shortly, when we vote on this Motion. Is there anyone else that wishes to speak to this?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Dick I can, I can try to address the, the right of choice to the best of my ability. It happened, everything that we had happened prior to my, my



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time, but the Board of the time along with the staff put together a Who Belongs to Who spreadsheet, so what you see in this, this amendment includes all the, you know, cities, towns, villages, et cetera, that we had in that, that list. And, like I said, the, the Board at the time they, they put together that, that list and as we've gone forward there, as mentioned, Iron Bridge, for whatever reason, was listed as a, as a right of choice. I don't know the full rationale behind that, but as Gayle mentioned, there, there are a few other situations that the office staff deal with on a frequent basis, and I'll use one example with players who live in the, I guess the West end of Sudbury, East end, whichever, so close to Coniston, who, who always ask to play in Coniston, and that happens quite frequently as people from Coniston and Sudbury can probably attest, so, that, you know, like I said, this, this having in, being in the Bylaws would create some challenges that I, I hope I unfortunately can't address the, you know, the why that well, but that's kind of where that question comes up or that comment comes up.

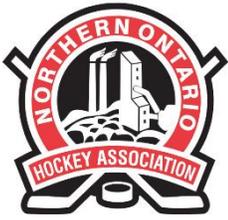
**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thanks, Jason.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Dick, I do have a message here from Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey with a question.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey:** Hi, Brian Getty here, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey. I'm just wondering, every time we bring up Freedom of Movement, we always hear about all these problems that it's gonna cause without any real definition of what that cause is, and I understand at the Rep level, it's probably more of an issue in trying to field Rep teams. At the House League level, for the life of Schumacher, we'll never understand why Freedom of Movement is such a troubling thing to understand, and we never seem to get, it's just, it, oh it'll cause problems in the Bylaws, it'll cause problems here, but we never know what those problems are, we never get them identified, like, it's, and I know Schumacher's been pounding this for a number of years, and probably will continue to, but it's just, we're in a situation, it's 2021, people want to be able to choose where they play, and I don't know why we, as a group, have such a big difficulty or we always want to defend our boundaries, and I speak a lot on the House League side, but I just thought I'd throw those comments out there. Thanks for the opportunity.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you very much, Brian. Any other hands up, Jason?



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**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Dick, there are two others, Albert Corradini and then Ron Rose, so I'll start with Albert, here.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. Go ahead, Albert.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Albert Corradini, so I don't have a dog in this fight, but we've discussed this obviously over and over again. I'm really hard-pressed to understand why, why in the NOHA we continue to have restrictive policies with respect to free player movement at House League, when if I'm not, I don't believe I'm mistaken, but I believe we're the only Member Partner within the OHF that has that restriction in place, and I understand the notion that, you know, we are, we are treading on history and long, agreements that have been in place for fairly long periods of time, but I kind of have to agree that, especially when we're trying to keep as many kids playing the game as possible, Freedom of Choice seems to be something, especially at the Recreational level, that we should be aspiring to, to provide to the Membership. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Albert. Next Question.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** The next question is from Ron Rose.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Go ahead, Ron.

**Ron Rose, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, Ron Rose from North Channel Association. I'm just kind of commenting on what the gentlemen just preceding me both touched on, but from the point of view of the rural Associations, and not that I don't feel for Mr. Seabrooke's situation in Thessalon as well, because getting numbers to the rink is always the challenge. In saying that, being North Channel and the numbers that you can see clearly on the page, for how many participants we have, the potential of having. Being the Association right beside Sault Ste. Marie, we generally lose a lot of participants. And if it was a Freedom of Movement allowed, I'm sure other members of our Board would agree with this, we wouldn't be viable for more than a few more years. Even just the past year before the pandemic, it was a trouble



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to be able to field a team at each level at the House League level because of the amount of players that we lose from our District to begin with to the Sault, and that we had already historically been losing to Thessalon from Bruce Mines and Bruce Station. So, just to put it in perspective, as an opinion, anyways, to put forward, the reason that these Districts are so good as is that without them, the viability of rural, rural Associations is really going to be become a thing of the past, and as much as Mr. Seabrooke and Thessalon is doing what they feel the need to do for their Association, we won't really have many people to play against if we continue to break apart our ability to field teams. But anyways, I just want to put that out as a, as a reality we face yearly in North Channel Association due to our proximity to the city, as well as our ongoing debate with Thessalon as far as our jurisdictions go. Thanks, just a comment.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Ron. Do you have anything else, Jason?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There are two others, Melissa.

**Melissa Devries, Black River Matheson Minor Hockey Association:** Yes, my name is Melissa Devries, I'm from the Black River Matheson Minor Hockey Association. I guess I really have nothing to say now that the previous gentlemen spoke. He basically covered everything I was going to say. Freedom of Choice would completely fold Matheson, in my opinion as the President. Many people travel out of our community to go to work, and we have seen in the past people who have chosen to put their kids in Rep just for the sake of making it more convenient, they've went to great lengths, even, to move them to different schools so that it's where they work. So I'm afraid that if we were to accommodate Thessalon, even though I understand that it would probably be better for some kids, what about the kids, once too many leave, and that can only join the local club? Like, for us, if we had so many kids that left, it would also affect the ones that weren't able to travel. So, that's the only thing that I would like people to consider.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thanks, Melissa. Okay, anyone else that wants to speak to the Motion that deals directly with this, this situation in Thessalon?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There's a question from Jeff Parnell.



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**Jeff Parnell, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** Hello, hopefully you can hear me. Just on, on movement, I never think that's a bad idea. It's nice to give kids a choice. For us here in Porcupine, working with Timmins now in agreement, which I believe is, is in the best direction for the whole city of Timmins and all the kids in the area. Having a choice is never a bad, bad idea, as far as I'm concerned. If all Associations get along and work together, I think that's what, that's best for kids in all, all areas, even across the NOHA. We just need a better communication process and strive to go in the same direction. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. Thank you, Jeff. Keep in mind, now, that this Motion does not, is not speaking to Freedom of Movement throughout the NOHA, it's very specific of where we're talking about. So, Jason, is that it for questions?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There is one other hand raised, Pete Thibeault, Coniston.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, go ahead, Pete.

**Pete Thibeault, Coniston Minor Hockey Association:** Pete Thibeault, Coniston Minor Hockey. It just speaks to what the question was from the confusion, I think Miss, the lady from Thessalon expressed. And in speaking to what Gayle was referring to, and Jason, I think we're used as an example in this a lot between Coniston and Sudbury. We have, in my opinion, a very good working relationship with the Associations around us and have been able to create some partnerships and work together to make things work. I think that Freedom of Movement, or Freedom of Choice, if we want, between Associations could, in some small Associations, be a detriment, and with other Associations be a great boost. So, the unfortunate thing is not knowing the situation in Thessalon and North Shore well enough, or sorry, North Channel well enough. It could be great for both of the Associations, so I think it speaks to what's going on in that situation in that area. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you very much. So, if that's the end of the comments, then Jason will go to the voting on this amendment, and everyone knows they have to go to their computer to register their vote, and we'll have Adam open the voting now.



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**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** The voting is open. So, there were 50 people who voted in support, 60 people who voted against, and 13 who have abstained, so it would be defeated, Dick.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, so the Motion does not Carry.

### **DEFEATED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll move on to the last one.

## **2. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

### **Page 92 – NOHA Regulation 11.4.1.b**

#### **Presently Reads:**

If an Association has been awarded to host a NOHA House League Tournament of Champions, they must declare, in writing, by October 1st if they are unable to register a team.

#### **Change to Read:**

Delete.

#### **Rationale:**

Regulation 11.4.1.a was changed at the 2020 NOHA Annual General Meeting to reflect an updated date for applications to be received by October 1. Given this, the above Regulation is no longer required.

**Moved by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Brian Beaupre, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Is there anyone from the NOHA that wishes to speak to this?



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**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** I believe it's self-explanatory, it was something that was missed as we went through everything last year. It should have been, it should have been kept in when we did the review of the amendments to keep and to withdraw because of the uncertainty, so this was one of the ones that we had missed.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you Jason. Any questions from the floor on the Motion? No hands up. We'll get ready to vote on this Motion, and Jason, let us know when you've opened the voting.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** The voting is open, Dick.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you. The Motion has Carried.

### CARRIED

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So that's the end of the amendments for today. I want to thank everyone for their participation in that.

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### 8) CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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### 9) ELECTIONS

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll move now to the election of the new Board, and it's District One only that will be voting in, just the District One people. The Candidates, alphabetically, are Derek Byrnes, and Kevin Peever. Derek, do you wish to leave your name to stand for the position of Council Director for District One?



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**Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive:** Yes, I do.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Derek. And Kevin Peever. Kevin, do you wish to leave your name standing for the Council Director of District One?

**Kevin Peever, Timmins:** Yes, I do.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. We'll have, we'll allow each person three minutes to address the audience, and Kevin, we'll start with you, so the floor is yours.

**Kevin Peever, Timmins:** All right, thank you very much. First of all, I'd just like to thank everyone that's involved in the call here today that are volunteers, because if it wasn't for the volunteer members of the NOHA and all these hockey associations, we wouldn't have the, the hockey structure and the ability for these young athletes to be involved in the great game of hockey in Canada, so first of all, I just want to thank everyone. For those that don't know me, my name is Kevin Peever, I was born and raised in Iroquois Falls, Ontario. Played my whole minor hockey system in the NOHA before leaving the NOHA to play Junior hockey in the CCHL. Played four years there, and then went on to receive a scholarship at RIT in Rochester in the NCAA. I've been involved with minor hockey and coaching for roughly, you know, twenty-seven years in total, not all with Hockey Canada, because my wife and I did live abroad in New Zealand, where, you know, we moved in the country and six days after being in the country, I found one of the four only ice rinks to, to help with the grassroots program in Auckland where we, we assisted with some kiwi kids and Maori kids in getting them involved with the great game of hockey that we love here in Canada, and teaching them the grassroots, and allowing them to continue, and learn from some ex-Canadians. While I played hockey in Brockville, I started coaching minor hockey, the House League level in Atom, primarily as the, kind of, targeted age group that I, kind of, looked after due to my availability, but we didn't play any games on Saturdays, so I made sure that every Saturday morning I was up and at the rink, and trying to help some, some young athletes try to achieve their goals and just have fun with the game. So, I have no hidden agendas, here, in terms of why I want to be part of the NOHA. The biggest reason why I want to be part of the NOHA is I want to help young individuals in this District, and try to improve the game, and, and I've sat on Boards before, I was part of a Board member for the Timmins Rock, where, you know, I helped relocate the Junior Eskis to Timmins,



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so I understand the governance of a Board, and, and the impacts of decisions, and, you know, if you don't like a decision, you have to move forward with it and be a team member, I'm always, I'm always about that, and willing to assist any way I can, and also I was a GM for five years for the Timmins Rock, so, I've stepped down recently because I want to focus my time on the NOHA and, and trying to help hockey as a whole in this District and, you know, try to make it better for everyone, so that's, that's kind of my reasoning why I want to be part of the NOHA as the District One rep.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much, Kevin. We'll now go to Derek.

**Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive:** Hi, thank you, Dick. Just want to thank, again, everybody who has hung on to this point in the agenda, a number of people specifically here for, from District One, who are hanging around for this important vote in, in the future of the hockey here, in the District. For those of you who don't know me, I've been involved in hockey locally in South Porcupine since, I started in anklebiters and culminated my career aging out in Midget. Along the way, I became a referee, obtaining a level three certification. The only brief period of time I was away from hockey is when I was pursuing post-secondary education in Windsor, but when I returned in 1995, I began my coaching career again with Porcupine Minor Hockey, and continued until 2019 with the aging out of both my children who were playing at that time, so I focused my time and effort thereon in the governance position with the NOHA. Some of my executive experience, in about the 2010-11 season, I started with the PMHA executive as the Equipment Manager, I then moved through the ranks with Director of Tier 2 Hockey, Director of Tier 1 Hockey, and finally—my final position was President of Porcupine Minor Hockey. While doing those positions, I've always had my sights on the NOHA as an ultimate goal, and made it known to those who, who needed to know at the time. I was rewarded in 2018 by being selected by Ted Zajac, our then-representative, to replace him on the Board, and I thank Ted at this time for, for making that decision. Why do I want to remain your District rep here in District One? Well, I've been in the trenches locally for a number of years with the Timmins proper Associations, I believe I have a solid background on the dynamics, challenges, and the history leading up to where we are today in the hockey situation. For my out, for the outlying Chapleau and Matheson Associations, I've done my very best to keep in contact, contact, and be available to you, as well as learn some of your own challenges and concerns, and bring those forward. Definitely, there needs to be more in-person contact for the outlying Associations, for sure, and I commit to doing that, should I. I've sent emails out, originally, to everybody, hopefully you've all had a chance to read those, and I, I just want to aspire and keep being on the Board, not only for the local Associations, for the District and the NOHA as a whole. What I learned, foremost, when I first came on the Board was that you have to be virtually at the beck and call of your



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representatives. I mean, they can call me at any time, and they all know that, and we've done some last-minute things a number of times throughout my tenure so far. The other thing that I, I've learned is that you have to represent the NOHA as a whole, so even though a local Asso—local stuff comes up, you represent that as best you can, knowing the dynamics and the consequences that happen, and we've seen that today with the first Motion that came up with a local concern that would certainly have had effects across the NOHA going forward. So, I guess my most important desire, here, is to keep representing the whole of the NOHA for the benefit of all, right from Sault Ste. Marie up to Hearst, to the coast, and down to North Bay and everybody in between, so with your support, I'd like to continue being your NOHA District Rep, thank you everyone.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Great, thanks a lot, Derek. So, we're going to go to voting on this position now, and this is done by the people in the District, and you, I think Adam is going to provide you with that method of registering your vote now. Adam, is that in place for the delegates?

**Adam Morell, NOHA Office:** Yeah, thank you Dick, So everyone in District One who registered to vote should have received two separate emails. One was for the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the other one was titled District One Election. So you're going to need to go back to your email and open the District One election email, and go there to vote. The meeting should be open now, so you should be off the landing page and it should automatically take you into where the voting Motion is. We'll give everyone a minute here just to go to their emails and get there so they can vote.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There is a question, Dick, from Albert Corradini.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, go ahead, Albert.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Thanks, Dick, I, I just, I understand that the voting is limited to District One, but the implications of this are a little more far-reaching than simply District One, I mean there are rules in place, if I'm not mistaken, at the NOHA that prohibit from, you know, if you're involved in Leagues or teams you can't sit on the NOHA Board. Does that seem, and I assume that's a result of conflict or potential conflict, unless I've



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missed something, I don't think that rule has changed, does the same not pertain to player representatives and agency groups?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Jason?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, yeah, the, thanks, Albert. I did have a conversation with our lawyer on this just to ensure that there were no issues, so in the end, the, we have a conflict of interest policy, and it would be up to, in any situation, the individual to declare a conflict when that occurs, whether it's a perceived conflict, or a true conflict, so.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Okay, I, so I understand that, but, okay, so I'll make a statement I guess, my own personal bias, and then I'll, I'll make a second statement. The first is I don't know what greater conflict there could be than introducing monetary decisions into a Minor Hockey Association and the second part of the equation is, if, in fact, this is allowed, then why would we not allow people who are involved with teams or Leagues to run for the NOHA as Board of Directors and allow them the same luxury of declaring conflicts when, when that becomes problematic, or when need be?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** We, we do allow individuals who are on team staffs to run for the Board of Directors.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** But Leagues?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** We allow team staff at the present time, that's what our Bylaws say, that's what our Members approved.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** But not Leagues though, correct?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** It's in our Bylaws that Team Officials are able to, to be a part of, but you're correct, a member of another Board of Directors cannot.



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**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Okay, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There's a question or comment from Gayle Payette.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Go ahead, Gayle.

**Gayle Payette, NOHA Second Vice President:** Hi there, thank you. During the election process, I, I do believe it's unfair that people get to speak until the election results have been posted, or given, so I think, in this instance, Mr. Corradini should not have been allowed to speak until the election process was completed in full. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Yes, Gayle, I understand what you're saying, but I think that Albert was more, or he was asking a question about not so much a specific person, but more about the, who is allowed to run. And so, for that reason, we'll allow the question and have Jason confirm it. The voting is open.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Dick, sorry, there's a question from Steve Vachon.

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** Yeah, I'm on the page, I don't know if I'm the only one, I know via text I've had another three people tell me that the question has not come up yet.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** The voting has not opened yet.



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**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** Oh, okay.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Before we, before we start, we'll make, we'll verify that the, the voting is open. There's a question from Tyler.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Tyler?

**Sherry Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** Hi, sorry, actually it's Sherry from Porcupine Minor Hockey. I know there was a discussion mentioned, or a comment mentioned earlier that people who are not involved in the actual voting for this specific session should not have spoken, however, I, I feel that it was very warranted, because not everybody is aware of how the dynamics work, and I don't believe many people were aware that being involved with another organization and running for a position, or, or asking for, sorry, but applying for a position as a District Rep was something that need to be shared or advised. So that's just my comment. I appreciate being advised of that because I was unaware, there is a lot to learn and a lot to read when it comes to the NOHA Constitution, and unfortunately that's something I missed, so, in my regards, I appreciate being advised of the possible conflict of interest. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. Thank you very much. And how are we...

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** There's one question from Steve Lawrence.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Oh, go ahead, Steve.

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** Thank you, it's more of a statement. When I ran for the position of District Three Counselor, I was currently on another Board, and when successful in the election, or, or, when I was claimed to the Board, I then resigned my position with the other Board. Had I not resigned, then I believe then, I forfeit my position on the NOHA, that's how I perceive that, so then I had resigned from the other Board that I was a part of. So, I think that's important information to have as well just as far as, I think this happens quite frequently where



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other folks have other positions or are a part of other hockey opportunities, they decide that they want to run for an election, and are given that opportunity to do that, if successful, then the onus is on them to resign their other post that, that caused either a perceived or conflict of interest. So, that's how I interpret that, I hope that helps other people with the information they were looking for, and I could be wrong, but that's what happened in my case.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Steve. How are we doing, Adam, as far as getting ready to vote on this?

**Adam Morell, Office Staff:** If you're good to go Dick, we can go ahead.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. So, we'll have Adam open the voting now.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Dick, there's 40 of the 41 eligible voters who have cast their vote, so we'll stop it right now, okay?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, the votes were 26 for Derek Byrnes, 14 for Kevin Peever.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. Thank you very much. Derek, you will remain as the NOHA Representative for the Timmins District. Okay, now we're going to go back to the Council Directors that have been acclaimed. And we just want to touch base with them to make sure they're going to now accept that acclamation. Steve Lawrence in District Three, Steve, will you remain as District Three Representative?

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** Yeah, I accept, thank you very much.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Steve. Matt Duquette, District Five. Will you remain as the Director for District Five?

**Matt Duquette, NOHA Executive:** Hi, Dick. Yes, I do.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, great. Thank you, Matt. Michael Bridgeman, District Seven.

**Michael Bridgeman, Mindemoya:** Yes, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Michael. And District Nine, Samantha Gaulin.

**Samantha Gaulin, NOHA Executive:** I will.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Did she say yes? Thank you, Sam. Okay, that concludes the Elections.

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### 10) OTHER BUSINESS

None.

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### 11) NEW BUSINESS

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll go to any other New Business that you would like to discuss at this time, and again, we ask you just to raise your hand and Jason will bring the questions forward. No New Business? Oh, Gayle?



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**Gayle Payette, NOHA Second Vice President:** Thank you, Dick, I don't have any questions, just a basic statement. I just wanted to thank everybody for coming on today, and I want to thank Kevin Eshkawkogan for his services in District Seven. I also want to thank Glen Campbell for all his services this year and through many years prior to this election process and everything that's happening with COVID, so thanks, thanks Glen for your commitment to the NOHA and the players as well. That's all I have, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much, Gayle. Yes, and along with Glen, I want to personally thank all of the staff who, I really truly believe they've done a great job in working with the Board to keep the NOHA on the right track through a very, very difficult time, so to all of those people, thank you. Thank you very, very much. We're now looking for a Motion to Adjourn—

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Sorry, sorry Dick, there are two hands raised, here.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So again, I know it says Tyler, but I believe it's Sherry, so I'm going to unmute Sherry, here.

**Sherry Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** Sorry, my apologies, it's still up from last time.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Okay, and then there's a hand raised for Albert Corradini again.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Go ahead, Albert.



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**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** What do you mean again, Jason?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** You know exactly what I mean.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** I just, I want to thank the NOHA Office, the staff, the Directors, everybody, because I, I know that all of us have struggled through this year, I know that the leadership and the work that all of you put in was maybe, probably not as appreciate as it should have been, because I can guarantee you that the result was not exactly the way most people envisioned this year would be for hockey, but I know, and I, I appreciate your efforts, and I'm certain that the Membership at large appreciates the efforts of all of, all of you, and putting the time in to try to make the best out of a bad situation, and let's hope that 2021-22 is much better.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much, Albert, I think you speak for everyone. So, if there's no more comments or questions, we need a Mover to adjourn this meeting.

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### 12) MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Moved by** Ted Zajac, NOHA First Vice President

**Seconded by** Gayle Payette, NOHA Second Vice President

“To adjourn the NOHA Annual General Meeting.”

**CARRIED**