



BURLINGTON LIONS OPTIMIST MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PARENT REP MEETING

Thursday, Jan 28, 2010

Board of Directors Present:

Rick Dawson: President
Bob Brown: Vice President
Marc Morneau: Director of Coaches Development
Donna Ballentyne: Director Trainers and Risk Management
Jim Hart: Director Minor Bantam to Midget

Assistant Directors Present:

Sandra Morneau: Development 4/5
Mark Ballentyne: Tyke
Jason McHattie: Minor Peewee/Peewee
Barry Gothard: Minor Bantam

Office Staff:

Sheila Ramage: Executive Assistant
Kelly Meikle: Administrative Coordinator
Lindy Sentes: Administrative Coordinator

Parent Reps and number attending per division:

6/14 from Dev 4/5
11/14 from Tyke
6/8 from Pre Novice
6/8 from Novice
3/8 from Minor Atom
4/6 from Atom
6/10 from Minor Peewee
4/10 from Peewee
5/8 from Minor Bantam
3/10 from Bantam
1/10 from Minor Midget
1/14 from Midget
10/15 from Rep teams

The following list covers items discussed at the meeting. It is the hope that most all topics that were discussed are covered here. The order in which things are mentioned here is random and has nothing to do with order of importance.

We thank everyone that attended this meeting and contributed to our question period. The information gathered is most helpful and the Board will discuss all matters that appear to be a concern for all participants when planning takes place for the upcoming seasons.

Rick Dawson started off the evening with a few items of importance:

- Expansion of the twin pads at Appleby arena is on target and will open September 2010.
- The HST, Harmonized Sales Tax will come into effect on July 1, 2010. This will have a major impact on the ice bill which is approx. \$800,000.00 per year. The HST (8%) will also be added to rent, hydro, heat, uniforms and all services that BLOMHA is billed for. BLOMHA will also have to cover its' share of the ice user's new Appleby arena surcharge. The surcharge is amortized over 15 years to the ice user groups. Due to these two items, the registration costs (except Development 4-5) will be going up \$70.00 next season.
- Our registration costs are still very reasonable compared to other leagues in relation to on ice activity, and quality of uniforms.
- Our registration numbers are down by approximately 500 players over the last two years.
- Competition from The Wave has forced us to take a hard look at what we offer and work to get some players back and invite new players to join. It is important for participants to know that we operate under Alliance Hockey, the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada.
- Hockey Canada mandates certified coaches, trainers and all bench personnel as well as making sure police clearances are completed for all volunteers. Under the umbrella of Hockey Canada our players are fully insured and are able to play against other centres that are also sanctioned by Hockey Canada.
- Players that are currently at The Wave are allowed to come back and play in BLOMHA. The restriction comes if a player is found playing in both BLOMHA and The Wave. If found out, the participant must choose one or the other and withdraw immediately from one. There are no refunds for doing so. Important: this is a Hockey Canada rule; not a BLOMHA rule. All players in Canada, no matter where they play and live, can only be registered to one team under Hockey Canada.
- The amount of ice we need from The City has been impacted by the decrease in registrations. We must guarantee renting a pre determined number of hours from the City prior to next season. This is worked out carefully and therefore we hope to get some players back from The Wave and attract new players to hockey. The ice needs are typically based upon 3.5 hrs per week per player in rep and 1.25 hours per week per house league player.
- We do not want Mountainside Arena to close. This discussion is in the works at City Hall and the ice user's group cannot approve closing Mountainside when a new arena is opening. The new arena is being built to add extra ice to the existing infrastructure and closing an arena would defeat this purpose. That is why we must continue using Mountainside Arena.
- In order to help defray player costs, we were going to have every family buy a book of raffle tickets to sell or keep for themselves. BLOMHA prides itself on not forcing mandatory fundraising and this idea was discussed with the Parent Reps and it was decided not to pursue this idea.
- Rick Dawson outlined the new fees for all divisions and these are available on the website under registration.

- **New registration process for next season:** registration will be open to all returning and new players on April 12th, 2010. The registration form will be emailed to all participants and will also be available online to print off. We encourage everyone to share forms with friends and neighbours. Divisions will be filled on a first come basis. The reason for this is that we have lost players to the Wave and other organizations as a result of having new players wait until July to register for our program.
- Payment for registrations can still be post dated for June 1st, 2010 and September 15th, 2010. The form must be brought to the office in person or mailed back to us as there is no online registration available.

Questions were fielded from the floor and answered to the best of our ability:

- **Concern that some returning players may not have a spot if the new players can sign up in April as well.**
A: Based on our ice package there should be sufficient ice to accommodate everyone but registering early will surely guarantee a spot.
- **Did players go to the Wave because we were full?**
Not necessarily. Some went on their own accord and if others were on the waiting list it would have been a small number. We need to register 34 players (17 per team) before we can open up two new teams per division. In other words if you have approximately 12 players on a waiting list we can't add any of them to the program.
- **Can calls from coaches be made sooner to let players know what teams they are on and what days and evenings to expect?**
Yes, but only if players register early and all of the information is available. Unfortunately we are sometimes waiting to put coaches in place and have volunteers come forward at the last minute. This season two weeks notice was given to families and that is more than usual.
- Our goal is to have 16 players per team which includes 15 players and 1 goalie. If more people register however we do try to accommodate them as it is not fair for instance to turn a goalie away.
- **Does registration close at some point?**
A: There is no specified closing date for registrations. Spots will be filled until the teams are filled. Get your registrations in early.
- **My Atom player has more minutes of ice time than my Bantam player:**
A: All divisions are carefully given the same number of hours for the season to the best of our ability while working around holidays and other ice cancellations. Atom teams have 1.5 hours at 6:00am practices and Bantam teams do not have morning practices. The total number of hours per season including practices and games are listed below. We do not count player minutes. It is up to the coaches to give equal ice time to everyone as per the By-Laws.

Division	Total # of hours of ice per season per team
Dev 4/5	40
Tyke	42
Pre Novice	42
Novice	42
Minor Atom	40
Atom	41
Minor Peewee	39
Peewee	39
Minor Bantam	39
Bantam	38 (1 full ice)
Minor Midget	38 (1 full ice)
Midget	40/41

- How are teams put together?**
 A: Teams are balanced with players of all abilities according to evaluations from the previous year and everything possible is done to avoid player movement.
- Issues with older/larger players at the smaller arenas.**
 A: Scheduling is not as simple as putting older players in larger arenas. Blocks of ice are needed to accommodate the number of teams per division and the time of day we have available dictates what ice is assigned to what age group. It is always our hope to have older kids at the larger arenas but it doesn't always work out.
- Tyke is only at Aldershot on Saturdays and Sundays and teams would like to use another arena...change rinks around?**
 A: this can be reviewed for next season depending on further information from parents.
- Why can't players be added to teams for tournaments?**
 A: This is an Alliance rule. Teams becomes "Select" when built from players on other teams. See policy #15 on the BLOMHA website for exceptions to this.
- It would be great to have full ice practices for older teams and have the coaches get together to run drills on full ice with both teams together. Some would be willing to pay more for full ice.**
 A: This can be done now if the coaches choose to do so. If teams are sharing the ice every week for a practice now, they could have the ice every second week on their own if the coaches agree. This would be less travel for parents. Another suggestion could be to have both teams practice together on full ice for part of the session. There is not enough ice available to give full ice to all teams every week. That is why the Rep fees are significantly higher.
- Tyke / buzzers would be appreciated / too hard to change on the fly.**
 A: The players need to be prepared for Pre Novice the following year however the buzzer could be used for the first half of the season and then they could switch to on the fly line changes in the second half. We need parent and coach input on this issue.

- **New players in older age groups can slow things down...can it be tiered...takes away from the experience...**
 A: Teams are built according to evaluations and new players indicate such on their registration forms. We need to outline skating ability on new player forms in case they do not attend the new player evaluation skate. Put number of years experience playing hockey and at what level, especially in older age groups. Divisions will not be tiered as this was done in the 70's and 80's and it did not work. It is not fair on the players placed in the lower division to be labeled. It is up to the coaches to make A, B and C lines and work together to play equal lines against each other.
- **Appleby questions...Pad (4) is designated for figure skaters only. We have picked up ice on pad 3 on the weekends.**
- **5pm practice hours are extremely difficult to get to.**
 A: We will do our best to not have the Dev 4/5 teams practice at 5pm next year.
- **Novice parents are noticing junior referees on ice together and the inexperience is making calls very inconsistent...**
 A: Senior referees will be placed with junior referees in this Novice division and a change will be noticed in the next few weeks...
- **Rep question...do we need the August tryouts? Can the teams be picked in the spring? The August tryouts are perceived as a cash grab.**
 A: We will let people know how many spots are open per team prior to registering for the August sessions so they can make an informed choice as to whether or not they want to continue to tryout. BLOMHA must sign for a certain amount of ice and some of this is in August. It was made clear from rep coaches that they want the players on the ice in the summer before the season starts in mid September
- **Can we schedule August rep sessions over just two weeks...**
 A: the coaches did not want to do this. As for example if the Novice team had their tryouts say over one week or a week and a half at the beginning of August, they would not be on the ice again until September. Let the coaches decide.
- **No extra parking at Appleby?**
 A: Behind Appleby there are parking spots and some will be added at the side.
- **What if carded rep players do not have to come back in August for the conditioning camp and further tryouts.**
 A: Coaches were not happy with this approach either when asked this question.
- **Novice HL team... the uniforms are too big.**
 A: The complaint generally in the past has been that some are too small. It was felt by parents present that larger was better than being too small. Give out jerseys by size and not number.
- **“STOP” on back of jerseys?**
 A: McDonalds used to sponsor this. This is up to individual teams and the stickers must be CSA approved. We will order 2000 sticker for next year and issue them to coaches in September for those who want to put them on the back of helmets.

- **The socks seem to tear easily.**
A: This again has been a problem over the years. There doesn't appear to be a sock on the market that will stand up to players falling on the ice or putting tape on the outside of the socks for knee pad support or coming into contact with skate blades.
- **A major theft occurred in a locker room...are keys available for rooms?**
A: A rink attendant may take car keys in trade for room key. Do not let kids take valuables in! Perhaps one person can be responsible for one bag full of valuables and take it to the bench. Rick advised that he has asked other ice users to share in the cost or putting a bank of lockers in a dressing room at each rink where coaches could bring their own lock and put team valuables inside. He will follow-up again.
- **Why does goalie rotation stop at Atom?**
A: We generally have sufficient number of goalies at this age group. Players will only be rotated up to Novice next year.
- **Goalies seem to be ignored in house league and rep.**
A: We will supply extra ice next year for goalie development as this is one area that is not being addressed. We will also invite weaker skaters out for power skating sessions during the course of the year.
- Curfews in playoffs...if there is a 3 goal or more advantage, a curfew will be called if necessary regardless what time the game started.
- In Peewee and below the goalie can play out if the number of players drops below a certain number. This is a decision of the HL coach.
- August Fun Skills summer program is very popular. The registration forms are available at the same time as BLOMHA registrations.
- **PD day sessions?**
A: One day would get booked very quickly. Who would operate this?
- Easter Monday is a holiday for some. Would parents be interested in giving teams participating in Minor Hockey Day a practice on Easter Monday?
Most felt that too many people have to work that day so do not schedule practices.
- **Why is there ice available on Saturday Feb 6th?**
A: There is extra ice due to Amherst weekend our 30th annual. However, there is not sufficient ice to give each team in the division a practice so we hold back some ice to sell. Teams can arrange exhibition games on Amherst weekend by purchasing some of the extra ice available
- **Novice...no player movement took place and the teams appear uneven?**
A: In most cases coaches are asked if they want to move players around within the division and some times they request to keep their team as is regardless of their record. There was mention that in this division some new players did not come out for new player evaluation in September and as a result their skill level was not known and they are placed on a team causing an imbalance. Some suggested that if new players do not come out for evaluation they should be refused registering.
- **Credit card numbers are required from the BLOMHA office for Amherst hotel bookings ...confidentiality is a concern. Can individuals call hotels on their own?**
A: The Amherst hotels wanted us to register everyone as a group. We will look into this.

- Alliance House League Championships take place from April 2 - 4, 2010 in Brantford. Only Major divisions take part from Novice to Midget. The first place team after regular season play is entered. Question from BLOMHA: If we had sufficient ice we could have a one game playoff between first and second place teams for the Championship spot. We will look at this next season.
- **Minor Atom...all kids have the same size uniform and this is a problem.**
A: Parents/Coaches need to let the office know the proper sizing recommended for next season.
- Rep tryouts registrations will start in late February.
- Rep coaches for 2010-11 will be announced once teams are eliminated from their playoffs except Novice MD and Atom A which are announced early.
- Game sheets and penalties reports are not used in the player evaluation process.