

**OHF Junior Council Meeting  
Friday, December 10, 2004 – Meeting Notes**

In Attendance

Chair: Karen Phibbs

Council Representatives: Rick Richardson (OHA), Hugh Riddle (NOHA), Dick Woods (OHA), Art Yeo (NOJHL), Dick Prescott (NOHA) and Charlie Macoun (OPJHL).

OHF Staff: Cheryl Allin

Observers: Tony Foresi (Alliance), Richard Ropchan (OMHA), Marg Ensoll (OMHA), Fred Sadowski (NOHA), Bryce Kulik (NOHA), Ed Pupich (OHF President), Rick Morphey (OHF Referee-in-Chief)

**1. Review notes from October Meeting**

Motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Moved by: Dick Woods      Seconded by: Hugh Riddle      Motion Carried.

**2. Business arising from the notes**

Business arising from the minutes will be discussed as agenda items.

**3. Hockey Canada Meetings Update**

HC Fall Council

- The Council agenda and the objectives were reviewed.
- Motions from the general session were brought forward and passed after individual discussion of the motions other than housekeeping and casebook. Housekeeping and casebook motions were reviewed and passed as well. All motions were considered individually as a Council.
- Royal Bank Cup. Plans are underway to enhance the player package. Team information to be highlighted on the website. The plan is to put articles on the various teams on the website to help promote the event leading up to Wayburn.

***Action Item***

- The organizers of the Royal Bank Cup have requested information on teams' status and statistics leading up to the event (i.e. what they are doing, and where do they place). Karen will email the address to Art Yeo for NOJHL information.
- Discussion took place regarding the Bid Committee structure. Junior Council struck a committee to review how to effectively handle the bid process. The Junior Council agreed that this special committee would be responsible for reviewing the bids, creating a short list and completing a bid site review. This committee will then make a selection recommendation for the Junior Council to consider. The rationale is that this process will eliminate the expense of the bidders making a presentation at the Annual General Meeting. This committee will be made up of an appointed Hockey Canada Representative, the Chair of Junior Council, the President of the CJHL and a Hockey Canada support staff. This new bid process will begin in 2007.
- The 2005 Memorial Cup in London is sold-out.

- The 2006 Memorial Cup will take place in Quebec. The host committees will begin their meetings in April.
- Hockey Canada presented to the Junior Council the possibility of having a National Junior B Championship Event. Currently there are Regional Junior B Championships in the East and West. The only provinces that don't participate are Quebec and Ontario. One concern is the expense such an event would have on a Junior B team. Brent had advised it would be similar to the Royal Bank Cup in the same template as the Memorial Cup. Two concerns are the current disparity in skill level and the difficulty of coming up with a financial solution to the expense of sending teams to compete in this event. Karen mentioned that Brent Ladds suggested an exchange of teams to determine the level of competitiveness. As well, there would have to be a Branch Playoff between all three Ontario Branches to determine the Provincial Junior B Champion.
- On the Revenue Canada – Saskatchewan matter. Revenue Canada has assigned a lawyer to represent their position so discussions can proceed. It is hoped similar arrangements can be made as are in place for Olympic athletes that identify reasonable income and maintain athletic status. Hockey Canada will also be reviewing how the GST rules apply to the structure of hockey associations and teams.
- Glen McCurdie reported on Insurance. A four-year agreement is in place for the Insurance Program. He does not foresee an increase for the juniors. Thirty-five (35%) of the claims are pucks in the stands. A letter will be distributed to the teams to forward to their arenas recommending netting be installed as the risk for injury is very high without them. He noted that NHL players who are uncarded either on the ice or helping in any manner are not covered by the Insurance Program and therefore, it is at the risk of the individual team if they have such players participating.
- A revised Harassment & Abuse Policy will be distributed to each Hockey Canada Branch. Under State of the Game, attention is being focused on Officials to ensure they are up to the task. Junior Council was asked to provide written policies on how officials are developed in each province.
- Discussions took place on the current shift from community organized hockey to privately organized hockey in minor. Entrepreneurial hockey has received considerable attention in the media. Hockey Canada will be looking into this new aspect of program management in minor and the possible avenues needed to ensure programs are in the best interests of the players.

#### Semi Annual Meeting

- Hockey Canada will establish a traveling group to explain the Canadian Model to the each Branch. This topic will be covered under Item # 8 on the agenda.
- Discussion took place concerning the number of NHL players that may participate in the Allan Cup. This will be discussed with a final decision made on the conference call on December 20th. The Branches will vote. Ed feels the OHF position will be defeated. Don Yeck advised there may be only two or three participating at the moment. This will be discussed further at the OHF Board tomorrow.

#### **4. Hockey Canada Junior Committee**

As with the Canadian Model, this will be discussed under Item # 8.

## 5. 2005 Dudley Hewitt Cup

- The Dudley Hewitt Cup agreement has been signed by Bob Nicholson and copies have been made available. There will be an addition made to the contract for next year to cover the financial responsibilities of a host committee. It was reported that Brent Ladds met with Georgetown, they are very well organized and ready to go.

## 6. 2006 Royal Bank Cup

- A meeting with the host committee, its marketing representatives, League officials, Brent, Karen, and Scott Farley, from Hockey Canada was held in early December. Scott was able to answer marketing questions the hosts had and they were able to provide information Scott requested.
- A timeline of sub committee development will be established. Streetsville has a flow chart available and will be forward it to the OHA.
- The facilities are in place and the \$200,000.00 contracts have been signed for sponsorship and ticket packages.
- As requested, Scott Farley will be providing the host committee with a Hosting Manual which will provide a model of expectations from Hockey Canada.
- This is the first time (in a long time) this event will be held in a large center. As such, Hockey Canada is cautious about the projected revenue outlined.
- A Steering Committee of HC, Scott Farley; Junior Rep, Brent; Branch Rep, Karen; and Host Representation was established to meet on a regular basis to ensure everyone is on the same path heading in the same direction.
- Next RBC meeting is scheduled for February 3th at the OHA office in Cambridge.
- The Streetsville Host Committee plans on being in Weyburn the week prior to the 2005 Cup to gain an understanding of how the event shapes up and progresses.

## 7. National Junior B Championships

- Ed Pupich advised Hockey Canada is looking for a Branch position. Will be discussed at Board meeting tomorrow. Rick Richardson advised juniors haven't had a chance to discuss this proposal with their members. From tonight's discussion, Ed suggested it doesn't look like OHF/Ontario would take on such an event due to the costs involved for a team. It was agreed it is too early to have a position without input from junior members.
- Prior to moving ahead with a National Championship we should have some games between Quebec and Ontario to determine the competition level.
- Council agreed timing (fitting in a Branch, Provincial and National Championships), financing, and competitive caliber are its major concerns.

### **Action Item**

The OHA and NOHA should provide feedback prior to our February meeting so we can confirm a Branch position at the February Board meeting. Factors to be considered: money, timing and competitiveness.

- Ed added that this type of Championship would be similar to the size and format of the Dudley Hewitt Cup. A lot of time and money would be required.

## 8. Canadian Development Model

Regarding the information available to date:

- Art advised 15 year old players are not an issue in the North, however, removing 16 year old players as well as American players would create difficulties. We don't lose too many Canadian players to the States. They only allow 2 Canadians and we are allowed 8 Americans.
- The North could function without the 16 year old player, but would prefer not to go that route.
- Charlie Macoun stated the 16 year old player doesn't take up space and is rarely a healthy scratch.
- Currently there is no research that the current numbers playing junior have had a negative impact on the minor system.
- Art added that one Northern team has reached the maximum number of American players allowed.
- Ed Pupich stated that if a team signs a 16 years old American player that player is counted as one of its maximum two allowed.
- Within the Canadian Model, Karen stated that within the OHL, American teams would not follow the Canadian Model – this will be specified in the Model.
- In the North if a team doesn't have 8 Americans on the team the quality of the team will be diminished. Art added that the other issue with the Model concerning the 16 year old pertains to the 'healthy scratch' policy. Art asked who will monitor this. Ed advised it would be up to the League to monitor.
- Rick Richardson asked for more clarification on the AAA High Performance. Ed said that this is a recommendation to the Model. This will ensure that at the Midget AAA level, players will receive the best possible coaching available and that the teams are run in a professional manner. There is a concern in Ontario and other parts of Canada that the AAA is not at the standard it should be.
- At the present time all the existing AAA leagues will stay and perhaps attrition will take place. Currently there are 56 AAA teams.
- Tony advised the Alliance initiative is to reduce the number of Midget AAA areas and widen the area of home centres to accommodate the reduction. This will meet the Model design to keep players playing locally.
- Dick Woods stated he has concerns with the 16 year olds. There are approximately 60 – 80 players playing AAA in the OHA. Are we setting ourselves up for legal action?
- Rick Richardson is in support of the model as presented. The OHF requested special permission to have representation on the Junior Issues Committee. Brent Ladds represents the OHA on the HC Junior Issues Committee and the OHF will continue to support Brent.

- Ed, Brent, and Tony represent the OHF on the Model committee. They realize that if this Model was to go through as presently proposed it would cause a great deal of consternation in our Branch. What we have and what needs to be presented to Hockey Canada is a proposal that Ontario adopts the model over three years and integrates it into Ontario by 2005. They're proposing that Junior A and Junior B teams immediately reduce to two 16 year olds. We could sell two because A and B can sign 4 and to jump from 4 to 2 is a big concession. It was unanimous about the 14 year olds. If there is an outstanding 15 year old player, they must have a source of appeal at the Hockey Canada appeal level for that player be able to play Junior hockey. Due to our boarder cities we should go to two Americans. As such, if a team signs one 16 year old from the States then they are only allowed one from Ontario. Ed continued that they didn't have a problem with unlimited affiliations or with Europeans. What the our three are saying is that whatever the national body presents us with, the OHF would meet it in three years. This addendum was sent in under Tony's, Brent's and Ed's signature to Hockey Canada and was accepted as an addendum to the Model. As per the request on the third-last page of the Model, the response from the OHF was that it would require three years to adopt the Model. The OHF will allow the 16 year olds to play C and D hockey if they are not imports and if they were cut by their regional AAA club.
- Ed discussed development fees with Marcel and Bob. Tony and Ed are of the impression that the 15 and 16 year olds are coming back to play Midget hockey. Generally everyone feels there shouldn't be fees for players moving up. However, if it's a 15 or 16 year old, there would be considerable development fees.
- Another issue is affiliation. There is an ethics group working on the logistics of the number of games before and after Christmas that a minor player should play with his carded team until that team is eliminated at the Minor level before he can play full time as an affiliate. Also being considered is the removal of the 5 game requirement. Emphasis is being placed on the minor players obligations to his minor team. If an affiliate is called up, he should play. The purpose of affiliation is to provide an opportunity for a younger player to experience playing at the higher level and to provide the higher level team with a replacement for player out of the line up.
- Karen expressed concern for the North's reliance on Americans and how the OHF will integrate this into the Model for Ontario. Art expressed concern with the communication of information between the CHL and the NOJHL. More discussion is needed concerning development fees. The North uses scholarships as a promotion because there is no availability of scholarships in Ontario schools. Due to the lack of scholarships in Ontario, Art says they have to use the NCAA as a promotion. Ed said the committee is hoping to develop a program in which for every year you spend in the Canadian Model, you receive a credit towards a post secondary educational fund. The CIS has been approached. Currently they are not that interested as they already draw the older Major A players.
- The proposed Model stipulates that teams and individuals actively promoting the NCAA at the expense of Hockey Canada will be penalized.
- BC and Atlantic Canada are having some difficulties with the Model. BC and Alberta are the 2 biggest proponents of NCAA hockey. Last year they sent 60 players down to the NCAA. These 60 players could have participated here with the WHL.
- The WHL offers scholarships to players and the amount is related to a player's length of participation.
- Karen added this Model has been developed to showcase the opportunities available for a player to play in the Canadian Program and does not include university scholarship.

- Ed provided the three reasons he believes resulted in the creation of the Canadian Model:
  1. New US Jr League is getting bigger and comparing themselves to the CHL. Hockey Canada is concerned that Canadian players may be drawn to play there.
  2. Canadian players who have gone south and trained there play and score against us in major competitions.
  3. Canadians need a Canadian Model to focus players through the Canadian Hockey System.
- Ed continued that there is no guarantee the Canadian Development Model will accept the Ontario addendum. Karen added the North is a different situation which may need some exception to the rule. Ed suggested there also is no guarantee that in May 2005, the Canadian Development Model will look like it does now as this is being presented as a draft. Many things still need to be considered.
- Rick asked what is the point of doing it over three years. Ed responded that Brent felt it would be an easier sell to the Clubs so they had time to adjust.
- If the player comes from a city that has a Junior team, they are affiliated with that home center Junior team. Due to the confusion with players in the GTHL and the various club system arrangements teams make that create the same affiliation, Brent had considered OHA teams would continue to affiliate team to team, but the club system option now available would be withdrawn. NOHA allows affiliation at large which works well for them.
- Regional team player affiliation is somewhat different. Regional players having a junior team in their home center are affiliated with that team and not permitted to affiliate with another junior team. Players on a regional team who do not have a junior team in their home center are available to affiliate with another junior team.
- Ed, Brent, and Tony, as our Model Committee members are more than happy to answer any further questions regarding the Model.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.*