

LAHA Board Meeting
July 14, 2014
UNM-LA

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm and a quorum was present.

Members Present:

Dann Allison, Head Referee
Renee Dunwoody, Secretary
Kathi Fisher, Treasurer (arrived late)
Jeff Goettee, Vice President
Russ Nolen, Head Coach
Sonya Ortiz, Past President
Tracy Thompson, President
Mark Rochester, NMIIHL Representative

Old Business

It costs approximately \$20,000 to execute a season and has for the past 10 years.

New Business

Motion to implement a new house league structure that has underlying structure that all players registered with LAHA, regardless of team, must participate. House games will be scheduled to encourage participation from all kids. It will have a big benefit at the end, something that the kids will seek and want.

Step 2 is to set up a NMRHL team for each age group that will be decided by tryouts and notification will be given in advance of the season. A mandate to the coaches of a minimum roster of 19 (20 with two goalies). This team will be eligible to go to tournaments outside of NM. This roster will be flexible for tournaments.

Motion dismissed.

The board needs to provide try-out guidance and template for roster selection. It is recommended that an independent/objective third party participate in the tryout evaluations.

Motion to implement a House League based on the LAHA website, more in line with the LAHA original roots as previously approved and posted on the LAHA website.

Motion pass. Russ Nolen abstained from voting.

LOE has competition for ice and no one gets enough ice and is raising ice prices. We need to follow ice scheduler and not undercut others on ice time. There is no extra ice-stop taking other ice times. There are 5 associations and men's teams trying to get ice at 3 rinks.

There will be a safe sport email and one in regards to training and background. Sonya Ortiz will send the email with the information.

Motion to only rent helmets to bantam age players and younger. Motion seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Dunwoody
Secretary

Subsequent motion proposed by email on July 23, 2014 as follows:

1. NMRHL: Under this plan, LAHA will schedule games for two mites teams (since they play cross ice), and one team at each of the other levels-Squirts, Peewees, and Bantams. However, Squirts and Peewees will split their games between two even strength rosters-unevenly formed teams would be unfair to the other associations and to our own players. This compromise, we hope, addresses everyone's concerns. It allows everyone who wishes to play NMRHL games, which is what many parents say they want and what coaches say works. We can try to arrange schedules and team rosters so that teams not playing out of town have some a house event instead. We'll need to work out those details when we have schedules and solid registration numbers. This strategy also allows more time and energy to be devoted to the house program as it frees up ice time and schedules while giving every child the change to play in NMRHL games. Though some teams will play fewer NMRHL games, they will be able to play better organized, and hopefully more, house games.

2. House: We are going to build and support a strong house program. ALL players from each age division will be broken into even strength teams-the number of teams will depend on registration numbers. These teams will play standard, regularly scheduled games (cross-ice for mites, full ice for everyone else), which I'd like to move to weeknights. Tracy likes Dann's idea of starting the season with a house festival in November and having playoff games at the end of the season. She would also like to include prizes and awards to encourage participation. In order to coordinate these games and special events, Tracy will appoint a House League director-someone who fully supports the boards vision of house and takes house seriously. In addition to ensuring that every player, at every level, has a place in LAHA, the house program insulates us from the ups and downs of the other associations in New Mexico, which have been struggling the last few years. Head coach and President both agree that a strong house program is important for recruiting and retention, and will keep LAHA strong, regardless of the other association's problems. We can work out the details as season gets closer so that we can successfully and fully implement this program.

3. Tournament Team: Sending teams to tournaments is good for LAHA and our players. Typically, it's a blast for the kids and gives them experience playing in a more competitive environment (depending on the tournament).

We've heard from the Squirts and Peewees coaches that they would like some dedicated practice time for these teams-Bantams don't need this time because, unless we see a change in numbers this year, they usually can put together only one non-house team. However, it's important to keep practices in Los Alamos during the regular season, not only for the strength of our program, but for other associations as well. Russ agrees and will convey this information to the coaches. Therefore, Tracy has been looking over the schedule to see how to get these teams a practice slot in Los Alamos. These practices might be half ice, full-ice every other week, or some combination the two. Russ, as head coach, Sonya, as scheduler, and Tracy will work on these details.

4. Fee Structure: we should move to a three-tiered fee structure:

1) house only, 2) house and NMRHL, 3) house, NMRHL, and tournament. Each level up would include an additional fee. This structure would emphasize that house is part of everything we do! It would also give new families the chance to try hockey with less commitment of both time and money by registering for just house.

The President and Head coach sat down and worked out this compromise to move us past the issue of team structures for this year. While this structure is new for us, it can meet the needs of three different groups within our association-those who want house only, those who want more (but not the expense, time, or level of play of tournaments), and those who want and are ready for the tournament experience and all that goes with it. The plan strengthens the house program, and hopefully, will allow us to recruit and train new referees. The plan may not be perfect, but without unlimited resources, there is no perfect solution.

Motion seconded and passed by email vote.