



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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



MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

103RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

69TH ANNUAL MINOR MEETING

MAY 7TH, 2022

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 102nd Annual General Meeting and the 68th Annual Minor Meeting be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

2) PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

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

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

There were 90 present. A simple majority would require 46 votes.

4) READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

None.

5) REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Included in Annual Meeting Package.



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6) READING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Pomeroy of KPMG presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements as outlined in the Annual Meeting Package.

Questions:

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: I just have one question [unintelligible, not close to mic] in tournament fines, four thousand in fines, what kind of fines are they? I know they're not for kids to get a penalty or nothing, but what kind of fines, and, and I was just thinking, if there's a lot of fines coming in to different associations, would it not be a good idea to send, we don't have to know the organization, but if each, each association said we have to fine "so and so" because they did this, then that would help an organization not get into the same kind of trouble, but what kind of fines would these involve? Like these tournament fines, for instance, I can support that \$4700, like a general why, and again, not a complaint, just, like, information because it doesn't say—everything else explains, you know, self-explanatory, insurance, stuff like that. Mine's just general.

Chris Pomeroy, KPMG: And just for the record, they're asking if you can you state your name and the Association you're from, and that's an operational question, so I'll hand it over to—

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey.

Chris Pomeroy, KPMG: All right, thank you.

Jason Marchand, NOHA: So, I'm going to need some time, Jim, to gather that information. I may not be able to get it to you today.

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: Yeah, that will help.



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Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President: I'm just wondering, what line are you looking at, Jim?

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: It's on the income.

Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President: On the 2022 income? Or are you talking about the...

[unintelligible, not speaking into mic]

Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President: Which part of the book? This one where it says Financial Budget, Jim?

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: Yeah, it says the 30th of April.

Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President: Okay, so the Financial Statements for this year. Okay.

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East: Thank you very much.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you very much, and you heard him say, that if there's questions that you have that you want to talk to him after, please feel free to talk to him about it. Sometimes financial statements and whatnot are, get the mind around it, so if there's something you want clarified, certainly take that opportunity. Moving on to the Proposed Budget for next year, we'll ask Jason to come up to present it.

Financial Report as of June 30th, 2021

Presented by Jason Marchand.



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Questions:

Albert Corradini, Great North Midget League: Jason, I was just wondering, I know the motion behind the U14 Development camp, I know there's been discussions in the past about potentially doing something with a younger, some form of watered-down development camp. With our membership wanting hockey, and seemingly wanting more hockey, is there an opportunity to, is the U14 mandated by, you know, part of the Player Pathway, is it mandated by the OHF, is it a decision that we make unilaterally, is there an opportunity to do something watered down where, you know, maybe at U11 or U12 we do some sort of development weekend? It seems to me that we draw a lot of people in because of the age group at that time, a lot of parents end up being there for training, you know, coaching. If we did it a little bit earlier is there an opportunity to maybe get more engagement from our membership? I mean, our members—Derek D'Angelo's traveling with hockey, you know, in the middle of May—if our membership wants more hockey, is there an opportunity to do something where maybe we can capitalize on that and create more product content for them?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: There, there is, and it feels like you've had insider privilege. There has been a conversation about doing a U13, obviously prior to COVID. When we initially started talking about the U14, we—obviously we weren't sure what we would be able to do and we talked about doing kind of regional events, and having a few one day and stuff like that. Based on, kind of things opening, cycled back to what we did, I guess, three years ago now. I would say yes, there's opportunity to go at younger age groups. The reason we went with the U14 is essentially that, like the OHF has their Under 15, so we're kind of guiding them into, into that program, so that was the rationale behind it, but I think there is opportunity and initially, we had, I think 120 kids express interest, their families express interest in coming to the camp in May. That number diminished when we asked for money, but we still have over 80 kids coming in, so there is interest for that type of, that type of program. It's definitely something, I know Jacob's going through his first camp this year, I think there's an opportunity to increase. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. And again, with the financials, if there are questions you have after, you can certainly talk to Jason about them. I would just like to thank all of the



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staff, I think they've done a fabulous job, before we got into COVID, very, very tough time, and they've worked extremely hard to make sure that the association stayed financially sound and so, to all of the staff, thank you very much.

Moved by Samantha Gaulin, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

"That we approve the Auditor's Report with the year ending June 30th, 2021."

CARRIED

Moved by Michael Bridgeman, 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

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And Chris, please take a big thank you back to Derek and KPMG. They've done this for a few years, now, and they are very professional reports, and a lot of respect.

Moved by Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

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

CARRIED

7) MOTIONS



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: We're now down to—whoops, sorry—the motions part, and we have about nine minutes before lunch. I'm sure we can probably get through most of those motions in nine minutes. But we will get started, just in case there is a little hiccup along the way that takes a little longer than expected. So, before we get started, if you wish to speak, please raise your hand, we'll bring the microphone to you, and please give your name and your association. We'll remind you that each and every motion needs a mover and seconder from the organization that submitted it before it can come to the floor. When we get to the floor, and we start to speak on these, I ask again that you be very courteous to the motion that is put up. We want no personal attacks, we just want to deal with the effects of it, and I know that there's motions, they come up every year that some people don't agree with and others do agree with, so let's keep it very, very civil. We'll ask the people who presented the motion to speak to it if that's necessary, and then we will—we'll take questions from other organizations. We don't want to go back and forth on things five and six times, so we would ask, if you're a speaker, to restrict yourself to one set of comments and one rebuttal after that, if in fact, there's more information that you think will help the floor make the final decision that's in the best interest of the NOHA and those players that are playing within the NOHA. So, I think if we do that, I think we can move through these and end up with ending on a timely fashion. So, let's get started with Motion number 1.

1. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

Presently Reads:

Change to Read:

To amend all references to he/she, him/her and make them gender neutral.

Rationale:

To amend all references to he/she, him/her and make them gender neutral.

Moved by Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by Sam Gaulin, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any discussion, or comments from the movers of that? Nothing? Any questions about that from the floor? All in favour? Those opposed?



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CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I do want to say, too, that maybe over lunch if you didn't see the notice before, numbers 13 and 14 have been withdrawn by the NOHA, they were the submitters of those motions and both of those motions have been withdrawn.

2. -SUBMITTED BY THESSALON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Presently Reads:

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 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 (Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Ophir, Poplar Dale, Rydall Bank, Sowerby, Thessalon, Wharncliffe).

Rationale:

School numbers from Algoma District School Board have been collected, which shows that the current catchment area allows for North Channel to draw from 526 school aged children up to ages of Grade 6, while Thessalon can draw from 170. North Channel currently has over triple the amount of players to pull from compared to Thessalon.

The current arrangement is simply unfair and is a significant detriment to Thessalon MHA moving forward.

By approving this motion to amend, it would allow for a more equal distribution of potential players between North Channel and Thessalon. Fair is fair.



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Moved by Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association

Seconded by Caryn Orchard, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Would you like to speak to the motion now?

Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: So, I'm Katie Bird from Thessalon Minor Hockey, I'm the Vice President. So, the basis of the submission as it states there is that fair is fair. You know, we ran the school numbers, we ran the census numbers. These catchment areas were created over twenty years ago when Bruce Mines Minor Hockey Association folded over twenty years ago, it was a long time ago. A lot has changed, families change. It's not a secret that hockey is not an increasing sport in participation, the slides that Jason just shared show that, for a few years, participation numbers are down from 14,000 to 11,000. Thessalon greatly feels those effects. Just going over the numbers again, we ran the school numbers, the catchment area that North Channel pulls from, their school ages from grade six and down is 526 kids, I believe, Thessalon pulls from 170 in our catchment area. Of note, and I know some of this might not mean a lot to most of you, but Echo Bay, which is one of the communities in the catchment area, has kind of become a booming metropolis in the last little while, the Echo Bay school alone pulls from 227 kids. Thessalon pulls from 170. North Channel pulls from St. Joe Island, Echo Bay, Bruce Mines, and Desbarats. Thessalon has a very small catchment area. We ran the census numbers, again, the exact same numbers, so three times the amount of kids, and I know one of North Channel's arguments is that they lose a lot of kids to the Soo, which maybe they do, but they have that opportunity, to lose kids to, we don't lose anybody. What we have is what we have. We barely scrape by every year. We're a small town, we have Thessalon, Sowerby, and Wharncliffe in our catchment areas. I don't even know the last ten years we had three kids come out of Wharncliffe, and someone hasn't come out of Sowerby since someone my age graduated out twenty years ago. So, really, it's just fair is fair. We, just, we're asking for those four or five regions, specifically Bruce Mines to put in the Thessalon catchment area just so that we can continue. That's really all I have to say.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you very much. Are there any questions—is, the mic... We're just getting the microphone back there. I will say that in the changes to read, when I



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told you the ones that were taken out, they're moved down to Thessalon, as you'll see, Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Ophir, Poplar Dale, Rydell Bank, would come under Thessalon.

Curtis Martin, North Channel Minor Hockey President: Kind of a speech here, might be a little long-winded, I do apologize. Just to give everybody kind of a brief history of what's going on. With the change, North Channel would lose Bruce Mines, Bruce Station, Ophir, Poplar Dale, and Rydell Bank from our designated catchment areas. Just to give a brief history lesson as to when this battle started, approximately fifteen years ago, Thessalon started trying to take over this part of North Channel's catchment, however, it did not succeed. And North Channel—as North Channel was in a different District. Thessalon then switched from District Seven to District Three shortly thereafter. From that point, for unknown reasons, Thessalon has never—Thessalon has never continued to pursue gaining the outlying catchment, and some participants from these communities continued to move freely between Thessalon and North Channel. Fast forward to spring of 2020, North Channel submitted a letter to Thessalon which stated that North Channel would be enforcing the catchment area boundaries and that releases would be required for participants residing in these towns to continue to play with Thessalon Minor Hockey. Fall of 2020, per the discussion between Thessalon and North Channel and the NOHA, the NOHA, after these discussions, then released a statement that said “The NOHA Board of Directors have discussed this situation, and are satisfied that North Channel Minor Hockey is willing to work with Thessalon Minor Hockey to ensure that both programs are viable.” Spring 2021, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association submitted an amendment to give the participants in these towns a right to choose, and was ultimately voted down in the Spring AGM last year. As you can see, this has been a lengthy battle over the years that Thessalon Minor Hockey Association has not followed through with until now. What has changed from fifteen years ago until now? Thessalon Minor Hockey participation numbers have traditionally been healthy enough to support teams. With that, there is no reason that warrants the addition to their catchment area. North Channel will commit to continue to work with Thessalon Minor Hockey to ensure both Associations thrive. A brief explanation and a rebuttal to the rationale: Yes, North Channel does have a big catchment area to pull potential participants from, however, our catchment borders Sault Ste. Marie. Geographically, of the potential kids to draw from, we lose participants to higher hockey programming—A, AA, AAA, and female hockey. Beyond that, there are other activities that these kids can participate in with just a short drive to the Soo such as activities like dance, gymnastics, swimming, et cetera. Secondly, Thessalon is looking to expand their catchment, however, they have not been willing to enforce their own catchment area to the east. It was stated from an NOHA representative, quote: “We do not have anything in our office that lays out the boundaries.



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We use the municipality that a player resides in to determine the residency, which is what our bylaw states.” end quote. With this information, Thessalon has participants registered that reside in the municipality of Huron Shores. This municipality extends to the west side of the town of Blind River. Currently, there are participants that reside in Iron Bridge area. Clearly Thessalon’s catchment area are participating in hockey programming in Blind River. For some reason, Thessalon is not passionate to regain these participants, as they are about gaining the catchment of North Channel. It is no secret that North Channel has seen a decline in participants over the past years. However, it is North Channel’s belief that we have been more than willing to work with Thessalon and will continue to do so to help both Associations flourish for the future, not just for Associations CAHL. I am also the President of the Central Algoma Hockey League, and that is—comprises of Thessalon, North Channel, Blind River, and Elliot Lake. If we have to fold teams due to the numbers of North Channel, that is one less team that those Associations will have to play. So, again, combining and making sure they both thrive. If this passes, it sets a precedent for any other Association to appeal their own catchment, and this will continue on for years to come. At this time, North Channel asks that you please vote down the motion to change the current catchment area. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Yes, rebuttal from... We’re here first.

Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Hi, just to go back on that, I’m not sure about the Iron, like the Huron Shores Iron Bridge thing, because Iron Bridge is actually under—in a separate District, am I not correct on that? Iron Bridge is in District Seven, I believe? Thessalon’s catchment is only Thessalon, Sowerby, Wharncliffe, as stated right here, but can anybody confirm that? No? The other part is just a little bit about working together. It’s been quite clear over the couple years that working together is not really working for us. We actually have one kid that, for their own personal reasons, wanted to play in Thessalon and was denied and that kid didn’t actually play hockey. Again, like, we’re here for the kids to play hockey, and now we’re having—I know one kid is not a big deal in terms of the entire 11,000 participants, but that’s one kid that didn’t play hockey because they were denied. So, in terms of working together, it’s not working for us.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you—



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Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Can we get, was there any confirmation about the catchment areas that Iron Bridge is actually in District Seven, not District Three?

Kiersten Maitland, NOHA Office Manager: So, Iron Bridge has always been classified in the documentation I have as a “Right of Choice” area between Thessalon and Blind River, so those players have the option to choose to play with Thessalon Minor Hockey or Blind River Minor Hockey.

Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, we have a question in the back.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: We have the numbers stated here, but what do the numbers change to if this passes? So, what does it go from 526 if you allow those Bruce Mines kids to move to Thessalon, how many school-aged kids does North Channel actually lose? Do we have the change numbers and how many do they gain? How many kids are we actually talking about at that age that would be affected?

Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: So, in terms of the Bruce Mines kids, we’re looking at 40 kids, and in terms of Desbarats kids, which is hard to pull out which ones will be Bruce Mines, but in total, all of the Desbarats kids is 158.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: So, you’re asking North Channel to decrease their numbers by 158 and increase your catchment area by 158?

Katie Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: I don’t know about—I can’t break down of the 158 which ones would actually fall under those catchment areas or not, but for sure there’s 40 kids from Bruce Mines, so we’re asking for at least forty of the school-aged kids and of the other, like I said the Desbarats ones, I can’t say which ones are which so for sure forty I would say forty to 100, they have 526 to pull from currently, we have 170, so if you give back forty, you’re at 210, take away forty from there, then you’re at 486. It’s still double



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the number. I'm just asking for it to be fair. So, we're going from three-times the number to possibly two-times the number?

[Unrecorded cross-talk, not using microphone]

Lindsay Morell, Recorder, NOHA Office: Can we please wait for the microphones? I can't keep up with this.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Pee wee Hockey League: So, it was forty-six players for there, forty-eight players total? I think that's what we're talking about, and if those go there, of the forty they're taking, how many hockey-players specifically? [Unrecorded cross-talk]. Okay, so you're going to go down to in the thirties, and you're going to go up to the fifties? Thanks, right, that's what we're saying? I just want numbers of hockey players, not kids that can possibly play hockey. [Unrecorded cross-talk] Right, so your association is pretty... right? So, by you taking these forty players, does that make your association not able to field teams? [Unrecorded cross-talk] Correct, but as of right now, you have an association, and you have an association, that's viable.

[Unrecorded cross-talk.]

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: Those of you who know me know I have pretty strong opinions on a lot of things, and I'm not really great at making decisions but this is a little awkward in many respects. I think it's been reviewed by the NOHA and respectfully, I think that the NOHA has a better handle than what we would have, what we would be able to make. What I see happening here is, you know, the precedent that we're talking about, we're, now we're going to start delving into the minutiae of what Districts look like and who should get what and who should go where. There's a solution to this: free player movement. I know this is not particularly popular, and that's not a pitch for free player—it's an opinion. Free player movement is, I believe, and I am respectful of the fact that we have a lot of small associations who rely on numbers, and protecting boundaries and all those things are extremely important, but I also believe that there's a way where associations should work together to preserve the heritage, preserve, you know, the history of what's happened in the past. All I know is sitting here and trying to make a decision... I feel for both associations, I



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really do, I understand the notion of trying to survive, and trying to fight to survive, and trying to build, but when the NOHA makes a decision and goes through—and they are much better versed at this than we can be in four or five minutes, when they go through the exercise and they come up with a decision, I think we have to—and I'm not saying I'm not going to vote, but I think we should defer to what they said because they are much better equipped to make that decision in my opinion, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you Albert. We'll allow one rebuttal here.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: So, I really agree with—I'm sorry, I don't know your name—Albert's point of view to deal with this specific, and it's not the place, like we can't decide in five minutes with all these numbers, like, you can use statistics however you want, the guy just said forty-six and forty-six, 526, 170. I don't know if we are—we have enough information to make such a rash decision in such a small amount of time. So, what are the options of the membership, here? To vote or not vote, and what is the minimum number of votes we need here for in order for it to happen, if we all abstain from voting, what happens?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Then you should know, you should now how, if you're not—if you don't feel comfortable in voting for this in a positive fashion, then vote in a negative fashion if that's what you, and I think Albert's comments are very, are very good, I mean, you know what? If you're not comfortable with it, then don't approve it. That's what you have to do. That's what you should do, the responsible thing to do. So, anymore questions or comments? If not, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour of the motion as presented? Those opposed?

DEFEATED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, just before we get started going back into the motions again. We have a very, very important message to pass on to you. Please, when you want to speak, put your hand up and do not start speaking until you have the microphone in your hands. The recorders are having a very difficult time getting all of the comments in, and we don't want to miss any of those valuable comments, so please put your hand up and wait until the



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microphone gets to you. Thank you very much. We're going to move on, now, to Motion number 3.

3. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

By-Law 6.1.a.

Presently Reads:

The AGM shall be held annually on the first weekend in May of each year. The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle. The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.

Change to Read:

The AGM shall be held annually on the first weekend in May of each year in North Bay. The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle. The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.

Rationale:

The NOHA Annual General Meeting is a significant expense to the organization. Hosting the meeting in North Bay would save between \$2000.00 and \$6000.00 compared to the other locations. In addition, the NOHA has a partnership with the Best Western which lowers the accommodation costs for all attendees as well.

Moved by: Brian Beaupre, NOHA Third Vice President

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Is there any other comments or questions from the floor?



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Liz Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association: Does this leave any option for it to be held anywhere else in the future when the NOHA is in a thriving position?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Has the Board discussed that? The Board hasn't discussed that, they've just given the rationale for having it in North Bay. I just assume, personally, that if there was a significant reason for that, that they would entertain that reason. But that's only my personal opinion on that. I think Claudette says that yes, that's what they would do if there was a—some very significant reason, but for just general meetings, run of the mill, that they would stay in North Bay to save the money and to have it in a central location. I think we had a question up front, yep.

Bailey Bouwmeester, Espanola Minor Hockey Association: So, we travel for every AGM, because we're kind of in the center, we travel for every center it's in, but if this happens, that means all the associations on this side of us have a bigger expense every AGM to attend, and that North Bay gets to save every AGM and have good representation, Sudbury doesn't have to travel every time. This format, we all pay fees, we all share the costs of hosting the AGM. If we go to this format, everyone who has to travel to it will pay more individually, whereas, this way it saves your association and our association—the NOHA, but puts the cost on all of our individuals that don't reside in North Bay, if that makes sense to everyone else. So, the format of moving it spreads the cost equally amongst all of us as opposed to putting it all on all of us that don't live close to North Bay.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, and that's a very valid point, too. That's a very valid point. Comment up at the front, here.

Jordan Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Has there been any thought to hosting a hybrid or online? We're talking about a \$100,000 deficit, and there's \$20,000.

Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President: I understand that completely, and I think for the last two years we've been doing the online stuff, and honestly, I don't think we get the communication going that we do when we're all sitting in a room together. Doing an annual meeting over the Internet, just, in my opinion, was not a great AGM.



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Jordan Bird, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Hybrid option? Half and half?

Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President: We've never discussed anything like that.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: They're saying it's never been discussed, I guess it's not something that they won't discuss, and they'll take your question into consideration, but at this point in time, the motion calls for it to be in North Bay. Comment from the back?

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: I promised Jason last night I'd speak twice, I'm on my third time, so I apologize. Third. I'm keeping track. So, as much as I understand the notion of, you know, spreading costs, I think it's become pretty obvious if you attend enough of these, that first off, when you look at outlying areas and some of the areas, we don't often get proper representation from all associations. When I looked at the agenda this year and I saw free player movement on the agenda, I thought, "Oh geez, that's going to be contentious, and that's potentially going to attract a lot of people," and yet, we've got a pretty empty room. So, I think going central probably promotes the notion that—I don't believe it diminishes—I do understand it will increase costs to everybody, but I do not think it diminishes participation because people will not travel, I think having it central is more than likely going to promote having more participation. My thoughts, I would support it only because it's difficult as it is to travel, and everybody travels all year long, and I understand that Kap and Timmins and all those associations travel a long way all year long, but I also believe our participation declines significantly when we travel to remote areas. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Albert, I think that's very valid as well, and I—certainly, we notice when it's in a more central location that the numbers do tend to move, and maybe the Board would consider something like a North Bay/Sudbury flip, only because—I say Sudbury because Sudbury is within this end of the highway, a little less to travel, and a little less for the expenses for them. But you have the motion before you, and with no other comments, I think we'll call for the vote. All those in favour. Opposed? You know what? I think we'd better count, so let's go back to all those in favour. The Officers just informed me, as well, that it needs a two-thirds majority to pass, it's a by-law. All opposed? We need fifty-eight to pass it, the motion received only fifty-six, so the motion is defeated.



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DEFEATED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We'll move to motion number 4.

4. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA By-Law 6.1.b.

Presently Reads:

There shall be an additional and separate AGM meeting for the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Teams on the Friday night of the AGM weekend. The Senior, Intermediate and Junior Teams shall prepare their own Agenda and handle any and all issues as they see fit and otherwise in accordance with the spirit and intent of the provisions of this By-Law.

Change to Read:

There shall be an additional and separate AGM meeting for the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Teams on the Friday night of the AGM weekend. The Senior, Intermediate and Junior Teams shall prepare their own Agenda and handle any and all issues as they see fit and otherwise in accordance with the spirit and intent of the provisions of this By-Law.

Rationale:

The NOHA Board of Directors and NOJHL have ongoing communication during the season and meet when required. For the last number of years, there has not been a need to meet during the Annual General Meeting weekend.

Moved by: Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by: Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any discussion on that?

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: No, it's self-explanatory, Dick.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Self-explanatory. Questions? No? All those in favour? Oh, no just a second, Albert did have a hand up. You said two times. Four times.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: Just for the record, I think it's a wonderful idea.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Oh, boy, burning those opportunities. All those in favour?

CARRIED

5. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA By-Law 16.5.

Presently Reads:

A motion to amend the By-laws recommended by the Board or proposed by a Member in Good Standing at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting of Members duly called for that purpose must be submitted to the Secretary of the NOHA by February 1st for the next Annual General Meeting and not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for any Special Meeting of Members. The motion must be approved by a two thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of the Members present and voting at such an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of Members.

Change to Read:

A motion to amend the By-laws recommended by the Board or proposed by a Member in Good Standing at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special Meeting of Members duly called for that purpose must be submitted to the Secretary of the NOHA by February 1st March 15th for the next Annual General Meeting and not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for any Special Meeting of Members. The motion must be approved by a two thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of the Members present and voting at such an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of Members.

Rationale:



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To provide additional time for the NOHA, and for Member Associations, to submit proposed amendments. The February 1st date has created some logistical and timing challenges in reviewing the NOHA Constitution.

Moved by: Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any questions? No questions. All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

6-SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 1.1.1

Presently Reads:

Any member found guilty of forging a document shall be suspended for a period of not less than (1) one year and not more than three (3) years

Change to Read:

Any member found guilty of forging a document shall may be suspended for a period of not less than (1) one year and not more than three (3) years

Rationale:

To provide the flexibility for the NOHA Board of Directors to deal with these situations as they deem appropriate.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Sam Gaulin, NOHA Executive



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Anyone from the Board wish to speak?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive: Just terminology.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: That's it? Just terminology. Any questions from the floor? Seeing none, all those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

7. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 2.1.a.

Presently Reads:

Two or more Associations and/or Single Entry Teams that form a new League and wish to have voting rights at the NOHA Annual General Meeting must submit the League Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations, a list of the Associations participating, the League Board of Directors, NOHA application for Leagues and their membership dues to the NOHA Office by August 15. They must also submit their schedule to their District Council Director for approval.

Change to Read:

Two Three (3) or more Associations and/or Single Entry Teams that form a new League and wish to have voting rights at the NOHA Annual General Meeting must submit the League Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations, a list of the Associations participating, the League Board of Directors, NOHA application for Leagues and their membership dues to the NOHA Office by August 15. They must also submit their schedule to their District Council Director for approval.

Rationale:

Hockey Canada defines a League as having a minimum of three (3) Teams.



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Moved by: Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: From the Board?

Craig Maki, NOHA Executive: It's purely housekeeping to meet the Hockey Canada criteria.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Hockey Canada housekeeping. Any questions from the floor? Albert?

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: So, Craig, I understand that the motion deals with new leagues, but if we go forward to the next one, with now having three-team leagues in the Northern Ontario Hockey Association, if for some reason one of those teams were not to participate in the league anymore, as an example, somebody decides that they're going to go play in Michigan, or, you know, on the Michigan side, and it becomes a two-team league, does the league no longer become a league, or are they grandfathered? I guess the question is, would, would a league cease to become—be a league, if for some reason, because we do now have three-team leagues, would the league cease to be a league if, for some reason, they became a two-team league? Or would they be grandfathered?

Craig Maki, NOHA Executive: That's a question I can't answer.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: I had crossed out your first name on your, on my birthday—on my Christmas list, there, but... One, to address your first comment, in order for a team to participate outside of the NOHA requires NOHA Board approval. We went through a long process over the last few years, that the NOHA wishes to see teams participating in the NOHA, so I don't think your second part will happen unless the team



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folds, and like Craig, I don't really have the answer for you. There, I'm sure there are options, but we'd have to look into that, so, quite frankly, I don't have the answer.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Other comments? Questions? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

8. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 2.2.b.

Presently Reads:

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

Change to Read:

All Leagues of two three (3) or more Associations and/or Single Entry Teams that participate in a season schedule must provide to the NOHA their list of Board of Directors, contact information, League schedule and rules and regulations/constitution.

Rationale:

Hockey Canada defines a League as having a minimum of three (3) Teams.

Moved by: Gayle Payette, NOHA 2nd Vice President

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any comments from the Board? No? Questions from the floor? No? All those in favour? Opposed?



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CARRIED

9. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 3.1.b and 3.1.c

Presently Reads:

b) AAA Teams engaged in the preceding year shall declare themselves operative by May 1st . Such declaration shall be made by submission of the Team application form and applicable fees to the NOHA.

c) All other Representative Teams (AA-C) engaged in the preceding year shall declare themselves operative by May 1st. Such declaration shall be made by submission of the Team application form to the NOHA. All applicable fees are payable by September 1st .

Change to Read:

b) AAA Teams engaged in the preceding year shall declare themselves operative by May 1st . Such declaration shall be made by submission of the Team application form and applicable fees to the NOHA.

c) All other Representative Teams (AAA-C) engaged in the preceding year shall declare themselves operative by May 1st. Such declaration shall be made by submission of the Team application form to the NOHA. All applicable fees are payable by September 1st.

Rationale:

To combine Regulation 3.1.b. and 3.1.c. as they both deal with Rep Team registration and both have the same timelines for submitting application to the NOHA.

Moved by: Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President

Seconded by: Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Anything from the Board? Questions from the floor? All those in favour? Opposed?



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CARRIED

10. -SUBMITTED BY NORTH BAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

NOHA Regulation 3.2.a

Presently Reads:

There will be no House League Select Teams.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

Removing the bylaw will allow for further development opportunities for our current House League players. In addition to playing and practicing on their current House League teams, players could be affiliated to a House Select team allowing them to play additional tournaments / exhibition games against other like teams. This allows for the opportunity of the top House League players to occasionally play and practice together with a like skill level, all the while not disrupting the current system

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Unfortunately, nobody from North Bay Minor Hockey Association is present, so this motion is withdrawn. Question?

Unknown: So, because they're not here, we have to withdraw it automatically?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yeah, we can't put the motion on the floor for discussion because of that, unfortunately.

WITHDRAWN



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11. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 5.1.3.c.

Presently Reads:

A replacement goaltender cannot be replaced by another replacement goaltender unless he/she is medically unfit.

Change to Read:

A replacement goaltender cannot be replaced by another replacement goaltender unless he/she is they are medically unfit and medical evidence is provided.

Rationale:

To provide clarity that medical evidence is provided in the same manner that approval is provided for the replacement goaltender.

Moved by: Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Anyone wish to speak, or is it pretty self-explanatory? Questions?

Jim McLaughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Just, I'm just wondering, if a goalie, if it's a replacement goalie, what if he got sick in the game, and he's not going to have any medical evidence except that he's sick? [unrecorded cross-talk]. Yeah, let's say before the game, or whatever, but he doesn't have any certification from a doctor, if that's what that means. You can't just put another kid in net, I don't think? Because he's not, you know, in case he got hurt, if it's an older age level, right? [unrecorded cross-talk]. Or at the beginning, let's say he shows up to the arena and he's not feeling good, and he's the replacement goalie, the way it's stated there, and if he can't, for some reason he can't play that game because he doesn't feel good enough, should the team just play without a goalie? You can't force a player to go into net anymore, I don't believe. But what if they don't want to, or there's a—I'm just saying, there's—I'm just asking if there's, there's all these circumstances, you know, like sometimes when things are cut and dry, and then all of a sudden, it does happen to a kid that can't play net because he doesn't feel good when he gets out of his dad's car at whatever age,



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and there happens to be one at the arena... I'm just thinking safety-wise, you know, that's all. That's all.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Certainly, I can understand what you're saying, but it seems to me, would it not open up a real can of worms if... Do you think it's possible that a coach could play with that to say, "Listen, Johnny, you don't look very good tonight, and we happen to have a goaltender in the stands, he'll come and fill in for you tonight who happens to be..." I don't know. I don't know whether that's beyond what some coaches do. Anyway, we have a question here, and then one over here.

Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association: Would it be possible to add a timeline to producing said medical for this example where they got into a car accident on the way there, where they have twenty-four hours to prove it, or the game gets forfeited?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: That's another good, valid point. A question over here.

Mike Ziegel, Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association: I'm questioning the medical evidence is provided, so for most things related to, like, situational illnesses and that sort of thing, if you show up to a doctor's office if you are able to get a medical appointment, anything outside of any sort of emergency, all the doctor is going to be able to do is say "person reported that they were sick," and that is all they can do because most of these things move their way through bodies in a short period of time. So, I think medical evidence provided has to be defined somehow, otherwise it's just going to create giant loopholes.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Sure. Jason, and then we've got a question at the back.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, I just wanted to clarify the intent of this regulation, so Regulation 5.1.3.a) deals with the first time that there's a replacement goalie, and it lays that out, okay? So, this one is basically saying that a replacement goaltender cannot be replaced by another goaltender unless there's medical evidence to support it, so, basically, it's trying to have the same type of wording that 5.1.3.a) has. So, that's the intent,



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it's not getting into all that, like everything else, it's just to have it in the regulation. Hope that helps.

Mireille Levesque, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: My question in these times, especially with COVID and everything going on right now, you can't go in to see a medical doctor all the time to get proof that you have COVID or whatever else with all these rapid tests and stuff like that, so my concern is you might be stuck without a goalie at that point because they came down with a fever at that specific day and they couldn't get in to see the doctor or anything like that, so that's where I'm concerned with getting this whole amendment, I guess if you want to say, with COVID and these such uncertain and unprecedented times, how would we proceed with that at that point?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, so, and my understanding then, Jason, is that if your goaltender, for whatever reason, couldn't play, and you've got a replacement goaltender, and that replacement goaltender showed up at the arena and—or just before the game, said "Geez, you know what, I think I've got COVID." Then, I guess the game would not go on, is that correct?

Sue Shepherdson, NOHA President: As the president, I approve emergency goalie relief, I think I've spoken to some of you multiple times, so the protocol is you have no goalie for tomorrow's game, I get parent, coach, association approval, and I approve a goaltender. So, if you have to replace your replacement goaltender, I would need the same requirements, so it couldn't happen ten minutes before a game, anyway, to follow a consistent policy, so if your replacement goalie is sick an hour before the game, the chances of getting all that approval to me so I can say, "yeah, the replacement is approved," is going to be difficult, and yes I'm very available, but that is a difficult ask, and you can't alter the process too much on an emergency situation, and I have bent over backwards this year to approve things and keep the kids playing, probably more so than in a standard year of hockey, so it's just a point of clarification in the process, you can't change ten minutes before the game. A couple hours before the game, you can probably get it approved, but not in the eleventh hour. Sorry.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, Glen?



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Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: My suggestion is, you go by the rulebook, which states you can play with six players, or you have fifteen minutes to dress a player to be a goaltender. That would be my options instead of cancelling the game, I just go by the rulebook if you have no goaltender.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Glen, and although he didn't introduce himself, he's the NOHA—he's not following the rules, actually. He's the head of rules for the NOHA, Glen Campbell. Opera singer.

Sandy Robertson, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I don't know exactly how it works when it comes to replacement goalies and timelines and whatnot; however, I am a nurse and I'm a little bit concerned about what kind of medical evidence you need and what about the HIPPA laws when it comes to privacy and confidentiality.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: No lawyers in the building. Not allowed. Okay, over here.

Jim McLaughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Would I be right to assume that we've obviously—this has been happening? Where, maybe goalies are showing up and the coach doesn't want to—like, has it happened, like we usually put in an amendment because something has caused us to put in an amendment, would I be right in assuming that there's been a lot of kids this year as like, a secondary goalie that couldn't play and then they didn't have a goalie? Maybe doing it under false pretenses? Which would all make sense, if you know what I mean. Has there been a lot of cases and that, or it's just a precaution for down the road? [Unrecorded cross-talk]. Oh, okay, so nothing's really changing. No, okay, well that's all I'm asking.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Gayle's coming up.

Gayle Payette, NOHA 2nd Vice President: Just to clarify what Jason's saying, I'm going to read 5.1.3.a) to you, and we can't amend it because it wasn't put forward as an amendment. "A replacement for a goaltender who may be seriously ill, or be injured so as to prevent his/her playing with his/her Team may be permitted, upon the production of medical



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evidence satisfactory to the President of the NOHA or his designate. Such findings shall be from a qualified medical person such as a doctor or a nurse practitioner. Application for such replacement shall be made to the President of the NOHA until the Team enters Hockey Canada Inter-Member Playoffs, after which time it shall be made to Hockey Canada.” And just like Jason was saying, it’s just to coincide and make the wording appropriate to go along with what’s already said in 5.1.3.a). So, we’re not making an amendment to a, so to make it clear in the book, we have to change the wording to make it concise.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Can we assume that this would be, like, a fourth goaltender?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Can you say your name?

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League, sorry. Can we assume this would be, like, a fourth goaltender because you normally have one, most teams, if possible, could AP a goalie, then you have an emergency replacement goalie, then you have an emergency-emergency replacement goalie. So, I feel like we’re going down a pathway here that’s like, going to not occur very often, and if it’s just about matching language, fine, but then let’s discuss next year what the language should be, rather than worrying about—because if you change this one to match a, is that like, this is, like, a fourth goalie we’re worried about, here.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, so I guess that the motion is defeated, am I correct in to get that replacing the replacement? Okay. So, seeing no more comments, all those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

12. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 5.3.3a. and 5.3.3.b.



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Presently Reads:

- a) The Official Game Report of each game containing any penalty under the OHF Minimum Suspension List or describing any severe injury shall be sent to the NOHA Executive Director within twenty-four hours by the Referee.
- b) A Referee's report on a match penalty form on all games in which match penalties are assessed must be e-mailed in to the NOHA Office with the Official Game Report within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. Any Referee not adhering to this regulation may be suspended by the Discipline Committee.

Change to Read:

- a) The Official Game Report of each game containing any penalty under the OHF Minimum Suspension List or describing any severe injury shall be sent to the NOHA Executive Director within twenty-four hours by the Referee. Any Referee not adhering to this regulation may be suspended by the Discipline Committee.
- b) A Referee's report on a match penalty form on all games in which match penalties are assessed must be e-mailed in to the NOHA Office with the Official Game Report within twenty-four (24) hours after the game. Any Referee not adhering to this regulation may be suspended by the Discipline Committee.

Rationale:

The above Regulations are very similar, and in the opinion of the NOHA Executive, can be merged together.

Moved by: Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: From the Board, anything?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive: It's just to, kind of, reduce, putting a and b all into one, taking the most important part of b and adding it to a, just to reduce it, a housekeeping rewrite, but what was there before is still there in a smaller version.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Housekeeping? Any comments? Questions? All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Number 13 and number 14, as I mentioned earlier, have been withdrawn by the Executive.

13. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 6.1

Presently Reads:

- a) In all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.
- c) Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.

- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.



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f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).

g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Change to Read:

a) In all divisions ~~and categories above Minor hockey~~, the residence rule shall be open.

b) ~~A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.~~

c) ~~Players must be a~~ **No Minor Player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a Team in any NOHA match who has not been a** bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area ~~in the District in which the Player resides, by~~ **as established by the Branch to which their Team belongs since** November 1st in any playing season.

d) ~~U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.~~

~~A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.~~

e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.

f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).

g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Rationale:

The proposed amendment provides for freedom of movement at all levels of Minor Hockey.



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WITHDRAWN

14. - SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 6.1

Presently Reads:

- a) In all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.
- c) Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

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- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Change to Read:



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- a) In **House League**, and all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) **With the exception of R.6.1.a)**, A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.
- c) Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.
- A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.
- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Rationale:

To provide for freedom of movement at House League.

WITHDRAWN

15. – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE



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NOHA Regulation 6.1

Presently Reads:

- a) In all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.
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- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Change to Read:

- a) In **U7, and** all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) **With the exception of R.6.1.a),** A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which he/she is qualified to play.



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f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).

g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

Rationale:

To allow for freedom of movement at U7. In allowing freedom to play wherever a Player desires at the entry point into the game for most families, we will be able to have a better understanding on the impact of this to our Associations.

Moved by: Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Ted, I think this might be yours to speak to this.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: Thanks, Dick. So, as you know, as mentioned earlier, there were two other motions regarding freedom of movement which were removed from



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the AGM. The Board really thought that over the past years, there's been discussion of freedom of movement going on, and the thing was that no association of the fifty-four member partners has brought—put that motion forward. We're recommending that to start the process going, to start freedom of movement at U7. Some of the rationale is, you know, the kids are getting—we're having a hard time getting kids into hockey. If a kid lives in, and I'll just use some of the areas that I know, Iroquois Falls, and his parents work in Matheson, and so, they finish work at five o'clock, then they've got to drive little Johnny an hour to go home and go on the ice. We want to get kids into hockey, so if he's close to this facility, why not let him go there? So, we feel that starting the ball going at U7, it may not have a big effect at U7, but it's a starting point, and we feel that moving forward, it may not affect any associations, but it may—and it'll give us a little bit of leeway to see what's going to happen in the future, so we're supporting this starting at U7. Go ahead, Albert.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: Thanks, Ted. I appreciate and respect what you're saying, Ted, but truthfully, I was kind of hoping that the two previous motions were not going to get withdrawn, only because, I mean, I've got a long list of reasons why, but I think ultimately, we keep talking about free player movement, and to say that we're going to have a pilot project at U7, so to speak, I don't even know that U7 parents really know what their limitations are, so I'm not sure that most, if they're new parents, they certainly, I don't think, understand the limitations. So, I'd rather sit and debate whether or not, again, free player movement makes sense within the NOHA. If that's not the will of the Board, I respect that, but I had hoped that we were going to talk about 13 and 14 rather than to a pilot project at 15. Thank you.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: No, Albert, I think, I'll speak for some of the Board, I think that's a valid reason, but some of the things that we looked at when we decided—like any Board that's out here today, you know, something that happened two months ago you thought was a good idea, in talking to the associations and talking with the Member Partners, is this the proper time as the NOHA Board to move it forward? After two years of COVID, and associations not knowing what they're going to have next year to start with without freedom of movement? We looked like—what I'm trying to get at is there's fifty-four Member Partners in the NOHA. Not one of the fifty-four brought freedom of movement forward, which you all had the opportunity to do this year. So, we felt that starting—and, like you've made a good point, new Canadians coming in, young families that don't know nothing about hockey, why give them another hurdle to jump when they could play hockey a kilometer away instead of



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driving fifty kilometers away? So, like I say, we're putting it out there to field, if it goes through, we'd like to see it, if it doesn't, well we feel that as a Board, that's the first move.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: And I guess, Ted, my only rebuttal would be, why put a hurdle up there for anybody?

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: What's that, sorry?

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: Put a hurdle up there for anybody. Aren't we trying to grow the game? Aren't we trying to get kids playing the game and keeping the game, and shouldn't we have the ability to have people who are paying the bills to make choice? We are, if I'm not mistaken, the only association in Ontario that has—does not have free player movement in House League hockey. Am I mistaken on that? Then, I understand the notion of the multiple associations, I understand the history, I understand all that, but I also understand that we live in a world where choice has become not really something that we can debate anymore. So, I would just like—I'm concerned, I see registration numbers presented, I understand it's COVID-related or a lot of it's COVID-related. I don't think we should continue to put impediments up to people playing the game.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: And fair enough, like I won't dwell on that, because those two motions have been removed, so all we're arguing with is the U7 right now.

Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association: My question would be, is the intent for, if it goes well, next year to open it up to all divisions, or was the intent to start with U7 and then just have it as everybody's coming in?

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: My intent, and I think our Board—I can't speak for everybody, is to open the discussion again about freedom of movement at House League, or Rep across the NOHA. So, this is the second—so next year's AGM, any Member Partner, the Board, brings it forward, freedom of movement across the NOHA, it'll be a vote like it is today, and we go from there.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: There's a couple more questions. Over here.

Bailey Bouwmeester, Espanola Minor Hockey Association: I also run the rec center in Espanola, and if this is allowed to go forward, we'll essentially shut down the arena in Massey. Because no one's going to play there, they're all going to come to us. So, what—this is going to happen in a lot of communities where if we allow all free player movement, we're going to be losing arenas, not just teams, we're going to be losing facilities for all these teams to play in. Just, people are going to go to the bigger towns, they're going to play there, which is great for the development, but we're going to be losing arenas. Because I know Massey won't survive if we allow free player movement, they're going to be done, I think they're already on the cusp now, but it's going to happen in other small communities as well, whether it be Thessalon, North Shore, whatever, like if all the kids can decide, you know what? We want to get together and play in Thessalon, there goes their arena in Desbarats, right? So, I think it's great for the development of the players, but we're going to lose community assets, too. That's just my two cents.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And that—that is an assumption, and I understand and I appreciate your assumption, but I can tell you of many other sports where that—it hasn't proven true. In baseball and softball, for one I know of, there are small towns that have attracted—have attracted—very good players to come there and play because their program was superior to what they could get in a small—in a bigger center. So, I'm not saying that your assumption is dead-on, I'm just saying that that's, that is an assumption, and I think that it gives the Board some homework to do for next year to see from different associations across Hockey Canada how the freedom has impacted smaller and bigger places.

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: Anybody who has been to these meetings over the past number of years, then you'll know that Schumacher's been pushing for freedom of movement since 2010. It's 2022, and we're continually talking about the negative impacts of freedom of movement, but we've never had freedom of movement. We've never allowed freedom of movement. But it's ruining everybody's programs, so we vote it down every time. And I'm not going to, like, I've got a couple motions coming up, so I'm not going to dwell on all that, I think it's a great move starting it at U7. I would like to propose a friendly amendment. The people here want to talk about freedom of movement, would the Board consider a friendly amendment to take out U7 out of it and make it open?



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Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: No, it needs to be, Brian, I think if we put it, and this was sent out to all associations, and if we would have left those two motions in, we would have probably had another hundred and fifty people voting here today, and I don't think it's the place of—to change a motion of this magnitude without having every association, like we may have, might've had fifty people from Sudbury, and a hundred from somewhere else, I don't think it's a place where—because we let every association know it wasn't going to be on the table. That's my opinion.

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: Those two aren't on the table, but the motion is sitting here—I mean, if you don't want a friendly amendment, that's fine, but there is a motion sitting out there that could be open to a friendly amendment.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: No, no, I got the clarification, but I don't think it would be right for the other associations that are told that that's not going to be on the table to have it voted on today. That's just my—don't get me wrong...

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: No, no, but sometimes what's right in hockey and what happens in hockey...

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And I understand, but I do not think that we can entertain a motion—a friendly amendment or an amendment of any kind on this motion to open it completely up. That would be beyond what we're allowed to do here because it would change the total intent of the motion. So, any other questions or comments? Oh, one back there.

Sherry Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Firstly, our association is the only association within the vicinity, I'm not even sure what the radius is, that actually offers for U7 to have three and four-year-olds, where normally, it's recognized as U7 is age five and six, so right there, we accept from other regions for the U7 program for the region that we're in, it is happening right now in the City of Timmins area. Secondly, if you, and if anybody disagrees with me on this, if you provide a good program, then you shouldn't be concerned about where your players are going to move to. And then thirdly, I have a question, I don't know if you can answer this, Ted, or if anyone else is able to... Will there be a report at the



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end of this U7 movement to show—just to be able to provide that it really may not even affect anything and that we're really making it into a bigger deal than what it really is?

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: I think for sure, it'll be monitored by the NOHA, we've got the access to everybody's HCR. For sure, we'd see a positive or a negative with that movement, and we would get it back to the associations.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And I think it's the responsibility of the floor that if this passed, to stay—hold the NOHA Executive's feet to the fire to make sure that they report back to the membership on the freedom of movement in U7, whatever that report might contain, because that will have some effect on what might come about next year. We've got one here first.

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I'll try to be quick. A couple years back, I was outside the rink, and I was met with a South African lady, and she was new to town, and she wanted her child to play hockey because she now lived in Canada and her husband was working at the De Beers victor mine, and she figured she would be here long-term. She said, "can you help me out because I have no clue what is going on, because when I do my research for hockey in this 41,000 population community, I find out that there's four associations, there's CANSKATE, there's Daystar clinic... I'm completely confused, I don't know all of the politics, where my kid's allowed to play..." She just thought it was absurd that, you know, she didn't know what was next, and I think it should be simple, where do you live? I live at 573 Melrose, you play for Timmins Minor Hockey, that's where you live, right? So I think it's simple, and back when the NOHA put on the Hockey Summit back in 2011, that was an amazing summit and we had somebody from Hockey Canada from Calgary come up, and he talked about this, and he talked about the reasons why Hockey Canada perhaps endorses it, it has to do with, you know, participation in the game and numbers and things like that, but you know, also there's other sports that don't take from August all the way till April and things like that and all that, but it didn't happen. Nationwide, it didn't happen, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, the residency rules are you play where you live, right? And that just makes things easy all around. And logistically, for an association, it's a nightmare to have freedom of movement because we're ordering our jerseys and our socks now, so do I order ninety-six of them? Or do I order thirty of them? I don't know. I'm recruiting coaches now, right? I'm talking to the City about ice time now. Do I need six hours of ice a weekend, or do I need two? I don't know, and, you know, a piece of equipment for



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this particular program, the divider boards, can cost up to \$10,000. Right now, in a city with four rinks, we have dividers and board systems at three rinks, that's \$30,000 worth, and there's only 170 kids total that play U7. To me, I would rather see associations work through agreements, through partnerships, to figure out together what's best for kids that are U7, and just to rebuttal on the Porcupine comment, we do have four-year-olds that play in our program, and we're actually very happy that they have a learn-to-skate program, and that's why we've created a partnership with them, and that's why we promote it and send our kids there. But that's pretty much what I want to say.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, back to Albert, and then right in front of Albert.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: I just, I made a statement earlier about the other two motions that dealt with of free player movement. I found out last night, now I get a lot of emails, so maybe I missed something, but when were they withdrawn?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: April 4th.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: They were, eh? Okay, thank you.

Shannon Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I just have a question, because I don't understand in the province of Ontario, how the Ministry of Education allows parents freedom of choice in school in any part of the community. They don't restrict, they don't restrict any kind of guidelines or district areas. If a parent in Porcupine wants their child to attend school in Timmins, they have every right to register their child there. What gives us the difference of making that more inaccessible for families in hockey by not allowing them that choice? Just a question.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay...

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Just a very quick rebuttal to that, if you live in the City of Timmins and you're a French Catholic, you have one choice—



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[Unrecorded cross-talk]

Lindsay Morell, Recorder, NOHA Office: Use the microphones, please, or you will not be recorded.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Hold it, that's it. You know, that's a good question, I don't know why it is that way. I don't know why baseball, minor baseball and that, how they can make it work, I don't know, but we're discussing the U7 team here. Are there any more questions with regards to this motion? There's a couple more over here.

Melissa Dupuis, Hearst Minor Hockey Association: My only question is if we do this at U7 and let's say it doesn't carry over at the other levels in the future or nothing, these kids are used to playing together, since they're three, four, five, whatever, and then when they go up to U9, they're not allowed to play with those friends of theirs, so is it a good thing that we do this at U7 only, and then don't let them play with their friends when they're eight years old? Seven and eight or whatever?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: At this point, the motion says U7. That's it.

Melissa Dupuis, Hearst Minor Hockey Association: No, I understand, that's what I'm saying, I'm just saying, would it be smart for us to do that and then after that not allow them together?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: That's right, at eight, they've gotta go back to the other regulations unless it changes next year. Behind you there's a question.

Mike Fera, Sault Major Hockey Association: I'm thinking back to what she was saying there, as to what happens, so it almost looks if you're doing this as kind of grandfathering itself through the system if it's a successful one, if not, then you basically have kids that maybe are playing in one association start to become friends, there. Next year, sorry you can't play with your new friends anymore, you have to come back to this association here. I



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just wasn't sure, basically where that, like, I know we're discussing U7 right now, but how things are going to look in the future create the impacts how one might see in opening something like this, I'd just like a bit of verification in regards to that, it would probably be more beneficial for me to make a decision to kind of see where things are at, because I think it's a little bit more complex than just the U7s get to play kind of where they decide they want to play, because it can basically impact all, the next motions that are coming up, they impact what happens [undecipherable].

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We need your last name.

Mike Fera, Sault Major Hockey Association: Fera.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, seeing no other hands, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? You know what, I think it's carried, but we're not going to take a chance. All those in favour back up again. And we'll do a count. All those... is that it? No, we're still here. Have you got your count for those in favour? All opposed? Forty-three to Thirty-five.

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: It requires a majority of those voting, 50% of those plus one. Forty-six to thirty-five. Of those voting, it's 50% plus one. No, we went through that before.

[Unrecorded cross-talk].

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I can't hear you. [Unrecorded cross-talk]. It's a By-law. The By-laws are 50% plus one—Regulation, it's a Regulation, it's 50% plus one. That's for By-laws, two-thirds. Okay, we'll move on to number 16.



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16. -SUBMITTED BY SCHUMACHER-DAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

NEW – NOHA Regulation 6.1.1.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

a) A Player shall be given the choice of Home Centre when the difference in distance from or to their residence, over well-travelled roads, always measuring the shortest possible route to the two (2) or more Centres concerned does not exceed ten (10) km. The difference in distance shall be determined from the main entrance of the participant's residence to the Post Office location within such Centre(s).

b) Having made their choice of home Centre under the above Regulation through registration, such Player shall remain a member of the Centre. In the spirit of "right of choice", such Player, in good standing, will automatically be granted a release to an Association, within the ten (10) km radius, when request.

Rationale:

We live in a society where freedom of choice is prevalent. This is not a new or unique concept in minor hockey. There have been motions brought to this floor, from both Associations and the NOHA Board, over the past years, addressing this topic. Hockey Canada has been promoting this concept for years. It is our understanding that the NOHA is the only OHF Member that does not have some sort of provision for the "right to choose". There are provisions in other OHF Members' Constitutions addressing this.

During discussions with our Members, it is apparent that there is a desire to allow for participants the right to choose what program they wish to participate in. These changes would allow the right to choose a nearby Association to play in, for whatever reason they choose.

We feel this amendment would allow participants, in nearby Associations, to be able to choose with Association they would like to participate in, while protecting smaller Associations that we have heard at past AGMs concerned for their existence that complete freedom of movement would cause.



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Moved by: Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association

Seconded by: Peter Miettinen, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And Schumacher, does somebody wish to speak on this? We need the microphone over here.

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: Good afternoon, everybody. Schumacher Day is pleased to bring this motion to the floor once again for open and frank discussion. And make no mistake, Schumacher Day wants and needs these motions to pass to carry on. Right now, we live in a society where freedom of choice is prevalent. You've heard it just moments ago, education, everything like that. And this is not a new concept, we've seen it around this table, the board has brought it, we've brought it, other associations have brought it. It's our understanding as even Albert has just mentioned, we're the only Member Branch that has absolutely no provisions for freedom of choice for parents. We feel this amendment with this ten-kilometer radius from the post office takes into account and encompasses all the concerns we heard when we brought this motion forward in the past from small associations, and again, I hear it saying that everyone is running from the big associations. I don't personally think that's gonna be true. I think we have support from our neighbours, Porcupine, they're not concerned with this motion, and they're right down the road and could lose players. It's 2022 now and, you know, attitudes and everything has changed from when all these motions and regulations were put into place. Families, parents, they're more mobile, they expect more for their money. They expect that they can choose where they're going to spend their winters. Families are much more diverse now, so we might have, I mean, I can remember when I started in hockey, you had Mom and Dad. Now you meet Mom and Dad, Mom and Step-Dad, Step-Dad and Step-Mom, they might not all live in the same community, but we have a rule, oh, what's the primary residence? Like, those kids might be moving all throughout an area that neighbours each other. You know, in 2022, families want to be able to choose the options that best fit them, and if we want to grow the game, and we get—how many surveys did everyone receive from the OHF? We continually hear about Grow the Game, yet we sit around tables sometimes and we lose sight of why we're here, we're here for the kids. We're not here for associations, or executives, or to make something easier for us. We're here to make it easier for the kids to play, and the more we put up barriers, and I don't care what anyone wants to say, the more barriers that go up, people will find other things to do. So, we're trying to get this, I mean, the reality is most of you all support freedom of movement. Most of you have side agreements that break the constitution's word to your own good. But that's all based on executives, or boards,



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associations making those deals. No one ever asks the parents or the kids, you know? Any of that? Like, and why are we here? We're not here for us, we're here for them. And we... I hate to sound like my old friend Lou, but this is what Battochio taught us, this is all about the kids. This is, this is all well and good, we're doing, like, looking around this table, like, around this room, each and every one of the people in this room, as an individual, I think, is here for the right reasons. Sometimes mob rules, mob mentality takes over when we get on the table, and we circle the wagons because we want to save our soul, save our group. I'm here right now trying to save Schumacher. Without a doubt, I'm trying to save Schumacher. But I'm also trying to save a very well-run program. A community program that doesn't deserve to go away. So, not to get into all the history, but last year we lost releases, we went through—our parents appealed, the NOHA had no choice, the rule says you play where you live. Despite fifty years of precedent. That was the rule. So, we're hoping to come to you, give us that ten kilometers. Let people choose within that radius where they play. Doesn't prevent anybody from— We've all been breaking the constitution other ways with side agreements, this doesn't take away from those side agreements, you want to have an agreement? By all means, have an agreement. This will back soft when board or executives cannot come to an agreement, and kids suffer. And, as I've said, this isn't about us, it's about them, and I think sometimes we just need to reassess that. Just in short, we were told there's nothing in the book, we're asking for the support. Thanks. Let's get something in the book as a starting point. We don't think this is the perfect freedom of movement, it's a starting point, much like your U7 agreement—amendment that we just brought up. It's a starting point. Let's take that and build on it. And this notion that, like, everyone's going to run away to other associations, who is going to travel thirty-forty kilometers to go play House League in another association? They're not going to. Not with today's costs. Like, it's not going to happen. So, we've brought this forth many, many times, so, and every time you hear about all the negatives of freedom of movement. For once, think of the positives. It'll force you to have a better program, and I'm going to count in my trade... You deal with customers, you treat 'em right, they'll come back. You treat 'em wrong, they'll go somewhere else, which is their full right. But in hockey, it isn't, because they live in the wrong place. It doesn't make any sense. And this—if I made sense, if, years ago, when, you know, you had Mom and Dad and you lived right next to the arena, and everything worked, but people are living all over the place, now. You know, you might have a kid who played all his life in one of your associations, moves down the road, oh, can't play with his friends, gotta go to the other one now. It's, I think, if we wanna grow the game in 2022, we have to change some of these rules that are, essentially, putting up barriers, and stop worrying that this one change in the rules is going to chase all your kids away. If your kids are going to run away to another association, take a look at your program, don't look at the other guy's fault, but that's how the rules are written. We're just looking for



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support, let's get something into this book that gives parents the right to choose when they're going to which association.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, we have a speaker here.

Nigel Good, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: I just want a little clarification on the wording, so you've got difference in between the two towns, so does that mean if I live in Town A, which doesn't have hockey, but Town B on this side, he has it, and Town B has it, and the difference, so let's say this one's twenty kilometers away and this one's twenty-two, that difference is less than ten kilometers?

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: That's what we're trying to do, keep it in a ten-kilometer circle... because anything bigger there are claims they're taking from smaller associations, so we wanted to keep it within ten kilometers.

Nigel Good, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: So, ten kilometers from my house?

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: From your house to the post office.

Nigel Good, Thessalon Minor Hockey Association: Okay, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you. One over here, and then one here.

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Good afternoon, I'm Laurent, the president of Timmins Minor Hockey. I just want to spend a few minutes today discussing and outlining a few things because what people in this room may not know is two weeks ago, Schumacher sent out an email to all the associations except for Timmins Minor Hockey to try and rally support for this motion. We weren't privy to that meeting, but we know people who attended to try to rally for that support. We want to be able to take five minutes today to



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share our side of the story, because I think it's important. Prior to the start of the 2020-2021 season, TMHA began a review process for our association, which had many new board members at the time. In that season, and within that, we identified a number of ways to try and enhance the tier 2 program. When we looked at our numbers, we noticed that there were two hundred kids playing minor hockey from Timmins, with a Timmins address, playing in Schumacher. Two hundred. I want to challenge any association in this room that loses two hundred kids that they would stand for, and they can afford to lose two hundred kids from their association. Because that's what we're fighting for. There was twenty kids, the last time we checked, that played hockey in Schumacher that have a residence address in Schumacher. Twenty kids. [Unrecorded comment] This is giving the background information, so, we are, I'm giving you the background information, and I think I was quiet when you guys spoke, I gave you guys [indecipherable, not speaking into mic]. So, the migration that occurred over the course of that time wasn't specific to a specific situation, it wasn't isolated, it was the result of several things that occurred over the years that we believe was unfair, particularly Schumacher's tier 2 draft process. And we brought this up several times. There was a draft process that was already predetermined prior to the draft that was allowing kids to be on their friends' teams, their brothers' and sisters' teams, and there was no limits to that. We have coaches that have played in our association that can attest to that, that attest to that, and we even have board members on our association that attest to that, that have been present for those drafts, and this is how they have been able to attract kids away from Timmins to go play in Schumacher over the years. So, we have a tier 1 agreement with Porcupine Minor Hockey, when we entered that agreement at tier 1, we gave up our A cards to them to allow their kids the open border to come and play AA hockey in Timmins. That's an agreement, that is fair. There was a give and take, there was a back and forth. If we allow this freedom of movement, there's no coming back, this is a one-way street. This is Timmins kid's going to Schumacher, that's what it is. It's not a two-way street, there's no give and take. And I think that that's important too, to outline today. We met with our NOHA rep Derek Byrnes, we met with Schumacher Minor Hockey, and from the very onset of this, our point to this has never to have Schumacher go under and no longer exist, that was never our intent. When we had our board meeting, we shared our board minutes with Schumacher to prove that we were unanimous, and we had consensus that that wasn't what we wanted to do. When we proposed our proposal to Brian, it was to bring back half of those kids back to Timmins. We'll make sure that you guys have a team at U7, at U9, at U11, at U13, at U15, and at U18 tier 2, that's six teams, and according to my calculation, that was one hundred-and-two kids. So that meant we had ninety-eight coming back to us. We met, we tried to negotiate, we didn't get anywhere. Their parents put an appeal to the NOHA saying that they didn't agree with us holding our borders, which was Hockey Canada's rule, OHF's rule, NOHA's rule, and it still exists to this very day. There was elected a three-member panel of very



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experienced people from the NOHA on that three-member panel voted in favour of Timmins Minor Hockey, and it gets back to the gentleman's point over there that says when the NOHA makes a decision on an appeal, it should be upheld, and not come around at the AGM and try to overturn that decision that they made.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I just want to interject for a second, I don't think anybody has come here asking for the decision of the appeal panel to be reversed here. What they're saying is that they want that rule changed to allow that to happen, but they're not asking for—I've talked to the board people, the appeals panel has been fair to say that is the ruling of the appeals panel, and that will remain in place. But it, there, nobody has asked for it to be overthrown here.

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Six dozen of one, one half dozen of another, I hear you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: No, it's not six of one, a half dozen of the other, they're saying—you're saying that they came here and asked for the appeal to be overturned, that's not true, they're—

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: They're changing the Constitution—

Dick Farrow, Moderator: They have put in a request for a changed Constitution. That's what's happened. Right.

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: So, during that meeting, the three-member panel said "we think that there can be a deal to be made," asked Brian and I to go outside and try to make a deal. We said "what is your main concern, Brian, let's make a deal here, you've got a hundred-and-two kids, we've got ninety-eight, let's make a deal." He was concerned about his Midget program and that he had a high number of kids at the Midget program. We said "we'll give you an extra team." Seventeen other players, we're now at a hundred and nineteen players that we said, we'll give you that extra team if that's really what



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is preventing you from doing this deal. We went back into the room and Brian said no, not good enough, we're going to let the NOHA decide, and the NOHA decided in our favour based on the rules. So, we don't want to come across like we're the association that tried to put them out of business, that's not what we were trying to do, we were very clear at the onset, it was in the minutes we shared with them. We tried to negotiate a fair deal, and they didn't want anything of it, and I think that that's important to clarify. The issue with the ten-kilometer radius is what's next? Is it going to be twenty kilometers in North Bay?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We don't know—we're dealing with ten kilometers.

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: But what I'm saying is is it good to start the ball rolling for the next AGM that it's going to be twenty kilometers somewhere else—

Dick Farrow, Moderator: It could be completely open, but we're going to deal with this motion that's ten kilometers.

Laurent Gilbert, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Correct. So, ten kilometers if you guys know Timmins, there's a big sign when you come up to Timmins that says "Welcome to Timmins" forty-two kilometers from the city center. That's how big Timmins is, it's the second largest city outside of Timmins—outside of Toronto in the province, land-wise. It's a very vast area. When you start putting kilometers, ten kilometers a catchment from a kid's front door to a post office that could close tomorrow in Schumacher? Then what? It just doesn't make any sense. There's one kid that could live down the next street from that one kid that we're allowing to go play, but he doesn't get—or she doesn't get that chance to go play? It makes no sense. It just complicates things, and I think Timmins Minor Hockey's point of view on this is the ten-kilometer radius is not going to work because it's not going to be applied consistently to all of the kids in Timmins, you're going to get select number of kids that will be able, and be permitted to move, and you're gonna get other kids that won't be able to. So, we're unanimous in terms of not supporting this motion brought forward by Schumacher.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much. We have one over here, first. One, two.

Luc Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: So, like Brian said, this is, if this motion is defeated, Schumacher no longer exists. So, this is supporting their association. By wording it with the ten kilometers, we have outskirt communities like Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, that if it was just freedom of movement, that could destroy their associations because then they can just freely go everywhere, and some associations can't afford to lose one player, because then it affects the entire community, the entire association. So by wording it with the ten kilometers does, is it protects everyone in outlying, and North Bay, I think they already have a standing agreement, and Sudbury, and everything else, so it doesn't affect them. This protects us and Timmins and Porcupine, it helps Schumacher, it continues with the heritage, so as far as I'm concerned, we continue to support this, and we hope you guys do, too.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, one more here.

Kelly Byrnes, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: We talk about Timmins, and it's like a twenty-minute drive from one end to the other, and yes, we have four associations, one is the girls, so it's not even part of the NOHA, so technically, we have three. You talk about two hundred kids in Schumacher and those same two hundred kids in Schumacher have been there for forty-plus years. So now, all of a sudden, it's a big issue. And how, out of those two hundred kids, how many of them came back? Not all of them, because there are more than a hundred and some kids that did not return to hockey this year. That in lies the problem.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, and Brian's up first. A rebuttal, Brian. Final rebuttal. Oh, okay I'll get you, Albert.

Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League: You have guys playing in a U45 division? Sorry. So, I'm torn because the problem I see, for lack of a better term, with the motion, is I don't think ten kilometers is enough, I actually think it should be more. I know I hear everything, but I'm stuck on the fact that ten kilometers, you know, someone said that Sudbury has agreements? No, they don't have agreements. So, this will affect Sudbury and District.



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Significantly. I look at this and I say “okay, as near as I can tell, it probably affects two associations,” Timmins and Sudbury the most, but maybe I’m wrong on that, maybe I don’t understand all the geography of Northern Ontario. Until I—Full disclosure, until I got involved in hockey, I had never been north of highway 17, so I now understand geography a little bit better. I would like to see this expanded to a bigger number, more kilometers. We talked about a U7 program that is a pilot project. If this, in fact, destroys programs, I guarantee you the room will be full next year with people who are going to—now, I guess that’s a double-edged sword if the program disappears, is it going to mean they’re going to show up and have a vote, maybe not, but I’m not sure that programs will disappear, what I do know is I look at the registration numbers, and people can point to COVID, but what we’re going through is not a result of COVID. Numbers are in decline, they’re in decline significantly, and if we don’t do something to change the lay of the land, to make this more accessible for everybody, I fear this room will be less and less and less full because there is too many options out there, there is just, there are too many options out there. The cost of hockey is going through the roof. At what point—we create the best hockey players because we’re fortunate that everyone slaps a pair of skates on at age four. If, if the cost of the game gets so out of whack, and we make it so restrictive, that the cost of cleats, that cost somebody fifty-five bucks and a soccer field somewhere, or a baseball glove and a bat and a pair of cleats makes it so restrictive that we force people out of the game because of the restrictions we’re putting on, mobility, cost, and everything else, there’s not going to be a board of thirty-two people sitting up there because there’s gonna be as many people sitting on this side as there are that side. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, I’ve got Brian here, do you wish to, it’s the first hand here, and then back, and over here.

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: Much like when we went to the appeals last year, it wasn’t meant to be a negotiation, I didn’t think today was meant to be a negotiation, and all of this comments about how the negotiation went, I don’t think was appropriate. Actually, I don’t think it should have been allowed, but just as a rebuttal to that, there was no negotiation, there were ultimatums. Mr. Gilbert actually went to our Board meeting, he said we could run House League hockey, that’s a great idea. He came to our Board meeting and someone asked him the question, what does that mean for Schumacher? Oh, you’d just dissolve. You’d become part of Timmins, basically volunteers for us. That isn’t why all four of us and the eight people who are at home got involved. Okay? So, to say that they were negotiations, they were ultimatums and they all went against a parent’s right to choose.



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You can have players but it's going to be after, they can register with Schumacher, but then we're going to have a draft and maybe they'll end up on a Timmins team. And we talk about trying to make things easy. For fifty years it was easy, go play where you wanted, but, that's all I have to say, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you. Back here?

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I've got five quick points. Number one, I completely agree with Brian, it's definitely all about the kids. I forgot about two years when I didn't coach, so I've been here for twenty-four years, but I'm all about the kids 100%. But when you're losing games 17-0, it's not all about the kids that are losing 17-0. It's not. It's not. Third point, just a couple weeks ago, Ajax-Pickering, 400,000 people amalgamated their hockey association. Wonder why. New Liskeard amalgamated their hockey association. I wonder why. There are reasons why they did that. In a population of 41,000 people, having three associations creates a dynamic that is not the best product and experience that we can give to all of the kids that live in the city of Timmins. And the city of Timmins amalgamated on January 1st, 1973. We have thirty-five townships. One of our townships is called Schumacher. It's a township that's part of the city of Timmins. Allowing this to go through today affects, like Albert said, two associations of all of us here, so we're asking you to really think about this one, because it would affect us a great deal, because if I—me and my buddies could Snapchat this summer and be guaranteed we're gonna be on the same team next year in Schumacher and beat Timmins teams 17-zip, I'm in. I'm in. Sorry. And my fifth point is I think, I think we could do better in Timmins. I think we could work together to make Timmins hockey, the Timmins hockey program the best we can for all of the kids, and I think we could do that together. That's what we really need to do. It's our opinion. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, we're back, we're back over here, first.

Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association: So, we started off today with these motions with this exact fight and the conversations are going with hundreds of children. We're in a fight for five, okay? So, if this gets passed, we went from arguing over maybe five children to now we're arguing potentially over twenty or thirty children. [Unrecorded]. Because our association is gonna fold. Our association, and their association, and the next association will fold. The farther north we go, the harder it is to get to these big



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cities. Some of the kids who we play against in our town have to drive an hour and a half to get to anywhere to even play a game against another association, so by eliminating potential teams, these other associations are going down from having the potential to have four to only two, so now who am I gonna play? Now I've gotta drive two and a half hours to play a game once a week? You just cut all hockey out of that entire town.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you. We've got a comment back over here, the gentleman with the glasses. Can you—they're not hearing you on the recorder, can you speak up?

Richard Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I played hockey for the better part of my life. I played at a high enough level, and the discussion around the table has always been in Timmins, the problem is with three associations inside of a tiny kilometer radius. So, this is more common to everybody involved—South Porcupine, Schumacher, and Timmins: why can we not abolish the three associations and create one association? If you want to make it easier? That is the easiest. It is the easiest. If you are truly here for the kids, and not your association, then you abolish those three associations and create one association. If you truly want to be here for your kids. [Unrecorded]. No, absolutely not, it's not up for discussion—

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Hold it guys, hold it guys, hold it! Cut it out, guys. He's got the microphone, he'll speak.

Richard Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Thank you. And you truly have freedom of choice, you're just playing hockey in the city of Timmins, call it South Porcupine association, call it the Schumacher Day hockey association, Timmins, call it whatever you want. It was brought up before at our AGM that it would never happen, but why can't we just all have just one association, all of the kids play together, they play on the AA team, play on the A team, play on the House League team, whatever it is, whatever your choice is, that's it.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Okay, one here.



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Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I won't take up too much of you guys' time, enough has been hashed around here, beat around, I just wanted to make this point known that Porcupine Minor Hockey is in full support of Schumacher Minor Hockey and the freedom of choice for our kids. We probably can stand to lose the most, here, but we're fine with that, as long as your product can produce and put the kids on the ice, that's all we care about. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you very much. Okay, you had your hand up here. If it's a new point, we'll hear it, and then I think that we're ready to go to a vote.

Jason Brazeau, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Just two quick, quick points. One is, yeah, hockey has been a certain way in many areas, with tradition, communities, hasn't run good going back thirty, forty, years. All in all, though, demographically, it's probably the biggest factor of why the game is changing. Demographics. I've heard kids coming up versus [indecipherable]. So, sitting around and making accusations and blaming everybody is... Secondly, we made a comment earlier that there's fifty-four members here—partners, and ultimately, we're making a vote at large with something that's probably going to affect five. This lady made a comment of fairness earlier, really don't think it's the future of fatherhood should be held in the hands of fifty-four when we already have a schedule that dictates how things are supposed to go. Just some simplicity and planning, really is what it comes down to. You can't plan, you can't prep, you can't take care of your kids if you can't plan.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, I think we're ready to go to the vote. So, it's motion number sixteen submitted by Schumacher Minor Hockey. You've heard the discussion, I know we had a little bit of extra discussion about this, but it's a very important decision to be made, not only for Timmins and Shumacher, but for the rest of the NOHA. So, all those in favour, and keep your cards high. Okay, all those opposed, opposed. Okay, so it's clear from the count that the motion is defeated.

DEFEATED

17. -SUBMITTED BY SCHUMACHER-DAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



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NEW – NOHA Regulation 6.1.1.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

c) A House League Player shall be given the choice of Home Centre when the difference in distance from or to their residence, over well-travelled roads, always measuring the shortest possible route to the two (2) or more Centres concerned does not exceed ten (10) km. The difference in distance shall be determined from the main entrance of the participant's residence to the Post Office location within such Centre(s).

d) Having made their choice of home Centre under the above Regulation through registration, such Player shall remain a member of the Centre. In the spirit of "right of choice", such Player, in good standing, will automatically be granted a release to an Association, within the ten (10) km radius, when request.

Rationale:

We live in a society where freedom of choice is prevalent. This is not a new or unique concept in minor hockey. There have been motions brought to this floor, from both Associations and the NOHA Board, over the past years, addressing this topic. Hockey Canada has been promoting this concept for years. It is our understanding that the NOHA is the only OHF Member that does not have some sort of provision for the "right to choose". There are provisions in other OHF Members' Constitutions addressing this.

During discussions with our Members, it is apparent that there is a desire to allow for participants the right to choose what program they wish to participate in. These changes would allow the right to choose a nearby Association to play in, for whatever reason they choose.

We feel this amendment would allow House League participants, in nearby Associations, to be able to choose with Association they would like to participate in, while protecting smaller Associations that we have heard at past AGMs concerned for their existence that complete freedom of movement would cause.

Moved by Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association



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Seconded by Peter Miettinen, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, this is basically the same motion, but for House League.

Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey Association: So, basically, we've seen the mood on the floor, for, obviously for Rep hockey, we're now asking for support at the House League level. Recreational hockey, let kids play where they want to play. Not gonna belabour the point, I mean, we've all had our conversations, and everybody's brought their points up, so, basically looking for support at the House League and Rec level, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Brian. I think we've heard the discussion, and I don't think there's any more, so we'll go to the motion. All those in favour of the motion, House League only. Okay, all those opposed.

DEFEATED

18. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.3.c.

Presently Reads:

The individual game fees for officials shall be based on game length excluding overtime:

(chart)

Fees, excluding U18 AAA and Junior A, shall increase by \$1.00 per Official for the 2020/2021 season and for the 2021/2022 seasons.

The above rates will be in effect until the conclusion of the 2021/2022 season, after which a review of the Officials' fees will be completed by the NOHA.

Note: If a game is officiated in the two-official system, each Official shall receive the Referee rate.



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Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

To allow the NOHA Executive to make changes to the individual game fees as they see fit to keep competitive for Officials and reasonable for Associations.

Moved by Gayle Payette, NOHA 2nd Vice President

Seconded by Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Anyone from the Board wish to speak? Glen.

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: Okay, what I'm going to say is, whenever we're asked for an increase in officials' rates, the NOHA has always been fair, and we're requesting the increase to encourage, we'll say, officials to register two officials rather than part-time, we're finding more and more people now are going to part-time because it doesn't cause them to get the job, officiating is \$450 to start, so what we're trying to do is get new officials out, be competitive, and also keep the officials we have. Just to give you numbers, in 2009 we had 778 officials, in 2020 we had 345. Now these officials go from basically Powassan, Moose Factory, Sault Ste. Marie, so if you think of all the games being played in all your smaller communities, and what's happening now, last year we had all kinds of games two-official system, we had many games cancelled, and what we're trying to do with this is recruit officials and keep the ones we have. Also, if officials do have a concern with their rates, the onus is now on the NOHA. They're not going to have to go and say "well, the associations didn't approve it." With officials upset in each of your districts. And I will say, if this is passed, we are not going to increase the game fees for next season. Any questions?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: One question over here.

Shannon Poliquin, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I'm just wondering, how much are the officials getting paid right now, and how does that equate to the part-time jobs rate of pay in the market right now? It could make a difference.



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Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: As a referee, I've been yelled at so many times over thirty years, I can't hear very well.

Shannon Poliquin, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I'm just wondering, what is the rate that our officials are getting paid right now, and how will that one-dollar rate affect what the part-time rate is right now across the board, what do you think that one dollar's going to make a difference?

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: Well, the one dollar was for last season, and right now the rates are higher than the minimum wage, especially for, we'll say, the U9, U10, because that's the new officials. Once the fees get up to say, to I'm getting them all mixed up, ages, I'll say Bantam, Midget age, U18, whatever, then it's not as high because they're getting less per game time, but the one dollar really didn't help a lot, but that was, like, a three-year deal, I think it was like five, one, and one over the last three years? So, it does help when officials get at least something.

Shannon Poliquin, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Okay, but I just wanna know what are they getting paid? What is the actual amount?

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: Oh, I don't have, oh! Okay, the game fees, three-hundred dollars for a U9 team—I'm just kidding. Basically, the rates are twenty... I can't read this, I don't have my glasses.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: He's a referee. He can't see, either.

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: See what I've got to put up with?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: The U9 half ice – twenty-six dollars, yeah, twenty-six dollars, U9 30-36 minute games twenty-six, 37-45 minute, twenty-eight, 46-60 – thirty-four, U11 30-36



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twenty-six, 37-45 twenty-eight, 46-60 thirty-four, U13 it goes 30-36 thirty-one dollars for the referee, twenty-four for the linesman, 37-45 minutes thirty-three for the ref, twenty-six for the linesman, 46-60 thirty-nine for the ref, thirty-two for the linesman, do you want the U15s and...?

Shannon Poliquin, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: That's good, that just gives me an idea, I just kind of wanted to know.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Oh, okay. Okay, that's it? We'll go to the—sorry, over here.

Melissa Dupuis, Hearst Minor Hockey Association: So, just for someone that's been dealing with the numbers, I just want to understand, so what you're saying is we would forego the one dollar, two dollar, or whatever we had planned on and then you would be—the NOHA Executive would be able to change the rate as they see fit every year, is that what we're saying?

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: Basically we're saying, if, say, two years from now we want an increase, then the NOHA would discuss it, the Referee Committee approves something, it goes to the rest of the Board for them to decide and approve, so that two years from now we can say "we want two dollars more for officials per game." I'd like to also point out about the rates, is a few years ago, for the advantage of officials and associations, it was always one rate, it didn't matter if you played three tens or three thirties, it was always the same rate, so a couple years ago, we changed that, so they're paid according to the time they're on the ice, one-hour game, one-and-a-half-hour game, two-hour game, so now we also lowered the fees for a lot of the associations who are only playing three tens.

Melissa Dupuis, Hearst Minor Hockey Association: I just, and then, would it mean that, when would we know about this? Just because, like we make our rates when we're deciding how to pay based on how many games we're kind of having, so would that, would we know about this like in May or June, or when would we...?



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Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: We would say, we would say it at the Annual Meeting, like we do today, prior to the Annual Meeting.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: So, it eliminates the game-based rate completely? Because it's saying to remove the charts. The game rate—the length of the game rate is gone, and it's just going to be one flat rate regardless of the timeline, or is it in conjunction, you're going to keep the chart with the—

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: We'll keep the chart, so if we say, for instance, two years from now, one dollar per official, everything on that chart would go up one dollar.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: So, then you're not deleting the whole section.

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: No, no no.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: You're just deleting the part—

Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: We just want the executive to say how much we're going to increase that chart.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: The intent is to remove it from the regulations so that every year, we, the Board, or whoever doesn't have to request a dollar increase [indecipherable, not speaking into microphone.]

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Now, is there a cost-of-living basis, or a provincial average from the OHF that's—we're just trying to financially balance, like figure this out, so what would be the max amount, is there an amendment we can make there that no, no greater than a four percent increase or something along those lines, does the OHF have that guideline like that, where they max out their refs fee? It would just be hard to justify if it went up from twenty-six to thirty-one dollars an hour in a one-year increase.



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Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: I can tell you that I've been Director of Officials now for twenty-three years, and on average, when we increase the rates, it's usually one-two dollars over three years, so, and the last time was one of our largest ones because of the minimum wage went up quite high, so we went five, I think, one and one? But I don't think you'd ever see us come to you and say "okay, it's going to be seven dollars an official". It's going to be very reasonable, I think the very, like whenever I put in a recommendation, they've always supported it, and when we went to associations, they've always supported it, so like I said, it'll always be fair and you're never going to get something outrageous.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Pee wee Hockey League: Okay, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thanks, Glen. Oh, we've got a question over here.

Jason Brazeau, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I'd just like to say, I think this is an appropriate what do you call this? Amendment or change, it's going to give the folks making the the ability to make changes on the fly instead of just the numbers of the officials we have out there are a diminishing breed, it's not an easy game to ref, I've got a few years of first-hand knowledge. Also, in the end, if you want more people to officiate, then you're going to have to pay, because if you don't, you'll have them doing something else.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much. We'll go to the motion now, number 18, all those in favour. Those opposed.

CARRIED

19. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.3.c.

Presently Reads:



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The individual game fees for officials shall be based on game length excluding overtime:

(chart)

Fees, excluding U18 AAA and Junior A, shall increase by \$1.00 per Official for the 2020/2021 season and for the 2021/2022 seasons.

The above rates will be in effect until the conclusion of the 2021/2022 season, after which a review of the Officials' fees will be completed by the NOHA.

Note: If a game is officiated in the two-official system, each Official shall receive the Referee rate.

Change to Read:

Add to the chart:

AAA (tournaments)

U13 Referee - \$36.00 Linesperson - \$24.00

U15 Referee - \$41.00 Linesperson - \$29.00

U18 Referee - \$52.00 Linesperson - \$38.00

Rationale:

Our current AAA rates do not reflect shorter game times, like they do in other categories. This addition reflects the same processes followed for other categories.

Moved by Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President

Seconded by Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Oh, it's withdrawn? [Unrecorded]. Okay, so it's withdrawn because of the previous one. We're going to number 20 now.

WITHDRAWN



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20. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.3.d

Presently Reads:

Car travel rate shall be \$0.42 per kilometer, rounded to the nearest dollar. Local Referees will receive game fee only. Per diem allowance for travel within the District: travel over 100 km one way - \$10.00; travel over 200km one way - \$25.00; travel over 300km - \$40.00; overnight stay (full day) - \$50.00.

Requests for meals must be approved by the NOHA Officiating Program Coordinator, who will advise the District Referee-in-Chief.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

To allow the NOHA Board of Directors to determine the mileage rate annually. This is in line with the NOHA Board's previous request to remove other fees, such as participant fees, team fees, etc. and allow the Board to act as needed to adjust fees.

Moved by Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I think it's fairly self-explanatory. Questions? One, two.

Jason Brazeau, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Just a question, if they're going to have the ability to move it up, will they have the ability to move it down? Fingers crossed [unintelligible].

Richard Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: ...



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Glen Campbell, NOHA Director of Officials: Yes, it's a floating rate that can go up and down, and just to let you know again, we are one of the lowest mileage rates within the OHF, as it is in the NOHA right now. But yes, the NOHA can go up and down.?

Richard Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: And in the future, with something like this [unintelligible]. Can we get a gas surcharge added to that? Just because the fact is that a lot of these guys are traveling and you don't know what gas prices will be in the future, if we can just add something.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Great, yes. When gas goes down to a dollar a litre later, later this summer, they'll adjust it down. Okay, we'll get...

Shannon Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Just a question, why, as a not-for-profit organization, we wouldn't follow the Canada Revenue Agency amount every year so that it's consistent? There's a, yeah, the Canada Revenue Agency allows an amount every year, that's how businesses create their travel policies, and they follow the CRA. It would just be an easy amount that would just follow, and it's like, right now it's sixty-one cents a kilometre, so that would be really good for everyone.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Sure, we'll pass that recommendation on to the Board should this pass. Okay, seeing no others, all in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

21. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

WITHDRAWN



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22. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW – Regulation 9.2.d.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

In divisions that do not lead to a Regional or National Championship, a Goaltender may affiliate to more than one (1) Team upon approval of the Minor Hockey Association and of the District Council Director.

Rationale:

In recent seasons, the NOHA has received a number of requests to allow Goaltenders to affiliate to more than one (1) Team. The regulation above formalizes the process for this to occur.

Moved by Gayle Payette, NOHA 2nd Vice President

Seconded by Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any comments from the Board? Questions? All those in favour?
Opposed?

CARRIED

23. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.1.b. – NEW

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:



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In applicable age divisions, the winning Team from the NOHA Tournament of Champions will represent the NOHA at the OHF Championships.

Rationale:

To provide clarity for what is the current practice with respect to OHF Championships.

Moved by Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President

Seconded by Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: No explanation needed? Self-explanatory. All those in favour?
Opposed?

CARRIED

24. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 12.1.b.

Presently Reads:

A list of Teams that are entering the Tournament must be forwarded to the NOHA Office and the District Council Director ten (10) days prior to the start of the tournament. The completed schedule can then be e-mailed when the final draft is ready to be sent to all Teams. All Tournaments (House League and Representative) are required to submit a Tournament reconciliation to the NOHA Office sixty (60) days after the completion of the Tournament. Tournament hosts must also submit all game sheets, Tournament permits, final game schedule and HCR approved rosters to the NOHA Office with their reconciliation. All Tournaments are required to check the HCR approved rosters of each Team participating to verify their eligibility.

Once everything has been submitted, the NOHA Office will inform the Association of any missing documents and assistance will be provided to the Association to secure the required documents, where possible.



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Change to Read:

A list of Teams that are entering the Tournament must be forwarded to the NOHA Office and the District Council Director ten (10) 14 days prior to the start of the tournament. The completed schedule can then be e-mailed when the final draft is ready to be sent to all Teams. All Tournaments (House League and Representative) are required to submit a Tournament reconciliation to the NOHA Office sixty (60) days after the completion of the Tournament. Tournament hosts must also submit all game sheets, Tournament permits, final game schedule and HCR approved rosters to the NOHA Office with their reconciliation. All Tournaments are required to check the HCR approved rosters of each Team participating to verify their eligibility.

Once everything has been submitted, the NOHA Office will inform the Association of any missing documents and assistance will be provided to the Association to secure the required documents, where possible.

Rationale:

By amending this regulation to 14 days, it will allow our Staff to review Team lists and compare information in the tournament portal and to reach out to Associations, where necessary, to avoid late fees.

Moved by Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: It basically, it changes it from ten days to fourteen days. Any questions about that? All in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

25. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.2.1.b.

Presently Reads:



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Requests to host will be received by the Executive Director until September 1st. The total number of entries eligible to attend will be confirmed by December 31st of the current season.

Change to Read:

Requests to host will be received by the Executive Director until September October 1st. The total number of entries eligible to attend will be confirmed by December 31st of the current season.

Rationale:

To provide an additional month for Associations and Teams to apply to host the Tournament of Champions.

Moved by Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: No discussion required? All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

26. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.2.1.f.

Presently Reads:

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

Change to Read:

If an Association has been awarded to host an NOHA Tournament of Champions, they must declare, in writing, by October 31st if they are unable to register a Team.

Rationale:



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If the previous motion is approved, amending this Regulation to provide until the end of the month for Associations to advise if they cannot field a Team in that particular age division.

Moved by Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Sam Gaulin, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Again, I think that's self-explanatory. All those in favour?
Opposed?

CARRIED

27. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.2.1.h.

Presently Reads:

Host Committees must guarantee that there are sufficient accommodations available for out of town Teams attending the Tournament of Champions.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

While the NOHA Playoff Committee uses available accommodations as a determining factor for hosting of the TOCs, no host Association can guarantee accommodations due to other events that may be taking place in the same community.

Moved by Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by Craig Maki, NOHA Executive



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: It's because it's pretty hard for a host committee to determine whether accommodations are going to be ready at that tournament date, so no explanation required, pretty easy to understand. Questions? Oh, okay.

Melissa Turcotte, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: I just have a question, if you're expecting teams to go to a city, how do you not expect to have accommodations for them? I think that's a logistical nightmare for managers, that's my opinion.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, I understand what you're saying, I think the one problem with what's there is that it does say the host committees must guarantee, but if something happens, what's the ramifications of the guarantee? Because are you expecting the host's community then to accommodate them in another town at the host's expense? Or what would be?

Melissa Turcotte, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: No, but you still have to have accommodations available, maybe the wording needs to be changed, but I don't think this needs to be deleted. That's just my opinion, so maybe the word guarantee needs to be removed from this wording, like, you can't guarantee a room, but you have to, if you're like, if we're holding, like TOCs, we made sure there was, you know, seven hotels on board to house whatever teams are coming along. If you're having a tournament in, I don't know of a city, but a little city, Chapleau, there's only ten hotel rooms, so you can't have a TOC with twenty-five teams going to that. You have to, you have to...

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, of course, for sure.

Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President: Unfortunately, when our TOCs currently happen, we're not expecting a lot of teams, but every one of them up in Timmins this year had two divisions? Three divisions? Four, so there you are expected. Places like Cochrane who hosted, they will not have hotels, so we're just expecting, they may have to go to Timmins, just like today, we're not all here at the Quattro because they have other events here, so hotel rooms may not be, it's not put on the host team, the host association, that's all we're asking.



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Sandy Robertson, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Perhaps changing the word from guarantee to facilitate, so that the association can help facilitate accommodations but not necessarily guarantee them.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, I think it's important to kind of understand the purpose of the constitution and the regulations, and that we also need to understand the policies and procedures that we have, so what we've been trying to do over the last six-seven years, Hugh Riddle was a part of it, Gayle Payette Payette has been a part of it, we've tried to remove items that were policy related. So, this is another example of that, as the rationale explains, we—when taking into consideration who hosts a tournament of champions, obviously hotels are important, so those are things that we feel should be in the policy side of things, as opposed to something that has to come here, be voted on by the membership, things that can be, can be amended, and changed quickly on the fly as needed, so that's the intent of this, this one specifically. It's not to say that hosts don't need to ensure hotels are available, but it's more about removing items that probably shouldn't be in regulations, and putting them into policies. So that, that's the intention.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, anything else? Seeing none, all in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

28-SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.2.4.a

Presently Reads:

Any team withdrawing from the Tournament of Champions after December 1st shall forfeit their monies to the NOHA.

Change to Read:

Any team withdrawing from the Tournament of Champions after December 1st the deadline shall forfeit their monies to the NOHA.



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Rationale:

In some seasons, the NOHA Board has agreed to extend the deadline for applications. Amending this regulation provides for late fees to be applicable only after that deadline.

Moved by Gayle Payette, NOHA 2nd Vice President

Seconded by Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Pretty clear? Questions? No? All in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

29. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.2.5.a

Presently Reads:

Scheduling of NOHA Playoffs may not be done until the participant Teams are properly seeded by the host committee and approved by the NOHA Playoff Committee. Through scheduling, every effort must be made to allow each team the chance to compete against Teams from other Leagues while attending the TOC.

Change to Read:

Scheduling of NOHA Playoffs may not be done until the participant Teams are properly seeded by the host committee and approved by the NOHA Playoff Committee. Through scheduling, every effort must be made to allow each team the chance to compete against Teams from other Leagues while attending the TOC. Teams travelling the farthest distance shall be scheduled as late as possible in accordance with the schedule template.

Rationale:

To formalize the process that traditionally occurs with respect to scheduling, and to allow Teams that must travel the most significant distance more time to travel the day of the start of the tournament if possible.



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Moved by Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3rd Vice President

Seconded by Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Discussion? Questions? No? All in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

30. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 11.4.d

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

Where all Teams in an age division are competing within the same League, the NOHA Tournament of Champions shall be the League Championship.

Rationale:

The NOHA has recently taken a larger role in ensuring that Teams within the NOHA have a place to play within the NOHA. By having the NOHA TOCs as the League Championship, it saves significant costs to families and eliminates a duplication of efforts while also allowing for longer play during the season. As well, formalizing this process provides equal opportunity to all Associations and Teams participating in these Leagues to be able to host a Championship.

Moved by Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

Seconded by Rick Barron, NOHA Executive



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, Ted's gonna talk.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: Thank you, Dick. Just, if you look at the rationale behind it, if you notice, like, this year, I'll give you an example, with Joe McColeman, who we give tons of thanks, uh, sorry, tons of thanks to for organizing and scheduling, we formed new Leagues this year, for example, there's a U15, Bantam, call it U15 team league, three from Sudbury, three from North Bay area, and there is three from the North. And so, it worked out very good, what we're suggesting is that have the teams—they have their tournament championship the first weekend in March, what we're suggesting in this, have it the same as the tournament of champions, because they're all the same teams, and then you go and you win the league championship, and you're the NOHA champ. It saves associations money, it'll let leagues go on longer, let two-three weeks they go to the third week in March instead of having playoffs the first week of March, and the other thing, if people recall, the U14 AA didn't have a TOC this year, they went to one tournament, league championship, and none of the teams went to the TOC. By passing this, those teams will go, they'll play the league championship, and also they'll be the NOHA rep. So, it's just to try and save money, have more games for the kids, so they can go near, closer to the end of March, and have it all in one.

Richard Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Just one question, is there a possibility that a team that doesn't play in the league, or a division in the NOHA, but doesn't want to go to the TOCs? Is that a possibility?

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: Oh, no, for sure, this addresses the teams that are already playing in the same league, like, for example, U14 didn't have a TOC this year, right? They're all playing—but they had the league playoffs, so what we're suggesting is eliminate the league playoff, but any other team that wants to come that doesn't participate in the league is welcome to go to the TOCs. That doesn't stop anyone.

Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: I just want to be clear, so you're saying, so the U15 AA, that's where my son plays this year, so that division is the same teams that are, go to the TOCs, but then another U15 AA team joins, that's still considered playoffs? I just want to be clear.



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, specific to the AA, and in reality that's what it's about, is the AA where there was some miscommunication, misunderstanding, whatever the case is, so the intent is, ultimately, that, so U15 AA, you have the sixteenth, seventeenth, whatever it was, they all participate in a league all year long, the TOCs are the league championships, so whatever weekend that is, that's, so, the host of that event, it wouldn't necessarily be in Sudbury, which is what currently is done, it could be hosted by Timmins, it could be hosted by any of the organizations that are a part of that loop, so that's the intent of the whole thing, it's not to bring, like, essentially, by doing this, you're not going to have the change of category requests that may—

Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: But there wouldn't be an outside team coming in—

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah, correct. That's my thought, anyway. So, really the only loop that it works for is the AA and AAAs. That's the only one, the only groups that it works for. Because the As, you have the NEOHA, you have, at the younger age groups you have Soo Pee wee that play in their own loop, you have the Nickel District League, you have the Nipissing District League, so really all this impacts is the AA loop and then AAA already follows this.

Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: Yeah, I'm just saying, like if another team were to join just at the TOCs, they wouldn't play in the league all season long, and that happened.

Claudette Myre, Past President: If an A team requested a movement to AA. If they wanted to compete at AA at the TOCs, is that what you're asking? Like if an A team wanted to? Otherwise all the AA teams are already playing in that league.

Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: Okay, sure, once you've—

Claudette Myre, Past President: Is that what you mean? Because that's the only team that would come in is an A team challenging up to AA.



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Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: Trying to come up. Okay. So it wouldn't be some other U15 AA team coming in from somewhere else, then. It wouldn't be another U15 AA team coming in from somewhere else. I'm just trying to be clear.

Claudette Myre, Past President: No, because they're all already playing in that league.

Angela Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association: All right, thank you.

Ted Zajac, NOHA 1st Vice President: So, really, just for clarification, and it's 96% my fault. On the motion, itself, it doesn't say the category. That's my fault, but it's going to pertain to, like Jason just mentioned, it'll mostly just pertain to that one AA. Because there are a bunch of different associations across the NOHA that would be A and B that play against each other, that's different, so this one just pertains to the one. I apologize, because I only go by what's given to me, so I missed that classification.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. And it's not, oh, Bear.

Rick Barron, NOHA Executive: There's the possibility, though, of an A team playing in the AA league, or a AA team that requests to go down to A, that's a possibility, where they'd still be able to play in the A Tournament of Champions, is that correct? If they requested to go, like this past season we had AA teams requesting to go down to A. Correct?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, and if that's granted, if that's granted, then they'd have to go back to the Tournament of Champions. This would only take place if the teams are the same, that are going to play in the Tournament of Champions and the league championship. If they're exactly the same teams. That's it. And Teddy, you didn't 96% screw it up. So, this only applies when all the same teams are the same in both the Tournament of Champions and the league. All those in favour? Opposed?



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CARRIED

31. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 12.1.g.

Presently Reads:

When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) Tournament games in one day, there shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.

Change to Read:

When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) Tournament games in one day at U10 and above, there shall be a minimum of four (4) three (3) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.

Rationale:

The amendment shortens the required break between games where a Team must play three (3) games in a day. To include above U9 as well as U9 typically has Jamborees with many shorter games in a day.

Moved by Derek Byrnes, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any questions? All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

32. -SUBMITTED BY VALLEY EAST MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



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NEW – NOHA Regulation 12.2.f

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

That when the Hockey Canada U9 Pathway for transition to full ice, NOHA allows two full ice tournaments after January 15th if the Teams choose to do so.

Rationale:

A number of Jamborees run in the North are only one day events, and if the NOHA's intentions are to keep the costs down in the U9 Pathway, then it wouldn't be feasible to have a U9 team travel up to 300km for a one-day jamboree. In order for every team to fulfill their 2 Jamboree commitments they would have to enter these Jamborees in the Christmas Season. Again not an ideal situation, if the intent is to keep costs down, by having parents spend more money around the biggest spending time of the season.

The U9 Pathway clearly states that teams have a choice of either a Jamboree/Tournament in both the Seasonal Phase and the End of Season Phase.

Moved by Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association

Seconded by Shannon Baumhour, Valley East Minor Hockey Association

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Do you wish to speak to this?

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Yes. So, I've been doing U9 Novice Convener for fifteen years, and I really enjoy it and I watch the kids develop, but when the U9 program came out, it was here to stay and you make it work, okay? And to me, I tell all my coaches, every publicity, everything you see on U9, whether it be Sidney Crosby, Matthews, it's all about the half-ice, it's all about the games. It's all about the practices. If you look at, so, if you look at U9, okay, it should, to me it should be about the practice sessions. Kids do not get better because games are played on any particular size of ice, but rather, it's rather when it's taught to them in their practice sessions. Those half-ice or full-ice games are only recreational rewards for what is taught in practice sessions which should be emphasis of the U9 Pathway. And I'm not saying this as a criticism, but I'm just making a notation here.



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I have witnessed depending, I have witnessed the on-ice session of the coaching course. And I never witness any instruction on teaching the coaches how to teach the kids the proper way to skate. It's just do this or do that. Here's what I'll do, and you guys do it. Every coach is a very good skater, very good, but teaching it is two totally different things. You know, if you've got a baby, you don't say "get up and walk", you have to physically take him by the hand. And all I say is, half-ice is not about the games. Not about anything. The stress should be on the practices. We have practice sessions, I went through the manual, we, like, we have practice sessions. Hockey Canada has a book, and I don't know how many steps... I'll give you an example, and I just wrote a couple of comments. So, for instance, practice plan one, balance and skating: players start on boards, demonstrate basic stance, perform the following activities so far, back on the boards, fall down, get up, glide on one skate. Gliding with knee bend and gliding arm pump. That's written in the instruction. I say, does the coaching course physically show the coaches how to accomplish this, or just tell them? That's the big difference. So, what I'm saying is, I've always had eight teams in Novice, U9, whatever, okay? And I started putting on my own coaching course, and my main priority is skating, when I look at a—when I look at a kid playing hockey at eight or nine, I could care less what the score is, sometimes you don't even turn on the scoreboard, I judge him by his skating. And his skating has improved immensely because I give him the tools before each session, before we start. Next year, we're going to have our own coaching course where we're going to teach the coaches how to teach a stride. That's what I'm saying this program is all about. The games are a bonus for the kids, the tournaments are memories, okay? When we look at the, we were just talking about one for the kids, we were talking about, you know, we're only allowed, the kids are only allowed to go to one tournament, we have three associations in Timmins, five house league associations in Sudbury... Associations depend on tournaments to raise money. We were talking about money today, do you want to move the AGM to North Bay to save money? Our associations would like to save money, too, and when you're only allowed to go to one tournament, and you have to go to your own, how do other tournaments survive? We need to, a lot of, and again, these tournaments are trumpets. The kids love them, they enjoy them, the thrill, some kids, when they go to the half-ice jamborees, they thrive on that, too, okay? Regardless which one, but, it's, sometimes I feel like it's like somebody's trying to tell you how to spend your money, but if your child is over, it's no big deal, but again, I will stress, and I will bleed this, it's all about the practice. I don't care what anybody says, we can say they can only play this, everything's recommendation on the Hockey Canada website, it's a recommendation, it's not fixed. We cannot go up and say can we go up and play with seven guys against seven guys? No. Hockey Canada hockey says you play six against six. That's fixed. Hockey Canada Pathway is a recommendation, and it's always—everything you hear about Hockey Canada Pathway U9, it's always about the games. It should be about the practices. That's all I'm saying. When you do it about the practices, well, those recreational



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games, now the kids' skills are going to come out. And I'll give you a prime example, I did a thing there, we did, I did a thing this year, and you walk into, you walk into the arena, the score was like, one of them was two-hundred to three-hundred, not two or three-hundred goals, no it's passes. All they had to do was pass, every time you pass the puck, you get a goal. It's a skill. All about the passes. Then you bring it into the game and you would not believe the difference it makes, that's the thing, I could care less who wins at half-ice or a full-ice game at this age level. I don't even need a score, but we're always talking about the Pathway about the game, let's start talking about it as practices. I don't care what anybody says, if we were doing water polo, would you let a kid play water polo if he couldn't swim? Of course not, so let's teach the kids how to skate, and let's put the stress on the practices, not on the games, that's all I'm saying.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much. We've got one question over here.

Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Just to add to the part that you added about the two full-ice tournaments after January 15th, Porcupine Minor Hockey would gladly support that because we had two U9 teams in South Porcupine this year, and they both came to the board asking that they don't participate in our own hosted tournament, because both teams wanted to go on the road to have that little experiment on the—experience on the road. So, we didn't even host a U9 division in Porcupine Minor Hockey for our tournament because both our teams wanted to go on an out-of-town tournament. So, we will support that, wholeheartedly.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you very much, Jamie. Any more comments?

Bailey Bouwmeester, Espanola Minor Hockey Association: To go suit with them, our kids didn't get any—they did great practice and they ended up winning our local championship at the U9 level, but their love for hockey didn't start until we went to that first away tournament. Every kid changed. Kids that weren't even engaged in the game all of a sudden lit up. So, and that's right, so if we had to go to our own tournament, we couldn't go and spend money in anybody else's community. Right? That's right.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, super. Thank you very much.



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Craig Maki, NOHA Executive: Hello, I'm Craig Maki, I'm the District Eight Council Director. I have the pleasure of presenting the Board's position on the proposal about the two tournaments. From an NOHA perspective, we are following the guidelines of Hockey Canada. The guidelines of Hockey Canada, and the policies and recommendations of Hockey Canada were designed by the experts from Hockey Canada who understand player development. I understand the passion to go to tournaments and go away, to go away as well, I'm a long-time coach, so I get the thrill of being out of town, but what we're concerned is if the motion is approved, you're allowed twelve games during the course of the, of your internal season, and you go to two tournaments, you're basically going down to eight season games. So, teams that have multiple teams, and—or associations that have more then, you know, just one or two teams, you've got four teams, and only two teams go away to those two tournaments? Then they're down to eight games, so how do the other two teams get their twelve games in if they don't go away to tournaments? So that's the concern from us, that would be the board position that we don't support the motion.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, allowing one more, Jim. Oh, sorry, we've got one more here. Go ahead.

Bob Bellrose, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: I understand his position, the board's position, like, you have to understand the word in there is recommendation, not mandated, and it's the wording you're saying you have to cut back on games, it doesn't say that in the guidelines, it says recommendations. So, saying that, you're taking back games, it isn't right. It's not right.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, and Jamie.

Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Just to reiterate what these gentlemen are saying here, we talked about costs and all kinds of stuff. Our tournament that we host at Porcupine Minor Hockey is our major driver behind keeping costs down and all that, so if we don't have a tournament with a U9 division, we lose out on costs for our association revenue. So, if you don't allow two tournaments, then I'm telling you, most kids want to go out of town, that's just the way it works, and that helps out the other association, so if you don't host a tournament, who's coming to your tournament? There'll be no one in



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your tournament, then there will be no tournaments. So, you've gotta have a little bit of give and take here, you want to generate for all the associations here, but you can't have your cake and eat—like, you know what I'm saying? You have to be able to allow, host a tournament, which, I'm assuming everyone here wants, but you also be able to have to go on a tournament. It has to work both ways. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thanks. Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, just to expand on what Craig said and to clarify what Bob stated, through my conversations, I gave the heads-up to Valley East Minor Hockey prior to the meeting that we were still gathering information, but having worked through the OHF who worked through Hockey Canada, the number of games is not a recommendation, the number of games is the number of games based on the ideal seasonal structure, so that's why Craig made the comment he did, so that's, you want to be clear that people understand, you know, that if all teams and divisions go to a second tournament, so be it, everyone's going to play the same schedule, hopefully. If not all teams go, then you're going to leave some teams without the same number of games. That was what Craig was referencing.

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: I just have one question for Mr. Maki, there. Can you explain the seasonal structure, the time frames? Like when does it start, and when does it end? The first part, the seasonal, the end of season. There has to be dates on there, am I right?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: There's not.

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Yes, there is.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: It lays out twelve weeks is your prep and evaluation—



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Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Okay, if it's up to twelve, again, if it's up to twelve weeks, where would that take us, where would that take us?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Hold on a second, just let him finish, okay? Thank you.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, essentially, it's based on the thirty-two weeks, some do it, some don't, but that's what it's based on. Essentially the intent, and we haven't enforced that, but the intent is if you keep the season after that, your number of games should be significantly less than what is in here. In the end, that's what it's based on, it doesn't have weeks. If you have, for this year, we know when the season should start based on the approval of the OHF in terms of the start of season, evaluations, et cetera, but otherwise there are no dates involved in that, other than the January 15th.

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Okay, when I, when I look at the, again, we all interpret it, okay? So, the transition, first of all, it's based on seven months, on the seventh month, year, for hockey, okay, thirty-two weeks. Eight months. But anyways, anyways, the transition is up to, let's say twelve weeks, okay? Up to could be ten weeks. So, let's say you start September, September-October, November, so November, you start a little bit later, so let's say you go to the middle of, the middle of December, okay? That's your, that's your first one. Your next one goes to, it's your league, your regular season phase. Up to fourteen weeks, okay? That'll start somewhere in October, that'll start you somewhere in December, and sometime in February. January 15th comes right in the middle of that seasonal structure, and it's queerly—it clearly defines underneath jamborees and tournaments, one jamboree/tournament. It's also stipulated in our NOHA website what the difference between a jamboree and a tournament is. So, it's—when it was said to us that they only allow one tournament after January—Hockey Canada, January—after January 15th, that is not true. We had one tournament come to our tournament from, from Parry Sound, it was their third full-ice tournament, okay? I sent, I asked, asked them about, what about the full—you're only allowed one full-ice, they didn't hear of it. Why how come some are, are, are not stipulating, and some are? Is it the way we're interpreting it? I just don't understand, again, where's the kids here? We've all said the kids enjoy these, and again, what are we talking about? We're talking about bloody games. I'm telling you, the stress is practices, okay? The tournaments and games, they're just a reward for what they do in their practices. They don't get better, they do not get better playing a half-ice game or a full-ice game. They enjoy it. They get better by the practices, okay? That's all I'm saying.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Oh, we've got a comment over here.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Pee wee Hockey League: I completely agree financially. We lost out on teams with the Soo Pee wee Hockey League only allowing our U9 teams to go to one tournament, I get it. We had, we had four tier-one and four tier-two teams, and I think we ended up with, I think Copper Cliff came to us, and some others, we lost twenty thousand dollars, guaranteed, over the last couple of years, restricting who can come and not having playoffs, things like that. I get the financial effect. The only thing I don't understand is, or the one question, the last stage, the last stage in the player model is where full-ice games come in. So, full-ice games come in, it doesn't matter when it is, it's the implementation of full-ice games. We can't run a league as a big organization, and neither can probably Sudbury, if we allow them to go to two tournaments. My son is directly impacted, and as a parent, and as an executive financially. But then my league suffers, because if I can only give them four full-ice games from January fifteenth to, to, the end of, the end of March Break, I don't know how to schedule it. So, is there any flexibility in the number of full-ice games that can be, the kids can play, because it says twelve total full-ice games. I think that's what we have to look at putting a motion forward to Hockey Canada, the OHF, if that flexibility can—because if you can't play more than twelve full-ice games, if you go to a tournament that you play four games at a round robin, and you play a, like a direct to the final, there's five, and you go to another one, how, like, I have to do my schedule in September, I don't know what to do, so I think, is there a way to amend it about the number of full-ice games rather than the access to two tournaments? Can we amend that? Is that a possibility? Like, I think that way, it will be, it would help small organizations that can't get their twelve games because they only have two teams, right? Or they have one team and they need to go to two tournaments, and I'm assuming that Parry Sound team, maybe they didn't have a league to play in, so that's how they got their twelve full-ice games, but I would like to see the number of full-ice games, rather than specific that it's two tournaments versus not that. Because I would say that our U9 teams probably were really close to—if they played in our Soo Pee wee Extravaganza, they probably, we maybe broke the rules? Like I'm just saying, like there may have been a U9 team that had more than twelve games this year if they did semi-final and final. So, is that something we can look at, or is that a moot point?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, with respect to the number of games, through this work when the amendment came in, again, worked through the OHF who worked through Hockey Canada to identify one policy, or recommendation versus



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requirement, and number two, through that work, because we have been questioned about, well, do tournament games count towards, the, you know, max number of games? So, we recently learned through this process that the tournament would be separate from that, so now we're talking twelve league/exhibition games, so that may help in terms of the interpretation of that.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Okay, then that other moot point about only having four games left in the league doesn't matter.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: No, so, so, yeah, but it would still be, it would still be, you know, again, using, you have a team, or a league of four teams, two of them, you know, have ambitious parents, they want to go to those two tournaments, then you have two that don't, you're in a position where two teams are playing more games than the other, and that may not be the case, but that could occur.

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: That's the case at every level, though. That point, there, we have U13 House teams that went to two tournaments, we have U13 House teams that went to one tournament.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: But, but it—

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: The inequality, based on, what's the word you just used, overeager parents? Is, is, unanimous throughout the entire platform, player pathway.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: My point is that if you add a second tournament, you are, the twelve games plus the tournament is, is the number, so adding a second tournament eliminates—we've used the number four—

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: It only eliminates four games, so you still get eight.



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah, but, again, you have some teams in your league that maybe wouldn't have the opportunity to play twelve locally, or twelve games, that now, all of a sudden, they have two less teams to compete against. I'm just using that as an example—

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: To run twelve games locally, you'd have to run well into April. So that's fine—

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: But there are some that do, because, and that's where, you know, we talk about—

Sarah McLeod, Soo Peewee Hockey League: For a one—I'm sorry, for—the little kids play one game a week, so to run twelve games after January fifteenth a week? You're running into April. So, that's fine, I just, I'm not, I just think that the focus should be on, so we can get everyone their twelve games, which you can with your eight league games and your one tournament, everyone gets twelve, and the group that want, why can't you have it on a, they, the parent group has to approve, or it has to come—Our executive, to go to a second tournament, you have to have league approval. You can't just go do it on your own. So, if we, as an executive, if a U9 team comes to us and says we'd like to go to a certain—a second tournament, we look at the number of exhibition games they've played, we've looked if they've gone to a day trip to Sault Michigan, which hasn't happened in two years, but you know, we look if they've gone to St. Agnes, which is an hour away, so all of those factors are now being stripped from our professional judgment and just saying no.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: You know, we've allowed you to speak twice on it, just, we've got one over here, but then we've allowed the Valley to speak twice two the motion and a rebuttal after. So, we have to bring this down at some point. If there's people that don't understand something, then let's hear it from them.

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Oh yeah, but quickly, and, you know, Bear can attest, because if Bear did a lot of facilitating like I did, I don't know how many times—you cannot watch those videos and not understand that it's scientifically proven that



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U9 players playing half-ice is much better for their development than playing full-ice. The only other point I have is right in the Pathways for U9, it states “tournaments are jamboree-format”. So, regardless if it says tournament, it is expected that your tournament be jamboree format so that your players have fun, in an environment that’s fun, games may or may not be competitive, and the emphasis is on fun and fair play, no standings are to be kept. So I don’t even know why we’re even talking about semi-finals and finals. There should be none. There’s no score, there’s no score in U9, so, anyways, that’s my point. I’m against the motion.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Okay, thank you very much, is there anything that someone doesn’t understand that they want, before they vote on this motion? Is there something you don’t understand? Okay, we’ll hear from you. State your question and who you want to place it to if it’s going to Jason or...

Jim McLoughlin, Valley East Minor Hockey Association: Again, I’m going to stay on the practice because we’re still talking about games. Because here’s the thing. If you’ve got the, if you’ve got the Pathway, it’s on everybody’s website. It’s right, and, you know, I brought one, and it says here, the number of games and practices are also recommendations. By Hockey Canada, supported by the long-term player development. What I don’t understand, why has it taken two years for this to get deciphered?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, let’s get an answer. If that’s your question, we’ll get an answer for you.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, I don’t know why it’s taken so long to, for buy-in, in the program. You know, we have, we have a lot of challenges that we need to, to work on. With respect to the game piece, again, working through the OHF, Phil McKee, I had a lengthy conversation with him about this. He read out loud to me an email from Corey McNabb which referenced the number of games, and it explained exactly what I—what Craig explained, what I’m explaining, that the number of games at the full-ice setup is the number of games, and that’s something that, you know, again, if passed, our board will follow through. In the end, it is what it is, and we understand the financial piece of it. You know, realistically, if I had my way, and I know we’ve had conversations, we would stick to half-ice the whole season. We haven’t done that, obviously, but in the end, it is what it is. That’s the



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answer I got, you know, again, Corey McNabb is one of the most well-respected hockey development people in the world, and that's the answer he provided us.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you, Jason. Any other questions? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour?

CARRIED

8) CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9) ELECTIONS

Dick Farrow, Moderator: There's no actual election, but we do have to have the approval of those members that are acclaimed, that they will accept that acclamation. Okay, so, District number two, Yves Lalonde. [Not speaking into microphone]. Accepted. Number four, Rick Barron. Bear, will you accept that? [Not speaking into microphone]. He's not sure. Number six, Adam Estabrooks.

Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive: Yes.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Adam accepts. Number eight, Craig Maki.

Craig Maki, NOHA Executive: Yes, thank you.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Craig accepts as well. So that's it for the election.

10) OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11) NEW BUSINESS

None.

12) MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Roxanne

"To adjourn the NOHA Annual General Meeting."

CARRIED