



Truro Area Minor Hockey Association

**TAMHA Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 14th, 2023
8:00 p.m. (ZOOM)**

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
- 2) Approval of Previous Minutes (April 23, 2023)
- 3) Business Arising from Previous Minutes
 - a) New Rep Jerseys Update – President
 - b) Year-End Member Survey/Evaluations Update – 2nd VP
- 4) New Business
 - a) HNS Update – President
 - b) HNS Schedule Update – President
 - c) B-League - President
 - d) Jersey Returns – President
 - e) Board Member Contact Info – Secretary
 - f) Confidentiality Agreement – Secretary
 - g) Mark Collins Tryout Letter – U13 Rep
 - h) Tryout Evaluation Committee – U13 Rep
- 5) Other(s)
- 6) Next Meeting(s): **TBA**
- 7) Adjournment



Truro Area Minor Hockey Association

TAMHA Board Meeting
June 14, 2023
8:00 p.m. (MS Teams)

In Attendance: Ryan Butcher (Chair), Jamie Barbour, Andy Bonnell, Josh Burcham, Laurie Burcham, Landon Crowe, Justin Dickie, Derek Forsyth, Dwayne Frizzell, Carley Gloade, Roy Gouthro, Ashley Hunt, Tricia Lake, Cindy Lewis, Mike Michaud, Brad Ritcey

Regrets: Tanya Jordan, Misty Rennie, Steve VanderKwaak

Author of Minutes: Tricia Lake

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

- Meeting called to order at 8:02 p.m.
- **Motion** to approve Agenda, as circulated, by Treasurer; seconded by U9 Rep. Motion approved.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes (April 23, 2023)**

- **Motion** to approve, by U9 Rep; seconded by 2nd VP. Motion approved.

3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

a. New Rep Jerseys Update – President

- Jerseys were ordered today (June 14, 2023).
- Fundy Textile & Design was able to subliminate the U13AAA crest.
- Jerseys will arrive in late August 2023.
- Next week, Fundy Textile & Design to begin developing an e-commerce store for TAMHA merchandise. This will simplify bulk purchases for team managers early in the season to order practice jerseys, game socks, etc.

b. Year-End Member Survey/Evaluations Update – 2nd VP

- 2nd VP shared the results of the “Year-End” Member Survey. In total, 52 responses were received.
- **Action:** 2nd VP to create a summary document for review, by Division. Any names in the comments to be redacted.

4. **New Business**

a. HNS Update – President

- See attached HNS *Minor Hockey Regulation changes 2023-24 Season*.
- Beginning in 2023/2024, all teams must have at least one bench staff certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

- Within two years, all bench staff will require HCSP Level II certification.
 - HCSP Level II certification will have to be factored into the budgeting process and in determining registration fees.
 - St. John's Ambulance can conduct training at the RECC for 40 people at a time at ~\$100/person (8h course). 2nd VP spoke to Brad Taylor at HNS about the possibility of pre-purchasing codes for payment.
 - Also, in 2023/2024, all MHA's will require an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each arena/ice surface that they participate in. This EAP must be updated annually.
 - TAMHA to work with the local arenas on EAPs.
 - The Colchester Legion Stadium will not be operational during the 2023/2024 season.
- b. HNS Schedule Update – President
- See attached *HNS Seasonal Structure Chart 2023-24 Season*.
 - Development skates can begin September 1st; U13AAA Tryouts can commence September 15th; all remaining Minor Tryouts can begin September 22nd.
- c. B-League – President
- At the HNS AGM, there was discussion between the Fundy Rep and Highland Rep about the possibility of creating a B-league. There has been no update since that meeting. Discussion ensued. May be a possibility to pilot it at the U11 level if it proceeds.
- d. Jersey Returns – President
- Equipment Manager is scheduled to meet with the former Equipment Manager, on Friday, for an update. Berry's Furniture has offered TAMHA storage space for jerseys and equipment, while the Stadium is unavailable.
- e. Board Member Contact Info – Secretary
- Secretary requested that all Board Members review the Directory and notify her of any updates to mailing addresses, phone numbers, or emails.
 - President recommended that all Board members create a Gmail account for TAMHA that can be passed on from year-to-year.
 - **Action:** 1st VP and Secretary to work on format suggestion for Gmail accounts.
- f. Confidentiality Agreement – Secretary
- **Action:** Board members to review Confidentiality Agreement. Please print and sign page two, and forward the document to TAMHA Secretary, who will obtain the President's signature on the documents.
- g. Mark Collins Tryout Letter – U13 Rep
- See attached *2022-2023 TAMHA U13AAA Bearcats: Season review – A Coach's Perspective*
 - The Head Coach and coaching staff of the U13AAA prepared a review of the 2022-23 season that would like to be reviewed and considered by the 2023-2024 Evaluation Committee.
- h. Tryout Evaluation Committee – U13 Rep
- Recommendation to select a Tryout Evaluation Committee for the 2023-2024 season, to review last season's feedback and propose any changes to the Board.
 - Committee to include 1-2 members that are either not on the Board or are non-members.
 - Tryout Evaluation Committee to include Development Coordinator, U7 Rep, U9 Rep, U13 Rep, Communications & Technology Coordinator. U9 Rep to Chair Committee.

- **Action:** Development Coordinator to seek external member(s), and a female representative, to join the Tryout Evaluation Committee for 2023-2024.

5. **Other(s) - NIL**

6. **Next Meeting:** **Sunday, July 9, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. (ZOOM)**

7. **Adjournment**

- **Motion** to Adjourn by 2nd VP, seconded by Comm. & Tech. Coord. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.



Minor Hockey Regulation changes 2023-24 Season

11.5. All minor hockey bench staff at the AAA, AA, and A in all divisions must be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level I. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

For the 2023-24 season, it is also a requirement that one bench staff member be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II.

Starting in the 2023-24 season and phasing in over the next 3 seasons, all minor hockey bench staff at the AAA, AA, and A in all divisions must be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II.

HCSP Level I is a valid certificate for 3 seasons and starting in the 2023-24 season as each member's certificate expires they must recertify at the HCSP Level II.

11.6. All teams at the Level B and C/Recreational Division must have all bench staff trained at the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level I and at least one member of the bench staff certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

All U7 Program and U9 Teams/Groupings must have at least one coach or instructor certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program Level II.

11.7. Emergency Action Plan (EAP): All Minor Hockey Associations (MHA) will create an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each arena/ice surface that they participate in. This EAP must be updated on a yearly basis and made available on the MHA website as well a copy is to be submitted to Hockey Nova Scotia and further shared on their website.

Female Hockey Regulation changes 2023-24 Season

F11.5. All bench staff in AAA, AA, and A divisions at all levels must be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

For the 2023-24 season, it is also a requirement that one bench staff member be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II.



Starting in the 2023-24 season and phasing in over the next 3 seasons, all minor hockey bench staff at the AAA, AA, and A in all divisions must be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II.

HCSP Level I is a valid certificate for 3 seasons and starting in the 2023-24 season as each member's certificate expires they must recertify at the HCSP Level II.

F11.6. All teams in a Female Recreational Division must have at least one member of the bench staff certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level II. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

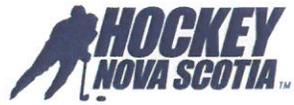
All U7 Program and U9 Teams/Groupings must have at least one coach or instructor certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program Level II.

F11.7. Emergency Action Plan (EAP): All Minor Hockey Associations (MHA) will create an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each arena/ice surface that they participate in. This EAP must be updated on a yearly basis and made available on the MHA website as well a copy is to be submitted to Hockey Nova Scotia and further shared on their website.

All Elite Programs and Junior (2023-24 Season)

All teams at the U 13 Major, U 15 Major, U 18 Major, U 16 Minor AAA, and all levels of Junior must have all Bench Staff training in the Hockey Canada Safety program (HCSP) Level I and at least one member of the Bench staff certified at the HCSP Level II. HCSP Level II is available to individuals who hold current certification in First Aid and CPR from a recognized agency. HCSP Level II is provided once an individual provides proof of certification. There is no training clinic for this certification.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP): All Elite and Junior Programs will create an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each arena/ice surface that they participate in. This EAP must be



updated on a yearly basis and made available on the MHA website as well a copy is to be submitted to Hockey Nova Scotia and further shared on their website.

HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA

SEASONAL STRUCTURE CHART | 2023-24 SEASON



DATES	NATIONAL	ATLANTIC	PROVINCIAL	REGIONAL	LOCAL
	Junior A U18 Major (Male) U18 Major (Female)	Junior B Junior C U15 AAA Female U15 Major Male U16 AAA (No Atlantic championship) U13 AAA Minor U13 AAA Female HC Accredited Sport Schools	U18 AA, A, B Minor U18 AA, A Female U15 AA, A, B Minor U15 AA Female U13 AA, A, B Minor U13 AA Female U11 AA, A, B Minor U11 AA, A Female	Minor Junior U18 C Female U18 C Minor U15 C Minor U15 C Female U13 C Minor U13 C Female U11 C Minor U11 C Female Para Hockey	U9 Minor U9 Female U7 Female U7 Minor Local programs
August 15	Summer camps start	Summer camps start (excluding U13 AAA)			
September 1		U13 AAA development skates start	Development skates start	Development skates start	Development skates start
September 15		U13 AAA Minor tryouts start U13 AAA Female tryouts start	* U18 AA Minor, U15 Minor AA tryouts start * U18 AA Female, U15 AA Female Tryouts Start		
September 22		Junior B, C league play starts	* Rest of Minor Tryouts start * Rest of Female Tryouts start	* Rest of Minor tryouts start * Rest of Female tryouts start	Groupings/assessments start
October 14			League play starts		
October 28				League play starts	
December 1					Half-ice games start (U9)
March 21-24			Female Provincial Championship		
April 4-7	* U18 Major Atlantics (Male) * U18 Major Female Atlantics	* Minor U13 AAA Provincials * U13 AAA Female Provincials * U15 AAA Female Provincials			
April 13-14			Day of Champions (Minor)		
April 6-9			U18 AA Provincials (Minor) U15 AA Provincials (Minor)		
April 22-28	* Telus Cup * Esso Cup				
April 18-21	U13/U15 Atlantics (Male and Female)				
April 15-May 30	U18 Major Spring ID Camps	U15 Major Spring ID Camps	HA Spring Development Camps	HA Spring Development Camps	HA Spring Development Camps
April 23-28		* Jr. B Don Johnson Memorial Cup * Jr. C Maritime Championship			
May 9-19	Centennial Cup Jr. A				
RED = Confirmed dates BLUE = Recommended dates					

*Regulation #20.1 [b] indicates that U18 Major can begin player selection camps on August 1st

2022-2023 TAMHA U13AAA Bearcats: Season review- A Coaches Perspective.

March 30, 2023

Written by Mark Collins with the contribution from the U13AAA coaching team: Tony Moore, Derrek Forsyth, Bryan Brooks, Todd Moore

Forward

It was a privilege to be the head coach of the TAMHA U13AAA bearcats this season, and I was fortunate to have a strong team of coaches helping me this season. As we are now at the end of the season and I look back at the year, there were many positives, along with some negatives and challenges that needed to be overcome this year. Our team was young, and we finished lower in the standings by a couple of positions than I expected but that's hockey and we regroup, review, analyze, adjust and move forward. As such we feel that there is the responsibility of providing feedback to the association of our experience coaching the team this year.

Purpose and Scope

The feedback will provide an inside look at our experience running the team this year. We hope our feedback will help the association review the current program and make changes to the program to offer the best program to players who will come up through the association. Note: Any changes made to the U13AAA program will have no personal benefit to me and the majority of the coaching staff as our players will be moving to U15 next season.

The scope of our feedback will be on process, team operations and player development. We are not doing a review of win and losses during the season.

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- 7) Player Feedback- Team Genius
- 8) ITP- Player suspensions and complaints
- 9) Coach Development
- 10) Alternate operations model

1: Tryout Process

The tryout process has had several versions over the last few years and swung from one side to the other over the last few seasons. From Coach pick everything including the evaluators, to coach having no say in roster to coach having a voice but not a vote on team selection.

It can be broken down into 3 main items: 1) Criteria and process, 2) Player evaluations committee, 3) Coach role.

1) Criteria and Process.

The evaluation criteria should eliminate the skills and battle session and simply move to 3 Inter-quad games as phase 1. The skills session adds little value when a player is going around cones with no pressure. For Phase 2 there should be an additional 2 inter-squad games and then shortlist the roster to 25 players (3 G, 9 D, and 13 F) with the evaluators meeting with the Head coach to provide feedback to the head coach. Things that need to be considered for this shortlist is overall team makeup (Individual skill, game play, size, year at level, dynamic amongst players) Then move to phase 3 and have 2 exhibition games vs other teams in the league. (Dress 19 players each game). The exhibition games would be used for final selection of the team by the Head Coach. Some players would sit the final game or games that are already named to the team. This would provide a balance of Independent evaluators creating the short list and initial review and then the Head coach having final say in the roster of building a team vs. ranking individuals. Also the evaluation criteria would be entirely game play based. As the coaches put in significant time and effort into operating the team they must have a say in the final roster. Yes this adds a couple of ice sessions to the tryout and there is some cost to that, but why are we in a rush to name the team early when we are a mid-market team and by extending we could have second tryout players. As for cost, with the tryout fee at \$75 per player there are enough funds to cover the extra cost in the average tryout session and still provide a profit to the association.

Another item to consider is; what is the best place for a player to be playing for their development considering speed of game, time they will have the puck on their stick, time to make decisions and learn the game. This is where a 1st year player may develop more at the AA level in year 1 vs being at the AAA level.

2. Practice Schedule

With the Stadium coming back online in January 2024 this will open up more ice availability for the association. The U13AAA team should have additional practice time going forward the ideal would be 2 x 1.5 hour practices each week (Min 1 x 1 hr and 1 x

1.5 hr. per week). This would allow more time to work on team based play and work on individual skills. Simply it allows for more reps, more opportunity to work on skills. This would come at a cost that would need to be added to the Rep fee for the AAA team, but since it is ice and development could be fundraised for. The U13AAA rep fee would just clearly need to be communicated prior to tryouts and be separate to the standard rep fee.

3. Player Development

The association has started to move the needle on this with an additional focus on core skills player development with weekly development sessions being done and shared amongst all the association's team. I believe that the shift needs to continue to happen and focus on the U13 and under age groups only. Yes that will mean some short term pain in that it will reduce development at the U15 and above level, but looking at this long term if we get stronger younger, the development will have already been done before the player gets to U15. This would mean spending more time and providing more development sessions to the U9 to U13 level teams. For the U13AAA team I would recommend the team having these 1 hr development sessions every 2 weeks in addition to their 2 team practices a week for a total of 10 sessions. Yes there would be a cost but could be captured in the Rep fee for the additional times. For the other U9 to U13 teams the frequency of sessions could be determined by age group, level, Ideally teams would get at least 5 sessions min. per season. But ideally 7-10.

We have seen why this is warranted and why this works. We had players selected to the U13AAA team that have fundamental issues with stick handling and puck control but were selected to the team. Where we have seen the additional development success is in goaltending. The association put a focus on goalie development with weekly sessions approx. 5 years ago. These sessions are professionally run, are low cost to the goalies and we are seeing the fruits of the labor at the U11 level this year which will move to the U13 level next year. These sessions have been primarily attended by the U11 to U13 age group.

4. Fair Play Rule

From my assessment last season we were one of the few if not only teams who went with the fair play rule for the U13AAA season. It was clear that teams had a Power play unit, Penalty kill unit and shortened the bench or had lines go out every second shift in tight games. In this league as every game is meaningful since they count towards your playoff ranking which determines who you play in round 1 of the playoffs. The Fair play rule needs some modification or possibly elimination. The Parents perspective is my kid goes out every 3rd shift, and the player's perspective can be that regardless of my effort

level, play I am entitled to be out every 3rd shift. There is something to be said about some competition for ice time. With this in mind there needs to be a balance between individual development and team performance. If you do not give the player the opportunity then you will never know how they would perform in that situation.

As such I would suggest the following.

1st half of the season (Start of season until Christmas break): Equity fair play. Players are played equally and given opportunities to play in all situations. Coach reserves the right to manage the bench in the last 5 minutes of the game.

2nd half of the season: Allow Power play, and Penalty kill units to be used. Coach reserves the right to manage the bench starting with the 3rd period.

5. Tournament

What the association did this year by pre registering the team into two tournaments was great and appreciated by the team. Both tournaments (Buster Harvey, and Spud) are great tournaments that are well run and get hard to get into. This also takes the pressure off the team selection process and team startup. So the team is not rushed to try to get into these tournaments. This process should continue into future years.

6. Budgets and Fee's

The TAMHA Fundraising and Financial policy indicates that the rep team budgets can be up to \$17,000. With increasing costs etc this may not be enough for Rep teams of the future especially if additional development and practice ice is allowed. This year our final spend should be right around the \$17K mark and we were frugal with our spending an only attended 3 tournaments including the early bird tournament so it is clear the \$17K will not be enough going forward. This will likely need to be increased to \$22K

7. Player Feedback- Team Genius

As an association we have been using team Genius for a couple of seasons now. One of the features of team Genius is the inputting player information from coaches at the end of the season to create a player profile. I have not seen anything regarding player feedback regarding this season. This would be an additional tool going forward regarding player selection

8. ITP- Player suspensions and Complaint

This season we had a player suspended and the incident went through the ITP process. Understating the action of the player a suspension for the remainder of the season was warranted, But the ITP process was not efficient nor was it transparent. There was little to know communication regarding the complaint at ITP. In addition it is my understanding that there were two additional complaints filed by a parent to ITP involving our team. At no point where we notified by ITP that a complaint was filed so really not sure if it was or not. In my opinion this process is new and already broken. Is the ITP complaint process needed? Yes, but one of my biggest fears as a coach is a false accusation that could tarnish my reputation if it is unfounded and I possibly not even know the accusation was made.

9. Coach Development

I would like to see more coach development. Both for coaching the individual skills but also game play, tactics etc. Previous years our Development coordinator filmed games and reviewed the game tape with the coaching staff to help the coaches with team development. These sessions were great to discuss not only the current team but build the coach's skillset. Additional sessions around bench and team management, player development, getting the most out of players, systems, etc.

For the Hockey Canada individual coaching streams, I have gone and taken Hockey Canada Goaltending stream Level 1 and Level 2. But there are skills streams in Skating, Skills, Developing Defensemen, Shooting and scoring, Small area games, Checking skills. I have never seen these offered in Nova Scotia. This may be a spot to help coach the coaches, so we have better coaches coaching the players.

10. Alternate Operation Model

This is more food for thought as I suspect that AAA hockey will be removed from the traditional MHA's at some point. Also U13AAA is the only level in the MHA that has a separate tryout and is not blended with another level.

Appoint an operating group for the running of the U13AAA program. Have a GM that would oversee the team from selection to end of year under the umbrella of TAMHA

Thank you for your time in reviewing this document. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to see the program continue to develop and grow.