

Caledon Female Hockey Association Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Head Table: Rob Beatty (Town of Caledon), Ryan Giles (Town of Caledon), Pat Nicholls (Ontario Women's Hockey Association) Fran Rider (Ontario Women's Hockey Association), John Wilkinson (Chair of Meeting)

- Town of Caledon: How did we get here?
- Based on the Town's affiliation policy we review by-laws and operating documents of affiliated groups to ensure best business and governance practices are followed
- There were discrepancies in by laws and business operations, and the Town tried to work with the Caledon Girls Hockey Association (CGHA) to resolve but concerns they were not adequately addressed
- The Town of Caledon reached out to the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) which is the governing provincial sport body to help resolve outstanding issues
- The Town and OWHA worked with members of the Coyotes organization on the by laws and operation documents to create stability but resolution could not be made by the CGHA
- This past weekend the Coyotes hosted their annual tournament and the players were covered under OWHA and the same stands for preseason ice use for Rep and House League Evaluations to operate girls hockey in Caledon
- Communication about the meeting today was sent to Rep coaches who had current player contact information
- The OWHA and Town of Caledon didn't have the contact info of everyone in House League for the 2019-20 season and utilized word of mouth to reach these participants
- There was not the ability to utilize the CHGA current website to post information
- The Town of Caledon and the OWHA want to reassure you there will be girls hockey this season
- We took your contact information at the door tonight so as to circulated meeting minutes and future information on the organization
- The new Caledon Female Hockey Association (CFHA) will be setting up of bank account next week and in the process of having CGHA money transferred to the new account
- Next Steps of the CFHA includes the establishment of- Bylaws, Executive Election, led by the Operations Committee and reporting to the OWHA- Steering Committee
- AGM to be held at end of the year in which bylaws will be passed and a new executive elected
- During this transition year The Town is providing the benefits of affiliation to the CFHA which include priority access to ice in the allocation process and reduced rental rate
- The Town and OWHA are looking for additional volunteers to assist the operation of the CFHA

OWHA:

- OWHA was contacted by the Town and requested approved operational documents including By-Laws as well as satisfactory financial statements
- When these were not submitted, the Town, OWHA and key members of the CGHA came together and worked all last season to create appropriate documents
- When this fell apart, the OWHA Board put a Steering Committee and Operational Committee process together to ensure female hockey in Caledon went forward

- As an OWHA sanctioned organization there needs to be transparent Operational Documents
- The OWHA provides many resources and support programs to ensure a quality hockey program for females
- The OWHA is 60,000 members strong and 40,000 are players ages 4-90
- The OWHA works to support organizations so they can do their best to run female hockey
- Insurance program is very important which protects participants, organizations and volunteers
- They also look at operational documents and if they are being followed properly
- Other work includes advocacy, tournament sanctioning and safety such as Rowan's Law
- There must be compliance with the OWHA Concussion Resource. It must be read and signed by players, parents, coaches, trainers and others for the 2019-2020 as outlined in the document.
- OWHA rosters all require signatures
- Satisfactory Vulnerable Sector Searches are required in accordance with the OWHA Screening Policy
- Coaching and training certifications are mandatory

Other Comments from the OWHA and Town of Caledon

- The Town appreciates the efforts and roles of volunteer leaders in the organization and thanks them for supporting Girls Hockey in Caledon
- The 2-deep policy is important Risk Management and ensures 2 screened adults must be present with a minor as a protection for both the child and adults. Communication such as emails and texts are also to be 2-deep.
- Sanctioning of female hockey in Caledon is crucial and offers protection for family and players
- Unsanctioned hockey is not regulated, and users participate at their own risk
- Caledon Girls Hockey Association has grown and the people who volunteer helped develop it
- The OWHA is looking for a seamless transition that supports the participants

Question Period

Q: We Received email for a CGHA meeting Thursday at Hampton Inn, what is that meeting?

A: OWHA has only sanctioned the operations committee for Caledon Female Hockey.

Q: Does this mean the CGHA no longer exists?

A: The only sanctioned organization for girls hockey in Caledon is the Caledon Female Hockey Organization

Q: Are there two hockey organizations?

A: There is 1 Operations Committee sanctioned by OWHA that is the CFHA. There are not two sanctioned organizations.

Q: Who is the Operations Committee

A: Members stood up, they included:

Helen Wilks, Dona Sebastiano, Heather French, Scott Goodfellow, Sal Rappoccio, Sherry Thomas, Shawn Maclean, Bob McHardy

Q: What happens to ice?

A: No changes to the schedule.

Q: Are teams folding? What happens to players?

A: Goal is to have all players continue. Rep players are already registered. HL players will be registered. The House League is going forward

Q: HL Players haven't received information?

A: The Steering and Operations Committee doesn't have a list of HL players. House League players don't have to register through their organization to the OWHA until November. They asked operations committee to distribute and they did to the best of their ability.

Q: Do you have the money from CGHA?

A: We are working through the process to have money transferred to new organization early next week

Q: Will Operations Committee be running the league?

A: We are working through the process of these individuals running Rep and House League.

Q: The people on the Operations Committee are for the most part the same individuals as that on the former CGHA executive, what is the difference?

A: There are some individuals from CGHA who are on and some who are not on the Operations Committee moving forward.

Q: What is the difference between the Operations Committee and Steering Committee?

A: The Steering Committee consists of Fran, Pat, Rob, Ryan, Fred Bryan (a director on the OWHA board) and one member of the Operations Committee to be determined. The Steering committee simply oversees the work done by the Operations Committee. Volunteers are welcome to assist and asked to attend the meeting immediately following this meeting to discuss.

Q: At the Rep level does a coach have to be certified as a D1? If not, what is the consequence?

A: At the Rep Level the OWHA require the main Coach to be certified as D1. Rosters can only be approved if the Head Coach has D1. All secondary coached D1 is recommended but it will be mandatory at some point in the future. The assistant coach can run a practice in the absence of a D1 coach.

Q: What is the timeline for establishing the organization?

A: Steering committee is established, and the Operations Committee will be finalized shortly. In June there will be an elected executive. We anticipate a full year to complete the process for the operations committee to get everything done. There needs to be allowances to be made, meetings to take place to establish requirements and understand the needs of the members to be addressed.

Q: Will there be a next season?

A: The OWHA/ Town Caledon are committed with the intent to continue female hockey in the future

Q: Will house league and rep be moving forward?

A: Intention to support both. OWHA doesn't want to run the organization but wants to help support a strong organization.

Q: Why couldn't Caledon Girls Hockey give last season list to OWHA?

A: Dona will be doing the new registration and it will be given to OWHA for communication.

Q: I am concerned Rep and HL are not being treated the same. I feel house league is being left behind as we have not received any communications and it is starting shortly.

A: As the OWHA didn't receive communication or registration on House League it is challenging to communicate

Q: When will HL season start?

A: Monday, Sept 16 the House League season is scheduled to begin. With Evaluations to take place shortly. House league games start October. November house league rosters get sent to OWHA.

Q: Why do we have to change the name? Do we need to get new jerseys?

A: There are issues using the CGHA name from the former organization when representing the new sanctioned CFHA. The Coyotes jersey can be utilized with the CGHA patch covered up or replaced.

Q: What is acceptable for new organization to use in the transition?

A: The Steering Committee fully recognize the expense of new uniforms and want to avoid it.

Q: If Bob Symons steps down why would the use of the CGHA name be an issue?

A: There has been no resolve to this.

Q: The meeting next week is going to use the CGHA money to pay for the hotel but that money is to be transferred to the CFHA, can that be stopped?

A: That organization is beyond the control of those in the room

Q: What if the money isn't transferred?

A: Every effort will be made to ensure the money will be transferred.

Q: If money isn't transferred is there money to pay for ice?

A: Town will support the process to continue the use of the ice working with the OWHA to ensure it will happen

Q: Do rep teams have to change this year? What happens to rep budgets?

A: We are working on resolving this

Q: What is going to be done for fundraising to assist any additional expense occurred for the players and teams as a result of the new organization?

A: There is no expectation for new jerseys to be purchased or there to be additional costs

Q: It seems the OWHA has received previous assurance, but things have not been followed through?

A: There is a commitment to return the funds to the new organization.

Q: Where is the money for HL jerseys?

A: The Operations Committee will work on that and it will be communicated. We encourage feedback and questions to the committee.

Q: How was the old organization owned and run?

A: This will not be addressed during the meeting.

Q: Is there a new website to refer to or an email address we can contact with questions?

A: Communication will be done through email. The Operations Committee will be working on a communication method in their meetings.

That concludes the meeting for tonight. Ryan asks those on the Operations Committee to stay behind and any volunteers who want to help.