



OWHA CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Time: 6:00 PM eastern time

Participants: Over 150 participants were on the call

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information is subject to change for a variety of reasons. Please watch the OWHA web site. The priority of the OWHA is the health and safety of our members and participants and for all people and we urge everyone to keep themselves informed of the requirements issued and updated by various levels of government and health professionals.

The most important information we can share is our sincere best wishes to our members, their family and friends as we go through the incredible challenges that Covid-19 is creating. We extend our most sincere thanks to all those front-line workers who are giving so much to so many. You are the stars of the game, of sports and of society.

The conference call was held with OWHA members in order to bring our team together and to provide an overall update on the current situation. We have been posting information on our web site as it comes available. Over 150 participants were on the call from various parts of the province. Representatives from various associations, teams and leagues were on the call along with OWHA Board members and staff.

NOTES

The call started at 6:00 pm eastern time and OWHA Chair Ted Dean welcomed participants and turned the meeting over to OWHA president Fran Rider to provide and update.

Fran provided various updates:

VIRUS BACKGROUND

- Coronavirus news started around the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020.
- January 25, 2020 - First known case in Canada.
- March 11, 2020 - WHO declares Covid-19 a Pandemic.

HOCKEY BACKGROUND

- Hockey and sport administrators and participants throughout the world were following the virus and its implications for sport.
- Everyone was following the reports and directives from government and health experts.
- OWHA has been following the lead of Hockey Canada and working with colleagues throughout Ontario and Canada.
- March 12, 2020 Hockey Canada Board of Directors cancelled all sanctioned hockey in Canada effective midnight that night.

- OWHA notified its membership on March 12th via email, twitter and posting on the OWHA web site.

2019/20 HOCKEY SEASON

- i. Provincial Championships were cancelled and logistics managed. Participant hats will be distributed to associations to be passed along to participants of teams that qualified. Reconciliation reports have been sent.
- ii. Sanctioned Tournaments – all remaining sanctioned tournaments for the 2019/2020 season were cancelled.
- iii. OWHA General Meeting – the May OWHA General Members Meeting was cancelled.
- iv. OWHA AGM – the OWHA Annual Members Meeting had been blocked for the beginning of September and its status is being monitored by the OWHA Board.

Status of AGM's

Fran turned the call over to John Wilkinson to give a report on holding an AGM within the current Covid-19 pandemic.

John noted the following:

- OWHA posted information on the status of AGMs based on individual By-Law requirements and the federal and provincial restrictions on gatherings of people
- It is our understanding that many associations have postponed AGMs until gatherings open up and may review their approach as new information comes available.
- John advised that there are 3 ways to organize not-for-profit organizations:
 - Federal incorporation
 - Provincial incorporation
 - Not incorporated
- Regarding rules regarding holding virtual AGMs or delaying holding AGMs for *Federal corporations*, see <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cd-dgc.nsf/eng/cs08611.html>
- In order to delay AGMs for *Federal corporations*, an application is to be submitted to Industry Canada
- Regarding rules regarding holding virtual AGMs or delaying AGMs for *Provincial corporations*, the Province has issued a number of Emergency Orders - see <https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>
- The specific Covid-19 related rules regarding virtual AGMs and delaying AGMs for *Provincial corporations* are found at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200107>
- A general, user-friendly description of the those rules can be found at <https://otf.ca/covid19-resources?redirected=1>
- Regarding rules regarding holding virtual AGMs or delaying AGMs for *unincorporated organizations*, reference should be had to the relevant by-laws – and the priority, as for all organizations, should be the safety of those involved.
- OWHA is supportive of delaying meetings for the safety of those involved and requests that Pat Nicholls be kept informed.

2020/21 HOCKEY SEASON

CURRENT STATE OF COVID-19 RELATED TO SPORT

- There are few definitive answers at this time
- OWHA is represented by its president on the Ontario Ministerial Advisory Panel on Amateur Sport and Recreation
- Hockey Canada is leading the Return to Sport analysis for Hockey in Canada

CURRENT STATE OF HOCKEY IN OWHA

- There are NO sanctioned OWHA Hockey Activities at this time and NO date or format under which hockey may return
 - v. Options – discussion underway are driven by medical requirements such as social distancing and how hockey could go forward.
 - vi. Tryouts – tryouts and the creation of teams are NOT permitted until further notice.
 - vii. Permission to Skate forms are not available at this time. Releases may be issued but are NOT valid until such time as hockey returns.
 - viii. Outstanding Discipline – will be in place when hockey returns.
 - ix. Certification – coach certification procedures are under review and may be online. The HP1 course has been cancelled until further notice. There is discussion at various levels as to the certification requirements when hockey returns. OWHA will post any certification courses that may be taken online.
 - x. Leagues – Leagues are currently on hold. The format of league schedules will likely change when hockey returns. Leagues are currently discussing options and are working with the OWHA office.
 - xi. Provincials – Provincials for 2021 are currently on hold pending the timing and format of the return of hockey.
 - xii. High Performance – the 2020 Ezzo Cup (Midget Female National Championship) was cancelled. OWHA's May and June camps were cancelled. We are waiting final decision on summer camps and the status of the Ontario Summer Games that were scheduled to start at the end of July.
 - xiii. Tournaments – the OWHA is NOT sanctioning tournaments at this time, nor approving team travel to tournaments outside the province. No tournament can accept registration or payment for a tournament for 2020/2021. No OWHA team may register for tournaments inside or outside Ontario. Any tournament that has already collected/accepted registration/payment from a team needs to notify the teams and return payment.

Registration

- OWHA has not renewed its contract with IVRnet/ITSportsNet.
- OWHA has secured an agreement with another company and has an updated registration/management system that has been developed and tested.
- Notification will be sent to advise when registration will be open for individual participants.
- Information including a manual will be circulated to associations as soon as final details are completed.
- Teams may not be formed until further notice.
- Signatures of team participants and parents/guardians will be collected online.

- Digital gamesheets will be available through the system.
- League schedules and standings are available through the platform.
- A Team app may be added to phones.

Next Steps

- OWHA is creating a questionnaire on Survey Monkey to collect the information and ideas from our members. The information link will be distributed.
- OWHA will convene future communication with members.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR RESPONSE ON THE CALL

- 1) In regard to item three on the agenda, it would be very helpful to receive advise on conducting elections without an in-person AGM. While some of our executive/board members are able to continue in their roles, others are not. In addition to being shorthanded, we are concerned that having elections immediately preceding or during the start of next season will leave the new executive ill-prepared and handicapped.
Answer: Please reference John Wilkinson's presentation.
- 2) With regards to the Novice programs. There were 4 development skates required before tryouts. Due to Covid-19 this now places a burden on the smaller towns with every level having tryouts in Sept and our ice availability.
Answer: This is under discussion and if there are changes, we will notify members and post on our web site.
- 3) At this time, given the current restrictions in place pertaining to the prohibition of large gatherings, will the OWHA be considering sanctioning of tournaments for the 2020-2021 season?
Answer: We are not sanctioning tournaments at this time. If there is a change to this, we will advise members and post details on the web site.
- 4) OWHA insurance - will Hockey Canada's insurance policy be extended to cover any aspects of recovery from the COVID-19 as an illness that may have been contracted through community transmission perhaps at league and/or tournament events or at games? If so, what specific circumstances and conditions must be met in order to qualify for coverage?
Answer: The HBT accident policy has no coverage for health costs as it is an accident specific program.
- 5) Illness Reporting - will Hockey Canada and the OWHA require associations to report on confirmations where team staff and/or players contract COVID-19 similar to injury incident reports? If so, will there be a form available?
Answer: This question is current under discussion of various groups in hockey and government.
- 6) Sanction Permit - will the OWHA permit sanction for out of province tournaments in the 2020-2021 season?
Answer: There is no sanction for any hockey at this time. We do expect restrictions on travel and other aspects of hockey.

- 7) Will the Hockey Canada and the OWHA be providing operating guidelines for leagues, coaches, team managers and trainers? For example, physical distancing and prescribing the number of spectators at rinks, the number of players in dressing rooms and will they required to wear masks, likewise with supervision of dressing rooms, will masks be required for dressing room moms, and for bench staff during games?

Answer: There are many groups addressing these items including various levels of government and sport including Hockey Canada. There will be guidelines and we will share these as they come available.

- 8) Coaching clinics - can they be taken entirely online?

Answer: This is under review at this time.

- 9) Coaching evaluations for D1 certification - would Hockey Canada and the OWHA consider an extension to the deadline for certification?

Answer: This is under review at this time.

- 10) What safety guidelines and protocols will be implemented to protect against Covid-19 and to protect the association?

Answer: Currently, the federal and provincial mandates must be followed. There are task groups and committees within government and sport discussing these matters. There will be requirements and guidelines for sport.

- 11) Will it look like a typical season or will it be restructured somehow?

Answer: We expect the season and the future to be different.

- 12) Certifications- will there be leeway for those who need to obtain qualifications and if so for all including competitive or just house league ?

Answer: This is under discussion.

- 13) Can someone under the age of 18 be the head coach of a team?

Answer: Yes, they can if they meet qualifications including being a minimum of 2 years older than the level they are coaching.

- 14) Will it be possible for players Age 8 to play U11 and not u9 for the 2020-21 season? If so, what will the process be and will there be a limit on the number of age 8 players on a team?

Answer: The novice and atom pathways are still supported but everything is under review based on Covid-19.