



# Executive Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** Sep 11, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** Centennial Hockey Arena

**Present:** Steph MacKenzie, Anne Marie Zemrau, Heather Melenchuk, Cheri Tubbs, Glenn Kirkpatrick, David Hughes, Vernon D'Souza, Wayne Richter, Randy McKinnon, Jeff Lewis, Todd Nadon, Jeremy Reid, Jordan Broatch, Bruce Ng

**Chairperson:** Glenn Kirkpatrick

**Call To Order:** 7:07 pm

## **Adoption of Minutes of May 1 meeting**

- Motion: Glenn
- Seconded: Anne Marie

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Coordinators Post-Season Recaps**

#### **Registrar (Vernon)**

- Record season.
- Leave younger registration open longer.
- Process was great. Better than last year.

#### **5U and 7U (Steph)**

- 280+ players.
- There were some challenges for the 5U coordinator but coaches managed quite well without full support.
- Need a coordinator that has more experience but will be challenging as once a coordinator gets the experience they move on.
- Maybe could have one coordinator for 5U and 7U.
- Recommend, where possible, moving 5Us from Crescent Park to Centennial Oval with 7Us for 2020.
- 7U went very well. Lots of coaches and a good crop of players.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year 7U didn't like going back (e.g., 3 caps, no outs)



- May have issues getting coaches for 7U next year and most of the coaches will be moving up to Tadpole.
- To get more parents comfortable with coaching, don't cap number of coaches.
- Everyone likes having set practice days.

### **9U Tadpole (Jeff)**

- Splitting players into two groups (8U and 9U) was great.
- Only problem was getting coaches for first year as they felt they didn't have the skills to coach. 14 players per team was too big.
- Vernon: Need to recruit coaches earlier.
- Need to build the coaching pool.
- Only had 5 coaches come out to Monday night sessions with Jordan which was quite disappointing.
- Jordan: Profile of the week for coaches on website.
- Step: Hockey has coaches of coaches.
- Glenn: In past, in Mosquito, for instance, American league coach mentored a National league coach. Went to one practice per week. A requirement to be a coach in the higher tier.
- Summer: Struggled to get numbers for 8U summer team. 9U did have enough to field two teams so went with a team of 18 players where players took turns attending tournaments and paid only for tournaments they attended. Seemed to work really well.

### **11U Mosquito (Carson via Randy)**

- Rule change for strike count at start of coach pitch (i.e., strike count goes to one strike if two strikes before coach pitch) worked well.
- Difficult to get National coaches.
- Field care of Centennial could have been better.
- With no games on Easter and May long weekend, the number of games was reduced. Don't recommend for next time Easter and Victoria Day long weekend fall in spring season.
- Movie night was good. Ran a bit late. 60 to 100 people. Don't hold before playoffs.
- Summer. 4 teams. Good results by all teams, including provincial championship for AAA Tier 1 team.

### **13U Peewee (Bruce)**

- Feedback from some coaches and parents was that 'A' teams were not well balanced. All coaches had an opportunity at draft.
- Coach experience not that high for 'A' teams.
- Split of 8 'A' and 3 'AA' teams was okay.
- AA Black team finished first in spring league play.
- Summer: AA team didn't field a team for a number of reasons.



- A just missed playoffs in provincials.
- AAA team finished third and lost in semis in provincials.

### **Bantam 'A' (Vernon)**

- 4 'A' coaches were great at draft time.
- 2 of 4 teams got some sort of banner in spring.
- Summer. 12 showed up and 12 made team.
- Started at 0 for 5 and finished a strong 17 and 5 to make provincials.

### **Bantam 'AA' (Todd)**

- First year of hired coach. Perfect storm of issues, including player injuries. First year of facing some strong competition and getting ass kicked. Template is good.
- Not many players got sucked up to Tritons.

### **Bantam (Glenn)**

- We need to do more to help with the issues taking place in the Bantam division, including players leaving baseball, playing in the PBL (e.g., Tritons, Langley Blaze) before they are not ready. Issue is province wide.
- Next level down from PBL is not very good. Hence younger players are playing Bantam prep and not really.
- We need to continue to work with BC Minor to improve Bantam.
- Tritons in past have given spots to kids from other areas and then those kids are leaving. In meantime WR kids are not getting Tritons spots. White Rock players leaving WR and going to play for other teams like the Langley Blaze.
- We need to figure out a plan and the plan needs to include cross-training with Tritons.

### **Coach and Player Clinics (Jordan)**

- Coaching Clinics. Good number for Regional coach clinic. Development/Hot Stove Monday nights had very low attendance.
- Camps. Were well attended. We had the highest attendance for Baseball BC camps compared to other regions. Next year, more from WRSSBA rather than Tritons to give us more experience.
- General Evaluations (May/June). Douglas College has offered to run evaluations. Will get some help from Douglas College players too (Jordan is new head coach of Douglas college). Will have evaluations in February for new players and for parents who want to have their player re-evaluated.

## **2. Coach Training (Various)**

- Glenn: We need to do more.



- Todd: Invites to come to Monday Hot Stoves is not working. Need to have trainers go and attend team practices to help. Go when the coach has to be there anyway.
- Jeff: Like soccer, have someone show up early and help with practice plan.
- Jordan: Need to schedule instructors (e.g., Jordan, Triton coaches) to come to a practice. Material available on the website for coaches to use.
- Wayne: Need to provide training to higher tier coaches too.

### **3. High Performance (Glenn)**

- Glenn. Would like to provide more opportunities for HP players. BC Minor, with Grassroots program focus, is going the other way.
- Have to supply the extra training for the HP group as they will be with us the longest.
- Winning (especially provincially and nationally) draws new players to the game.
- Randy. Just by tiering our divisions, we are doing more than most other associations when it comes to providing better training for the high performance players. It's up to the coaches to do more, including participating in tournaments.

### **4. AGM Planning and Board Positions for 2020 (Glenn)**

- Great response from existing executive members wanting to return for 2020.
- The following positions are available for the 2020 season starting in November:
  - Equipment Manager
  - Safety Officer
  - Division Coordinators
  - Fall Ball Coordinator
  - Tournament Coordinator
  - Fun Day and Movie Night Coordinator

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Fall Ball (Various)**

- Glenn: To preserve the players' arms, ideally fall ball should be much less intense than spring or summer ball, i.e., minimal games and where players don't pitch in games. Some organizations (e.g., Oregon) play 2-Ball where a pitching machine is used rather than a pitcher and the batter gets two balls/chances to hit.
- Randy: Like what Jordan did last year in fall ball. Intra-squad games are good as coaches can stop the game for coaching opportunities.
- Jordan: Fall ball should be skill-based training.

### **Sponsorship (Jeremy)**

- Banner sales raised \$25,000 in 2019 up from \$18,000.
- Challenger brought in \$3,400 plus \$2,000 from TD Bank.
- Would make sense to have new sponsorship manager who has new business contacts as Jeremy has exhausted most of his contacts.



## **June Movie Night for Mosquito and Peewee (Heather)**

- White Rock Dodge covered most of the costs. Approximately 100 people attended.
- If we do again, don't do the night before playoffs start.

## **Tournaments (Glenn and Randy)**

- Approached BLE about organizing one or more tournaments and they are not interested.
- Mosquito is the logical division for a tournament as we could use Centennial diamond and the turf field.
- We are open to letting someone organize tournaments and keeping whatever is left after paying the costs.

## **Umpire Coordinator/UIC (Cheri)**

- Went pretty well however really need an involved umpire coordinator/UIC.
- Sheridan, Brian and Arne stepped up to help with mentoring and did a very good job.
- Thanks Cheri for holding things together. Takes pressure off UIC.
- Glenn asked for Heather to approach Brian to see if his is interested in taking over UIC from Eddie.

## **Capital Spending (Glenn)**

- With new mayor in Surrey and tighter spending by Surrey, we should hold off on the more ambitious projects requiring some funding from Surrey, like turfing the Bantam field at SSAP or expanding the Indoor Training Facility.
- Glenn to discuss with White Rock the potential to rebuild and expand the Centennial Park batting cage. The existing cage is 2,400 square feet (2 sections/cages of 70' x 17' (with netting set-in ~22")).
- Randy: Would be nice to have the cage enclosed, as it gets quite cold in the winter.

## **Rule Changes (Randy)**

- Historically we have used BC Minor's pitch count rules for spring and summer ball. For 13U and higher, BC Minor pitch counts are higher (by 5 pitches) than Baseball Canada's. Also, BC Minor increases pitch counts for summer ball.
- In addition, under Baseball Canada's rules, a player who pitches in a game cannot then catch (catch and then pitch is permitted).
- We are going to follow Baseball Canada's pitch count rules in 2020 and also implement the pitcher-catcher rule for spring and summer.

