

VHSHL Girls Division
2021-22 End of Season Meeting - Minutes

Sunday, April 24, 2022 - 2:00 pm
Credit Union Centre - Kingston, NS

Attendance

Avon View - Rob Davies, Brett Hazel	Northeast Kings
Bridgetown - Jimmy Barteaux, Nicole Hackenschmidt	Park View - Shannon Broome
Central Kings	West Kings - Bill Walsh
Horton - Richard Curry, Ronna Curry	Yarmouth
Middleton - Jim Johnson - regrets	

League: Ken Foote, Past Vice-President Girls; Rob Davies Vice-President Girls elect
On-ice officials: Mike Hawboldt

Agenda

- Three additional items - numbers 5, 6, and 7 under New Business - were added to the agenda.
- Agenda approved as amended - moved by Richard Curry and seconded by Shannon Broome.

Vice President Girls Remarks

- Ken Foote welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their commitment to our student athletes.
- Ken thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as we worked through another season facing COVID-19 restrictions. Our league managed to provide a good hockey experience for our players despite the obstacles and challenges we faced.
- Ken presented a prepared report - please see attached.

New Business

1. OT/Shootout during regular season games like the Boys Division - Avon View
 - Rob Davies suggested that the girls' division move to an overtime/shootout to decide a game winner as in the boys' division. The boys' division holds a 4-on-4, five-minute sudden death overtime. If the game is still tied, it moves to a shootout. The details can be found on our website in the Boys Division Operating Manual within the league's constitution.
 - Three points for a regulation win, two points for an overtime win, and one point for an overtime loss.
 - The process may require an additional 15 minutes of ice time. Rob suggested that teams discuss this with their arenas before the league meeting in September so that additional ice can be secured for games that go into overtime.
 - From the teams present, there was support for this proposal.
2. Supporting our junior level schools by putting on a girls' tournament - Avon View
 - Rob Davies discussed putting together 3-on-3 games for junior high players to help build support for the league. With 3-on-3, teams would only need 8-9 players and a goalie.
 - There are many different grade combinations in our league's schools, and this could provide an opportunity for players in those earlier grades to play with their peers.
 - From the teams present, there was support for this proposal.

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3. League schedule - get on rinks now for ice times - Avon View
 - Rob Davies asked that teams try and find some home game dates off Friday and Saturday nights if possible. Having games through the week - for instance, Middleton's Monday night home games - makes scheduling much easier for the league.
 - Moving to other nights also makes it easier to assign on-ice officials for these games

4. Conclude league play by the end of the second week of February - Avon View
 - Regionals will likely be held the third week of February with Provincials at the end of February.
 - Rob Davies suggested that our League Championship for the Girls Division be held the week between the girls' and boys' Provincials. This may require School Sport Nova Scotia (SSNS) approval if it does not fall within the SSNS approved season for girls' hockey.
 - From the teams present, there was support for this proposal.

5. AAA players on high school teams - Middleton
 - Jim Johnson raised a concern about AAA girls taking part in league play, Regionals, and Provincials while AAA boys are banned from taking part.
 - This concern has been raised over the years and the decision regarding play in Regionals and Provincials rests with SSNS. Currently, they allow AAA girls to take part. Any change in that policy will have to come through that body and may have to be instigated by school athletic directors.
 - Regarding league play, those present seemed supportive of AAA girls taking part. They act as mentors and role models to the less skilled players.
 - Our league does require that a player must have taken part in a minimum of five regular season League games to take part in League championship play. This league rule does not apply to Regionals or Provincials.

6. Body contact and intimidation - Middleton
 - Jim Johnson raised a concern regarding aggressive body contact and body checks in our games.
 - Those present agreed that this can be an issue in our games. A reminder from team staff to players before games and during games may be helpful.
 - We encourage inexperienced players to take part on our teams, but that invitation will seem much less welcome if it leads to a hard hit.
 - A gentle word to the referee before the game may not be out of place. Our referees often call multiple games at multiple ages and levels and may lose track of the setting.

7. Joining a game in progress - Horton
 - Richard Curry asked when players can and cannot join a game in progress.
 - The consensus seemed to be that the player should be on the game sheet and the situation should be explained to the other team's coach and the referee in advance of the game's start.
 - There didn't seem to be a point at which it is too late to join a game in progress.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm - moved by Richard Curry

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Vice-President's Report

COVID-19 restrictions created another challenging season for the Valley High School Hockey League - Girls Division. Our teams were resilient and were able to come back from a mid-season shutdown to play exhibition games, playoff games, and send teams to the provincials. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our league All-Star game for the second year in a row due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Reflections on our season:

- We held an organizational meeting for the season at the Credit Union Centre in Kingston on September 12th.
- Thanks to Rob Davies, Avon View, for preparing our league game schedule.
- Through the season, I sent out 47 emails to keep our members informed.
- In October 2021, an updated Operations Manual for the Girls Division was approved and posted to our website. That manual says: *The following rules are specific to the VHSHL Girls Division and can be amended at any general meeting with a simple majority vote but at no time can they change NSSAF or HNS rules.* I would recommend that the Girls Division keep that document up to date and adjust it as they see fit going forward. It is important that the documentation keep up with our practice.
- The league moved to a new website provider this season. The site has a very clean and modern look but that comes at a higher cost. We also found that the system was not playoff friendly when it came time to post results. This is something that probably can be resolved through our provider. Thanks to the hard work of our statistician Chasity Jodrey, the playoff results have been posted.
- Congratulations to our Division I Avon View Avalanche, and our Division II Bridgetown Hawks, Middleton Monarchs, and Yarmouth Vikings who advanced to the Provincials. Bridgetown and Yarmouth advanced to a provincial semi-final game. The Bridgetown Hawks went on to win provincial silver medals and won our league championship in an overtime game versus Avon View. Congratulations to all involved!

To those of you who will not be returning next season, thank-you for your commitment to our school athletes. It is always easier on a team if there is new staff prepared to take over next season rather than scrambling to find staff in September. If you are not returning, please see if you can help the team fill your spot sooner than later.

It has been an honour to serve as the Vice-President Girls for the past two seasons. I have coached in the league for eight years and been on the executive for an additional two years. Thanks to all of you who volunteer your time for the benefit of our student athletes. A special thanks to President Peter Morse for his support, Ben Larouche for keeping our officiating on track, and Chasity Jodrey for her work as our statistician.

Respectively submitted,

Ken Foote