

WSWBL (WWBL) Semi-Annual General Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2011
Theatre, Lower Level, Sport Manitoba
143 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Opening Remarks

- MUST be signed in to ensure you are not penalized for non-attendance
- Recall that per September 2011 AGM, all teams not represented at general meetings will receive a \$50 penalty per meeting to be taken from their \$100 deposit
 - Eight teams were not present at the meeting; these are identified in yellow on the attached sign in sheet
- Liz Pham introduced and thanked the Executive and Advisory Committees

Fundraising – Sobey's Gift Cards*

- Liz presented the results of the 2011-2012 league fundraising
- Feedback included:
 - Receiving the gift cards before Christmas
 - Incentive to fundraise would be greater if the teams received the funds themselves
 - Unfortunately the Sobey's program does not allow for this at this time; but will continue to offer an incentive to the best fundraising teams
- Top Team: Green Lightning
 - The Big Deals and Cash were other notable teams
- Earned \$3093.50 total
 - This amount allowed us to finish the season with a small surplus

Review of League Financials*

- Liz reviewed the league financials; an estimated surplus of \$1800
- Full financials will be released at the September AGM when all invoices are received
- Hope to increase scorekeeper pay next year to a minimum of \$10 per game
 - Current rate of \$8 per game is inadequate; significantly less than minimum wage

Rebranding League

- Motion passed to change the name of the league to: Winnipeg Women's Basketball League
- Motion passed to implement the new corresponding logos (right)
 - N.B. All communications going forward will utilize the new league name and logo
- Website Change
 - Liz reviewed the pros of the website change including:
 - **Online registration**
 - **Quicker score posting**
 - **Opportunity for league sponsorship**
 - Regular league updates
 - Player database
 - File maintenance
 - Forums
 - Postings for individual players



- Image gallery
- Facility maps and locations
- Smooth transition for future league executives
- Motion passed to implement league website using RedZone Leagues Sports League Management (<http://www.redzoneleagues.com/redzone>)
- Rocky will look into the possibility of accepting payments online (by credit card) for registration fees

Marketing

- We had two open houses this season, one in October and one in March
 - Wanted to have some contests and pick-up games; give new players an opportunity to get picked up
 - Low attendance in October, but we received good feedback
 - Had four new players attend at the March open house
- Discussions with teams
 - Sent out poster to have teachers circulate
 - Many teachers play in our league, should be promoting the league and recruiting women after high school who are not playing CIS or college
 - Need to improve our communication with these groups next year
- MHSAA
 - Would like to put an advertisement into their brochures and event pamphlets
 - Should utilize their resources and contacts
- WMBA
 - Run the spring league; completely different season
 - Need to work with this league to contact these women as well
- Would like to develop a small marketing committee in 2012-2013 to further develop these ideas and work towards league expansion

Review of Executive & Advisory Positions*

- All attendees were provided a list of the WSWBL Roles & Responsibilities (see attached)
- A short review of these roles was conducted
- Although voting will take place at the AGM in September, nominations were taken and returning members identified

2012-2013 WSWBL Executive Committee

- Chair – Liz Pham
- Vice-Chair – **Vacant** (Nominations: Rochelle Collette & Deanna Petersen)
- Treasurer – **Vacant** (Nominations: Rosy Khounnoraj)
- Secretary – **Vacant**

2012-2013 WSWBL Advisory Committee

- Scorekeeper Coordinator – **Vacant**
- Schedule Coordinator – Jen Johnson
- Facilities Coordinator – Adele Domenco
- Referees Coordinator – **Vacant**
- Marketing Coordinator – **Vacant** (Nominations: Kaitlin Irvine)

- Convenors – Shannon Larkins, Lesley Hildebrand, Caitlin Liewicki
 - *N.B. More convenors may be required depending on league size*

Behavioural Concerns

- Received several complaints this season regarding foul play, inappropriate language and unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Increase from previous years
 - Difficult to moderate as we cannot rely on player testimonials and are not able to discuss with officials or scorekeepers
- Liz clarified that this agenda item is a warning; as disciplinary action is not currently included in the Rules & Regulations
- General guidelines:
 - Do not approach scorekeepers
 - Only team representatives/captains should address referees
 - Foul language is not permitted
 - Flagrant fouls are not permitted
 - Players should conduct themselves with a respect for their opponent and officials at all times

League Goals

- Liz & Rocky discussed the need for our league to have a goal and vision going forward – want to have a measure of progress
- Short Term:
 - Grow league by 2 teams per year
 - Increase league awareness
 - Future spring league
 - Visibility in high schools
 - Continue fundraising to ensure league financial viability
 - Allows for increasing wages for scorekeepers
 - League events
 - Allows for league promotion
- Long Term
 - Increase league size to 6 divisions at 8 teams per division
- Attendees were all in agreement with respect to league goals presented

Division Winners

- * Division 1 Champions – Fireballs
- * Division 2 Champions – Winnipeg Internationals
- * Division 3 Champions – Rockettes
- * Division 4 Champions – Captains
- * Congratulations! Each won a \$100 gift card to Boston Pizza

Round Table

- Scorekeepers:
 - Scorekeepers not keeping track of the individual points; would like to see the full sheet filled out

- Keep in mind that rules only require the running score to be filled in; all other pieces are extra; they receive a minimal wage for what they do
 - Suggested that we thank the scorekeepers similar to the way we thank the referees after the game
- Basketball Manitoba Hall of Fame Dinner:
 - Question was asked about when we voted on this. This was passed a number of years ago and a commitment made for two events (occur biannually) going forward. Suggested the league does not receive any value; will motion to eliminate in the fall.
- Facilities:
 - Request was made to have more competitive divisions receive priority over the less competitive divisions; particularly during playoffs
 - Clarified that we attempt to accommodate as best as possible with respect to schedules and facilities
 - Players from less competitive divisions disagreed; as all should have the right to play on better courts
- UofM Proposal:
 - Rocky discussed the proposal put into the University of Manitoba by the league (kudos to Past Chair, Laura Kwiatkowski)
 - This proposal would see the University absorb our league operations and provide facilities similar to the design currently in use by the men's league; this would provide consistent access to quality facilities, opportunities for sponsorship and would minimize the tasks taken on by the Executive Committee
 - Have not yet heard back at this time; but we are in heavy competition with other, more profitable sports
 - This potential should be an incentive to grow our league
- Marketing:
 - Do not want to forget about women post-baby or returning to the sport
 - How do we reach them?
 - Magazines
 - Leisure Guide
 - Newspapers
 - Facebook page
 - Some people didn't realize that the open house was for current players as well as new players