ICE HOCKEY ACT – 2024 Annual General Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

22 November 2024 6:45pm

Yowani Country Club

Board Members

Name	Position	Acronym	Present?
Elected Directors			
Joel Davis	President	JD	Yes
Tim Murton	Vice-President	TM	Yes
Gregory Morris	Secretary	GM	Yes
Francois van Lille	Assistant Secretary	FvL	No
Marianne Cullen	Treasurer	MC	Yes
Chris Bagnall	Senior Delegate	CB	Yes
Daniel Spratt	Junior Delegate	DS	Yes
Portfolio Directors			
Di Doornbos	Registrar	DD	No
Tim Murton	Referee-in-Chief	TM	Yes
Mike Sergeant	Director of Senior Coaching	MS	No
Jordan Walsh	Director of Junior Coaching	JW	No
{Vacant}	Director of Player Development	{N/A}	{N/A}
Dani Curcio	Director of Women's Programmes	DC	Yes
Mark Skinner	Member Protection Information Officer	MS	No
{Vacant}	Judiciary/Tribunal Director	{N/A}	{N/A}
Helena Morris	Chief Medical Officer	HM	No
{Vacant}	Media and Public Relations Officer	{N/A}	{N/A}
{Vacant}	Equipment Officer	{N/A}	{N/A}
Mary Kershaw	Public Officer	MK	Yes
Representatives			
{None appointed}	{N/A}	{N/A}	{N/A}

Minutes recorded by Gregory Morris

Noe that these minutes are not a verbatim transcript of every word spoken at the AGM. The minutes have been written to convey the substance matters raised and discussion, and the points made in discussions.

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Item	Notes
1	**Preliminaries**
1.1	JD opened the meeting at 6:45pm and welcomed all members
1.2	Headcount performed and confirmed that 21 financial members were present, hence quorum (ie over 15) achieved in accordance with Clause 26.1 of the Constitution. Refer attendance sheets attached to these minutes for persons attending.
2	**Minutes of Past Meeting**
2.1	GM noted that previous AGMs had not accepted the minutes of meetings. Minutes for 2021, 2022 and 2023 had been distributed and now proposed a motion for acceptance. • 2021 minutes accepted • 2022 minutes accepted • 2023 minutes accepted
2.2	Brandon Reid noted that previous minutes included an amendment to the Constitution that was approved, but a new version of the Constitution had not been distributed, and asked if there was an intent to update the Constitution accordingly. GM confirmed this amendment would be incorporated into an updated Constitution along with any changes approved in this AGM (refer Section 6). MC noted that the current Board had been complying with the requirements of that amendment (regarding Director declarations).
3	**Elected Director Reports**
3.1	JD presented the President's Report. Refer copy of this document attached to these minutes for content.
3.2	CB gave a verbal Senior Delegate report, noting positive development of the senior game in the past few years and the challenge of continuing that forward motion without undue disruption. CB also thanked the many people who had assisted him in the role.
3.3	DS presented a junior Delegate Report. Refer copy attached to these minutes
4	**Portfolio Director's Reports**
4.1	TM presented the Referee-in-Chief Report. Main points as follows: 1. 2 officials courses run 2. Small group of referees currently, but very dedicated. 3. Additional courses run has helped grow the group, plan to run more in 2025 to continue growth 4. Adoption of mandatory neckguards was very smooth 5. Noted praise for Adam Cullen at Nationals this year from Tournament RiC 6. Noted Adam Cullen did officials high performance course, Nick Mason scheduled to attend next year 7. Unfortunately had to cancel some games due to lack of available officials, mainly due to last minute unavailability of scheduled officials (sickness, family issues etc), and small pool to try and recruit replacements last minute. TM thanks players for their understanding. Note further discussion in Item 4.1.1 below

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	8. IHA suspension guidelines have been adopted this year 9. Noted Luke Power getting his IIHF license and what an achievement this is 10. TM in communication with RiC's in other Associations to collaborate 11. Tm currently developing a Code of Conduct for officials and a feedback system to help further improve standards.
4.1.1	Comments from the floor about cancelled games: 1. Question about short notice – TM responded that as due to last minute cancellations by scheduled officials it was often impossible to inform earlier 2. Noted that it disproportionately affected some teams and could potentially have affected teams participation in finals. TM noted but due to nature of issue it was impossible to plan around 3. TM noted that larger pool of officials will definitely help avoid a repeat next season
4.2	DD not present so Registrar's report presented by GM. Refer to document attached to these minutes for details. Question from the floor as to timing of numbers, GM/JD confirmed it was before Summer League registration, so female registrations in particular artificially low.
4.3	DC gave verbal Women's Director Report. Main points as follows: 1. About 60 registered in summer Women's League 2. Training numbers are up, combination with D-Grade a success 3. Skill and position specific training has been a great success 4. A lot of positive feedback to Maddie training 5. Noted an increase in goalie numbers, which is very beneficial 6. 7 weeks of Women's League completed, all has gone well and a lot of positive feedback received 7. Still looking for new ways to grow the women's game
5	**Presentation of Financial Reports**
5.1	MC presented the accounts as required by the Constitution and Associations Incorporation Act, including Review Report by Noel Zacharias. Refer to documents attached to these minutes for details.
5.2	Figures for past 4 years presented due to lack of accounts being presented last year, to give members clarity over the progress of accounts
5.3	MC noted book loss of circa $32k for this Financial Year. MC noted this is primarily down to the organisation of Nationals this year. IHA organised as a single event in Newcastle, including all accommodation and required Associations to pay full amount up front. Collection of funds from participants necessarily came later, and fall into the following Financial year, creating an apparent loss for the Financial Year that is not representative of the actual financial status.
5.4	MC noted also that current Financial Year showing an approximate $40k profit, mainly down to same issue, which balances out the last years results. So the association is effectively breaking even over the 2 year period, as planned.

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5.5	MC noted other influences on accounts being increase to officials fees and investments in ice dividers for Juniors.
5.6	MC noted reduction in ice fees compared to other years as Pirates now being charged directly by the rink, instead of through IHACT.
5.7	MC noted she is looking at possibly amending our Financial Year reporting to align better with the membership year, ie March – February, to avoid accounting issues as discussed above in Items 5.3 and 5.4.
6	Proposed Constitutional Amendments
6.1	GM tabled the list of proposed amendments as distributed prior to the AGM. Refer to the document attached to these minutes.
6.2	GM explained that the amendments were primarily proposed to align the IHACT Constitution with the latest version of the Associations Incorporation Act and to remove some incongruencies in the current wording. There is nothing proposed that substantially changes the nature of the Association or how it operates
6.3	GM then went through each proposed amendment and explained the reasoning behind the proposed change. GM then proposed a motion to adopt each amendment individually. Any discussion is recorded with the item below, along with result of vote.
6.4	GM noted as per Clause 33 of the Constitution a majority of 75% is required to pass a motion to amend the Constitution. With 21 members present, that requires a 'Yes' vote of 16 to pass. Adam Cullen clarified that voting in favour is to adopt the amendment – GM confirmed yes. Voting by show of hand in accordance with Clause 26.4 of the Constitution. No call for a written poll was made.
6.5	Amendment 01 - Motion passed unanimously
6.6	Amendment 02 – Motion passed unanimously
6.7	Amendment 03 – Motion passed unanimously
6.8	Amendment 04 – Motion passed unanimously
6.9	Amendment 05 – Motion passed unanimously
6.10	Amendment 06 – Motion passed unanimously
6.11	Amendment 07 – Motion passed unanimously
6.12	Amendment 08 – Motion is to remove the word "audited" from the clause about submission of accounts to the AGM and refer to the Associations Incorporation ACT ("the Act") which has a scale of requirements depending on the amount of turnover.
6.12.1	Brandon Reid raised an opposition to this proposal, making the following points in support of his opposition: 1. An audit provides a level of security and assurance to members that the finances are being handled appropriately

	2. It also provides a level of protection to the Board that misconduct cannot go undetected 3. Noted he is an auditor, so understands the requirements and necessities 4. Noted there is not a lot of oversight of the accounts in the day to day operation of the Association, so this is a vital check 5. Noted that financial misconduct is prevalent in sporting associations, so the protection should be maintained. Clarified he was not accusing the current Board of any misconduct, speaking in general. 6. Referring to the Act is not sufficiently clear to communicate the requirements. A specific requirement to audit should be maintained 7. The Constitution is the only document which is maintained through the different Boards, processes may not be. So the requirements must stay in that one document
6.12.2	MC made a response, as follows: 1. The change does not remove the requirement to have oversight of the accounts. The Act requires a "review" with specific requirements attached to that for "small organisations" (less than $400k turnover), which IHACT is. 2. The word "audit" has a very specific meaning in the Act, which also then imposes requirements on how the accounts are maintained and administered 3. The total cost to bring the Associations accounts to this level and have them audited was investigated, and quoted at $20-25k. This is a significant expense to be covered 4. This review in the Act is in fact what has been carried out for all accounts in recent years 5. MC believes this review, by a separate, independent and suitably qualified person still offers the protections as outlined by Brandon
6.12.3	GM also responded, as follows: 1. The intent is not to remove any oversight of the accounts 2. The intent is to bring the Constitution into alignment with the Act, which recognises the cost of proper audit on smaller organisations and amends the review requirements accordingly 3. If the Association was to grow beyond the $400k threshold, the audit requirement would be re-instated automatically by referring to the Act.
6.12.4	After some general discussion, general agreement was received to add a specific reference to the review Clauses of the Act into the proposed Amendment, thus making it very clear what was required. The revised wording is included in the attached document.
6.12.5	Revised wording was put to a vote to adopt. Motion passed with 17 votes
6.13	Amendment 9 - Motion passed unanimously
6.14	Amendment 10 – Change to appointments to fill a Casual Vacancy or Vacancies (CV)
6.14.1	Adam Cullen questioned if the changes meant a Board of 4 could appoint Directors back to a full complement of 7 GM responded that yeas, this was possible, and this was also allowed by the previous Clauses being replaced

6.14.2	Adam Cullen further questioned that a Casual Vacancy being filled by appointment could now be for a full 2 year term, not limited to 1 year as previous. GM responded yes, this was the intent. CV's generally arise with a resignation, and limiting their term can interfere with the process of keeping Board changes staggered, without the full Board up for election at any one time, which is good governance. If a CV remains after an AGM due to no nominations, if a person is subsequently appointed to a 2 year term it can't be argued that the membership didn't have a chance to apply for it previously. Any appointment also subject to a vote by the Board.
6.14.3	Motion passed unanimously
6.15	Amendment 11 – Motion passed unanimously
7	**Election of the New Board**
7.1	***Vice President***
7.1.1	Tim Murton was the only submitted EOI.
7.1.2	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority voted in favour
7.1.3	Tim Murton appointed as Vice-President for 2 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.2	***Treasurer***
7.2.1	Marianne Cullen was the only submitted EOI.
7.2.2	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority voted in favour
7.2.3	Marianne Cullen (MC) appointed as Treasurer for 2 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.3.4	In addition, Marianne Cullen in her role as Treasurer is to be an authorised signatory to the ACT Ice Hockey Association bank accounts.
7.3	***Secretary***
7.3.1	Gregory Morris was the only submitted EOI.
7.3.2	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority voted in favour
7.3.3	Gregory Morris appointed as Secretary for 1 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.3.4	In addition, Gregory Morris in his role as Secretary is to be an authorised signatory to the ACT Ice Hockey Association bank accounts.
7.4	***Assistant Secretary***
7.4.1	No written EOIs received
7.4.2	Called for nominations from the floor, Tracy Hughes and Ryan Wilcox both nominated
7.4.3	After some discussion about other roles available, Ryan withdrew his nomination, leaving Tracy Hughes as the only nominee.
7.4.4	Nomination seconded by Ryan Wilcox and JD

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7.4.5	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority voted in favour
7.4.6	Tracy Hughes appointed as Assistant Secretary for 2 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.5	***Senior Delegate***
7.5.1	No written EOIs received
7.5.2	Ryan David nominated from the floor. CB and JD seconded
7.5.3	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority voted in favour
7.5.4	Ryan Wilcox appointed as Senior Delegate for 2 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.6	***Junior Delegate***
7.6.1	Daniel Spratt was the only submitted EOI.
7.6.2	Vote taken by show of hands. Majority in voted favour
7.6.3	Daniel Spratt appointed as Junior Delegate for 1 year term. Roles and responsibilities are as per the Position Description on the IHACT Website.
7.7	Confirmed that all Elected Director positions have been filled, so the Board has more than the required 5 members to function
8	**Member Proposed Motions**
8.1	No motions received
9	**Association Awards**
9.1	JD announced intention to revive Association Awards to recognise service to the sport by members. Announcements and presentation event to be scheduled in the near future.
9.2	JD noted that last year DD received recognition in an award presented at Parliament House.
9.3	JD further noted that DS will receive the same award this year.
10	**General Open Forum**
10.1	JD presented remaining items from the Presidents Report, refer document attached to these minutes for details. Floor then opened up for general questions.
10.2	Adam Cullen noted importance of including officials in simplifying exchanges with IHNSW, not just players.
10.3	Adam Cullen raised the need for more training for officials beyond the initial course then on the job learning. Currently only other offered training is high-performance, need for something intermediate.
10.4	Question on how information is distributed on upcoming Tournaments. JS responded we want to create a Tournament Director position, responsible for staying on top of upcoming dates, sharing information, managing team selections and team official appointments etc

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	No dates yet provided by IHA for Nationals DS noted he monitors communications for non-IHA tournaments for juniors
10.5	Question on how stats get onto ESD and who is responsible. JD answered currently goes through Registrar from scorecards, but he would like to formalise this role and have a few more people with access to do it on ESD. CB suggested a volunteer from each grade.
10.6	Question on if IHACT looking to adopt live scoring, noting other states currently do it. JD responded that IHV is only association currently doing it to his knowledge. However there are practical differences to adopting it here in the ACT, most notably care and security of the IT hardware required to do it at the rink. While it was noted the scoreboard controller is similarly electronic and we could follow what we do with that, there have been issues with that (it being left out after games, batteries let run flat etc), also the ongoing issues with state and security of the equipment room and theft of first aid kits mean it needs to be considered carefully.
10.7	Question on state of scoring. TM noted he is keen to run scorers training courses, and has access to IHV material to run them, noting these courses have been well received. He is also keen to re-introduce payment of scorers. Noted this was done in the past, but standards must be maintained in order to be paid.
10.8	Question on upgrades of rink – have IHACT considered trying to source trades through the ice hockey community who could volunteer to help, rather than the rink having to pay subcontractors. JD noted we have done a bit of this, but acknowledged more could be done. He noted the rink management is keen to continue with upgrades, but any expenditure must be approved by ownership so has to be properly planned and with a definite need and positive cost:benefit result, ie not just because hockey players would like it. MC noted the unfairness of government position that we can't access Grants to improve the rink as it is a private facility, yet the government pays to provide facilities for other sports, then further pays to upgrade/maintain them. Private model is actually more cost-effective for them, and ice sports shouldn't be punished for being forced to play in a private facility. Plans to try and address further in the coming year.
10.9	Question on change room arrangements for Phoenix, noting currently juniors changing adjacent to adults which is not ideal from a child protection viewpoint. Noted physical constraints of the rink layout means any solution is difficult. JD agreed this is an issue to be looked into before next winter season. Will engage with the rink after summer renovations are completed to look at spaces available and how we could manage them. It was noted that the lower change room would be ideal, but there is no way to get to the ice on skates without going through the mens toilets, so that would need to be resolved for use by female juniors. JD noted this room currently unavailable during summer due to renovations anyway.

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10.10	Question on potential changes to payments for senior leagues referenced in President's Report – will the leagues be consulted prior to implementation. JD responded yes, will be looking to do that in the new year, well in advance of winter season. Noted proposal to have teams conform to a minimum roster size and plan individual payments accordingly. Noted current system of uunregulated team size means some teams carry a smaller roster to increase player ice time, but some players end up with no team as a result and miss out altogether. We should be looking at how to maximise our player base sustainably.
10.11	Follow up question – what happens if a team cannot get the required minimum number of players? JD responded that skill balancing between B&C Grades is needed, and player pools can be adjusted accordingly to try to avoid this. This kind of conversation is what is needed in January to try and resolve all potential issues.
10.12	Follow up question – seems this model removes the ability of teams to collectively subsidise a good player to join their team (ie other members pay some/all of the marquee player ice fees). Concerned the change would limit teams autonomy to manage their own affairs. JD responded that this could still be done by paying the fees back to the player after registration, but agreed there is a lot of detail still to be worked through, and the proposal is currently just a proposal, not set in stone. Re-iterated that the intent is to allow everyone to play who wants to and ideally grow the sport.
10.13	Question on cancelled games due to lack of officials – is there a plan to prevent it happening again/ TM responded all of those decisions were extremely difficult to make and only as a last resort. All came down to last minute issues of illness/family, and due to the small pool of officials to call upon a replacement couldn't always be sourced. Noted 3 officials are scheduled for each game, but game will proceed if only 2 can make it. Increased number of officials due to courses being run should help going forward, and we are planning to continue more courses net year to grow the pool of officials. Adam Cullen noted the pool of officials was about as low as he had seen in 15 years of officiating. There used to be a requirement for teams to put forward 2 persons as officials for the leagues, but this was abandoned as there were enough officials. Due to current numbers, we may need to consider reinstating a policy like this. It was noted that games over school holidays and long weekends were also an issue to players and officials alike.
11	**Meeting Close**
11.1	Meeting declared closed at 20:48 by JD

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Members Attendance

The following non-Board members signed into the meeting.

Adam Cullen	Mag Kowalick	
Tracey Hughes	Dwaine Anderson	
Mark Murray	Jake Goodwin	
Ryan Wilcox	Bobbi Clevett	
Brandon Reid		
Madeleine Prescott		
Grace Borrett		
Kevin Howard		

Total Attendance (Board and general members) = 21