

PROPOSAL #1

MOTIONS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF SCHOMBERG MINOR HOCKEY and KING TOWNSHIP MINOR HOCKEY

Background: Approximately 1 year ago, Schomberg Minor Hockey (SMHA) and NobleKing Minor Hockey (NKMH) entered into an innovative Partnership to create a jointly operated Minor Hockey Program allowing them to run a competitive Rep Hockey Program together, covering all of King Township. The newly created King Township Minor Hockey Association (KTMHA), and the “Rebellion” Rep Teams operated at the King Township level are administered and operated on a 50-50 basis by the two original Local League organizations, SMHA and NKMH. Players from both original organizations have affiliation rights to play for Rebellion Rep Teams. This Partnership allows for a jointly operated Rep Program to be formed with more stable player numbers for the 30-40% of players interested in playing competitive “A” level hockey, while also allowing SMHA and NKMH to continue their community based local hockey programs, as Local League Centres, running fun recreational Local League Teams out of their community hometown arenas.

There were many reasons for creating this Partnership. First, the world of minor hockey in Ontario has changed significantly in recent years. Small town minor hockey Centres have been gradually disappearing and replaced with larger merged “A” level Centres. With only 220-250 players in any given year, there were increasingly very few “CC” category Centres for towns like Schomberg to play against. Schomberg was the last Rep hockey Centre below the “A” level left in the York-Simcoe League, and over the last few years, the Association has been forced to collapse multiple Teams each year due to an insufficient number of players – or require players to play at levels they were not comfortable with just to have enough bodies to ice a team. The expansion of OMHA player movement rules has further undermined the viability of small town Centres, with many small Centres like Schomberg losing their strongest players beginning at the Pee Wee level (age 11) under OMHA Passport rules. Over the past 5 years, it has become increasingly difficult for Schomberg and NobleKing to balance registration numbers and create viable and competitive teams at the Pee Wee level and above.

Complicating the issues is the fact that SMHA bordered on multiple A and AA Centres, leading to significant player losses and unstable programs at Pee Wee and above. During the 2016 season, approximately 60% of the Association’s eligible players at the Pee Wee level and up exercised player movement rights, applying for OMHA Passports, seeking to play for larger and more competitive programs.

Not knowing year to year how many players we would have made business planning and ice time purchases increasingly difficult. This, coupled with a declining level of volunteer support necessary to maintain key administrative positions necessary to run the Association – and well as declining fundraising revenues, further reinforced to Members of the Board that change was necessary in order to maintain a quality minor hockey experience for the children in Schomberg and throughout King Township.

The Process to Date: At Special Membership Meetings one year ago, the Members of both Schomberg and NobleKing Minor Hockey overwhelmingly approved the creation of the King Township Minor Hockey Association. This included approval of the King Township Minor Hockey Partnership Agreement, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the newly formed Association.

This initial step was “Phase 1” of the Partnership Process, followed by a Transition Year, and then a 2 Year Trial Period. Members were advised that an additional package of reforms would follow at the end of the Transition Year, as part of the ongoing process needed to amend the structure of SMHA and NKMH to better fit the newly created King Township Minor Hockey structure. The package of Bylaw amendments being presented at the AGM on February 20, 2018 constitutes “Phase 2” of the Partnership Process.

Accomplishments: The Transitional Board of Directors for King Township Minor Hockey has been comprised of 6 Directors from both Schomberg and NobleKing Minor Hockey, as well as 3 additional Directors appointed in specialized roles. Together, the volunteers from both organizations have invested thousands of hours' worth of volunteer time creating the structure of the new organization, drafting new policies, putting in place new financial systems and arrangements, investing in equipment and uniforms, and developing a system of working together cooperatively. This has taken a great deal of time and energy on the part of all involved. The successful launch of a new organization has been in addition to the day to day operational work of selecting Coaches, running tryouts, picking teams, reviewing budgets, negotiating ice contracts, and dealing with the significant amount of work normally associated with running a Minor Hockey Club. We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made. KTMHA Finances are stable. Disciplinary issues have been manageable. Many of the newly combined Teams are "gelling" together and doing well. There have definitely been a few bumps along the way, including lessons learned, and opportunities for further improvement. Not every Team or process put in place has run perfectly. But on balance, across Schomberg, NobleKing and KTMHA, far fewer Teams this season had to be collapsed or cancelled due to unpredictable player numbers, and the vast majority of Teams report they have had a positive experience and season on the ice. No first-year organization is without its growing pains and challenges, but overall, the feedback about the Partnership has been positive, and we believe that we are still moving in the right direction. We will continue to learn from our mistakes, take suggestions from our Membership and work on resolving our outstanding issues as the KTMHA Trial Period continues to unfold.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS for PHASE 2 of PARTNERSHIP / MOTIONS:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that Members of Schomberg Minor Hockey approve the amended Corporate By-laws and Constitution applicable to the Schomberg Minor Hockey Association (the "SMHA By-laws"), as referenced in Proposal 1 Schedule "A" (available on the SMHA website);
- (ii) **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the approved SMHA By-law changes shall take effect immediately, and that subject to necessary approval, the Membership of the Schomberg Minor Hockey Association shall proceed to elect a new Board of Directors during the course of the February 2018 Annual General Meeting, consistent with the revised Board structure set out in the amended SMHA By-laws;
- (iii) **BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Membership of the Schomberg Minor Hockey Association approve the amended Corporate By-laws and Constitution of the King Township Minor Hockey Association (the "KTMHA By-laws"), as referenced in Proposal 1 Schedule "B" (available on the SMHA website); recognizing that such amendments to the KTMHA By-laws will not be considered final and effective until such time as both the elected Schomberg Minor Hockey and NobleKing Minor Hockey Delegates on the KTMHA Board have similarly approved such amendments, as well as such amendments being subject to approval by the NobleKing Minor Hockey Membership; and
- (iv) **IN THE EVENT THAT** the KTMHA By-law changes referenced above are not ultimately approved by the KTMHA Delegates or the NobleKing Minor Hockey Membership, or should the NobleKing Minor Hockey Membership not approve substantially similar changes to their own Local League By-Laws and Constitution so as to be compatible with the negotiated intent of the Agreement Regarding the Creation of King Township Minor Hockey, or alternatively, should either Schomberg Minor Hockey or NobleKing Minor Hockey subsequently serve notice of their intention to terminate the Agreement Regarding the Creation of King Township Minor Hockey, it is understood that the Bylaws and Constitution of Schomberg Minor Hockey shall automatically revert to the latest version previously in effect on or about December 31, 2017, and should this occur, the Schomberg Minor Hockey Board of Director shall promptly call a Special Meeting of the Membership to conduct any necessary elections required for Board vacancies and to undertake any necessary actions flowing from the termination of the King Township Minor Hockey Agreement.

PROPOSED BY: K. HARBRIDGE

RATIONALE and SUMMARY FOR PROPOSED CHANGES:

The proposed changes set out above are consistent with the proposed structure described in the Agreement Regarding the Creation of King Township Minor Hockey (the "Agreement"). The joint management structure set out in the Agreement contemplates moving certain "shared services" and other labour intensive Board roles to the KTMHA level, where members of the King Board and certain paid staff retained by KTMHA will administer services on behalf of all 3 organizations in a more efficient way, helping to relieve some of the heavy administrative burden from volunteer Directors. Key functions to be performed at the KTMHA level include: (i) Administration and Registration, (ii) Ice Scheduler, (iii) Referee(s) in Chief, as well as (iv) the OMHA Director role, and (v) the Risk Management Director. In addition, with all ice purchases, player registration and insurance related matters now being centrally managed through the KTMHA Board, the central KTMHA Treasurer takes on a more significant financial role on most major financial purchasing issues. As a result of this shift in workload and responsibilities, the heavy administrative burden previously falling on the local level Treasurer/Registrar and Secretary functions will be eased significantly, allowing the local role to be merged into a single Secretary-Treasurer.

These changes allow the local Schomberg and NobleKing Boards to be slightly smaller, recognizing that SMHA and NKMHA will be largely administering community specific Local League teams. While the original Agreement between the Parties contemplated small Local Board with only 6 Directors each, the Parties have decided to modify this slightly due to lessons learned over the 1 year Transition Period, to allow for 8 Directors from both SMHA and NKMHA to be elected locally, responsible for running their own respective Local League affairs, with such elected Directors also holding representation rights to sit on the KTMHA Board. The slightly larger Local League Board size will allow more volunteers to become involved and engaged in Local League minor hockey affairs.

The primary changes proposed to the SMHA and KTMHA Bylaws in the Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" documents being presented to the Membership for approval primarily involve the structure of the Board of Directors, the number of elected positions, their responsibilities, as well as related changes to processes like meeting quorum, Board committees, dates of future AGM meetings, so that the Bylaws of the Local League Organizations better align with the newly created King Township Minor Hockey structure. There are also several proposed housekeeping changes to the Bylaws, with respect to updating Borders, Membership Definitions (to include Schomberg resident players at both the Local League and KTMHA Rep levels), etc. Proposed changes have been underlined for ease of reference.