



CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE COUNCIL REPORT

DATE OF REPORT: March 24, 2021
DATE & TYPE OF MEETING: April 28, 2021 Joint Committee Meeting
AUTHOR: Ian James, Director of Community Services
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED GMHL OR WSHL FACILITY USE AGREEMENT REPORT
FILE: 7900-10

Recommendation

That the Central Cariboo Joint Committee approve the recommendation from staff to accept the request from the Western States Hockey League (WSHL) to bring a Jr. A hockey team to the City of Williams Lake with the following conditions:

1. Both parties agree to a year-to-year probationary facility rental agreement to bring a WSHL Jr. A team to the City of Williams Lake, and that a firm commitment to the WSHL will be decided after four consecutive years of league activity and operations in the City.
2. The WSHL Jr. A team acceptance by the City of Williams Lake is contingent on the outcome of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and the Alberta RCMP investigation into player abuse allegations.

Purpose

This report is prepared to provide the Central Cariboo Joint Committee with a Jr. A hockey team facility rental use agreement for consideration and to provide additional background information on the WSHL and the GMHL as directed by the Central Cariboo Joint Committee.

Background / Discussion

At the February 24th Central Cariboo Joint Committee Meeting, staff were directed to prepare a draft Jr. A hockey team facility use agreement for discussion at the upcoming March 24th Central Cariboo Joint Committee Meeting.

Shortly after the February 24th Joint Committee Meeting, City staff received a request from the Western States Hockey League (WSHL) informing staff they want to bring a Jr. A hockey team to the City of Williams Lake. City staff approved the WSHL participation in the video Q&A community engagement process to provide the City with more than one option for a Jr. A hockey program. Additionally, concerns were received regarding the GMHL financial reputation and prior history of non-payment of ice rental fees.

City staff reviewed information on the WSHL, including concerns from the Edson Alberta billet families related to the behaviour/actions of a head coach and governance issues with the league (see

attachment D). The allegations were investigated by the Alberta RCMP and by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and their complaint was dismissed (see attachment F).

City and CRD staff reviewed the GMHL facility rental contract to prepare our recommendation for the Central Cariboo Joint Committee. We concluded the GMHL facility rental contract and our standard CMRC facility rental agreement covered the same terms in general. Therefore, we are recommending that the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex facility rental agreement, including the terms and conditions, be use as a facility rental contract for a Jr. A team

Any additional facility rental requests from the Jr. A team must be approved by management and noted in the comment section of the rental contract. For example, access to internet for the purpose of live streaming games and a request for a designated team coach room.

The Jr. A Hockey Team will be charged the facility rental rates set out in the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex Fees & Charges Policy.

The Reasons for Choosing the WSHL over the GMHL:

Staff recommend proceeding with a rental agreement the WSHL over the GMHL for the following reasons:

1. The Western States Hockey League (WSHL) is governed by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), one of the largest multi-sport governing bodies in North America. The AAU is also a member of the International School Sport Federation (ISF) which is recognized by the International Olympic Committee;
2. The Western States Hockey League (WSHL) has been in business for 28 years;
3. The Vancouver Devils have joined the WSHL and will be playing out of Fraser Valley in greater Vancouver in 2021;
4. The WSHL have an established financial reputation of facility payment;
5. The WSHL head hockey coach certification requirement is equal to the Canadian National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) Level III, which is an international coaching level certification;
6. The WSHL annually hosts the largest amateur hockey showcase tournament for NCAA schools; and
7. The WSHL Jr. A team will accept local hockey players if they have the skill set to make the team.

Discount Adult Ice Rental Rate- 2021

Prime Time - \$176.78/hour

Non-Prime - \$123.83/hour

Additional Information

For additional information on the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) and Western State Hockey League (WSHL) community, links to engagement videos are provided below.

GMHL

Video 1: <https://youtu.be/n5nedv4pPeU>

Video 2: <https://youtu.be/ONGOrI4nffk>

WSHL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xACOm8RhGMg>

GMHL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

The Joint Committee, at their February 24th meeting, requested a public survey on the potential GMHL league in the community. The below link includes the results of this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-HV5BTHP2/>

Financial Considerations (Cost and Resource Allocation)

Yes: The practice and game ice rental for a Jr. A team over 8 months come to an approximately \$40,000 in additional revenue per season not including summer camp ice rental.

N/A

Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws)

Yes (explain)

N/A

This project aligns with the following Strategic Priority Areas:

- Resilient and Diversified Economy
- Strong Community Relationships
- Financial Stability and Sound Asset Management
- Positive Community Image
- Healthy and Inclusive Workplace
- Other

Other Implications (Environmental/Social/Economic)

Yes (explain)

N/A

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Ron White, Commissioner & President, WSHL
- Derek Prue, Regional Director, GMHL
- Darron Campbell, Manager Recreation, CRD

Approved for Agenda by:

Gary Muraca, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Williams Lake

Respectfully submitted,

Ian James
Director Community Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Email from Dan Kuzmic, Repsol Place Manager, Edson, Alberta**
- Attachment B – Email from Garry Roth, Director of Community Services, Town of Slave Lake**
- Attachment C – Email from Glen McCurdie, Senior Vice President, Hockey Canada**
- Attachment D – Email from Michelle Gagno, Billet Family, Edson Alberta**
- Attachment E – Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Athlete Protection Handbook**
- Attachment F – AAU Notice of Dismissal of Complaint**
- Attachment G – Hockey Canada Policy, Non-Sanctioned Leagues**