

Constitution Amendment Form

2015

AMENDMENT TO: **X** **Constitution**

Article:
Number:
Section:

SUBMITTED BY: **BOARD**

Current Wording:

No current wording

Proposed Wording:

Possible inclusion under Article 29 of the constitution:

As there is no wording currently in the constitution or rules and regulations of STMHA and based on the above, *I propose that consideration be given to “develop and implement a conflict of interest policy within STMHA”*

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The purpose of this letter is to document a submission to the Board of Directors in order to address concerns of conflicts of interest that may exist by serving in any capacity as a Board Member of the STMHA and in other capacity.

There may be a tendency for certain members to seek nomination and Board involvement in order to achieve other advantages. By all means, this does not suggest that all individuals desire to seek a Board position primarily to further an agenda or obtain a desired or preferred position in other capacities, but it may facilitate the ability to abuse this responsibility and potentially make it easier to further agendas contrary to the membership which he/she has been nominated and elected to serve. Further, any Board member that serves in a multiple-role carries a huge responsibility which may not be fully served by acting in multiple capacities and potentially affords the Board member knowledge of information or advantages not necessarily available to the membership as a whole.

Quite often the rationale for not considering the following amendment is based on the belief that there would not be enough people to fill the roles of coaching and sitting on the Board if the proposals were adopted. This rationale is not necessarily based in fact as potentially there exists a cynicism in membership and members will not come forward as there may be a perception that it is a closed Board and may not feel they can make a difference or that they have enough experience. This may also perpetuate an intimidation factor as well.

It is naïve to believe there are not problems and complexities within our association and they are sure to appear in various communities and hockey centres throughout Ontario, Canada and throughout the World for that matter. Although many may feel strongly about the above proposal, there may not exist the desire or will of many associations



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to truly address the above issue. It is important to bring this forward in order to create discussion and awareness in order to implement policies to reduce or prevent any negative experience for any child or parent of St Thomas Minor Hockey in the future.

Hockey is a very competitive sport, and as parents we always want the best for our kids. Although the rare talent will advance to much higher levels, we know that ultimately the vast majority of kids will never experience this. The Mission statement of STMHA, which probably has similar wording within all hockey associations, is worded as follows:

**St. Thomas Minor Hockey Association
Mission Statement**

To provide a positive minor hockey experience for all players by organizing, coordinating and developing hockey programs for all age levels.

To enhance the positive value of our hockey programs by providing leadership and initiative to develop better citizens, to encourage and direct the fostering of a strong sense of community pride and participation by all players.

To develop coaches, officials and volunteers to carry out the expressed goals of our members.

The main points taken from the above is as follows: positive experience, provide leadership, development, community pride and participation.

References:

http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/eng/documents/SDRCC_COI_Brochure_ENG_final_web.pdf

<http://sirc.ca/ask-question/how-does-board-best-deal-conflict-interest-concerns>

<http://www.sportlaw.ca/2009/01/conflict-of-interest-the-sport-organizations-achilles-heel/>

http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/eng/documents/TheMythsandRealitiesofConflictsOfInterestInSport-October2011_000.pdf

The above submission is being submitted as per the Constitution - Article 25, Section (2) to ensure consideration at the AGM.

