

Niagara Falls Lightning Gymnastics Club Board of Directors

February 10, 2025 6-8 p.m.

Williams Café, 4025 Dorchester Rd, Niagara Falls ON

Minutes

Present: C. Pitul (President), C. Kissmann, J. Hammond, S. Rocco, L. Schmidt, A. Sliter,
P. Westlake

Regrets: L. DiBacco

The president called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion

The agenda of the February 10th meeting of the NFLGC Board of Directors is approved.

Moved by: L. Schmidt

Seconded by: P. Westlake

Carried

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2025 Meeting (attachment 3)

Motion

The minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting of the NFLGC Board of Directors are approved.

Moved by: L. Schmidt

Seconded by: P. Westlake

Carried

4. President's Update

a) Board member resignations (attachment 4.1 and 4.2)

The board acknowledges the resignation of Tim Charles and Jamee-Lee Johnson effective January 14 and 15, 2025 respectively. The board expresses its gratitude for their service and contributions to NFLGC.

5. Financial Update

a) Financial Statements at December 31, 2024 (attachment 5.1)

C. Kissmann presented the Financial Report as at December 31, 2024.

Motion

That the Niagara Falls Lightning Gymnastic Club Board of Directors receives the financial report at December 31, 2024.

Moved by: S. Rocco

Seconded by: A. Sliter

Carried

b) 2024-2025 Budget and Projections to June 30, 2025 (attachment 5.2)

C. Kissmann presented the 2024-2025 financial projections to June 30, 2025, noting a projected in-year deficit of between \$45-60K.

Motion

That the Niagara Falls Lightning Gymnastic Club Board of Directors receives the financial projections to June 30, 2025.

Moved by: S. Rocco

Seconded by: P. Westlake

Carried

c) Bingo application (attachment 5.3 and 5.4)

- The approved 2024-2025 NFLGC Bingo Funds Budget allocates proceeds to gym equipment purchases.
- The City of Niagara Falls mandates that permittees must request a permit amendment for any changes to the original budget.
- The 2025-2026 OLG Bingo application is due February 21, 2025
- The cGaming Eligibility and Use of Proceeds Guidelines (Feb 2024) permit salaries if they support program delivery and require professional expertise, subject to municipal approval.

Justification for Amendment:

1. **Operational Deficit:** Adjusting the budget to fund essential coaching salaries mitigates the projected shortfall and ensures sustainable program operations.
2. **Alignment with cGaming Criteria:** Recreational coach salaries qualify as a direct program expense, essential for service delivery.
3. **Compliance with Municipal Regulations:** An amendment request will be submitted to ensure transparency and adherence to funding requirements.

Motion

That the salaries for recreational coaches be submitted as the budget for the Niagara Falls Lightning Gymnastics Club (NFLGC) OLG bingo application for 2025-2026 in accordance with the cGaming Eligibility criteria;

And that a request be made to amend the 2024-2025 budget from the currently approved allocation for the purchase of gym equipment to recreational coach salaries, in light of the projected operational deficit for 2024-2025.

Moved by: C. Kissmann

Seconded by: L. Schmidt

Carried

6. HR Update (In Camera)

7. Strategic Plan (attachment 7)

Members reviewed progress against the strategic plan. S. Rocco to review the capacity for recreational and competitive programs given space and staff constraints, as well as Gymnastics Ontario ratio requirements.

Current fiscal year: Assess capacity to increase recreational class size within this fiscal year, possibly combine classes to increase total enrollment and possibly supplementing with CITs (Coach in Training) to increase class sizes without compromising safety and quality. Explore the feasibility of a mid-term session starting in March to help generate funds and mitigate the projected deficit.

Next fiscal year planning:

- Assess feasibility and requirements to introduce the Xcel Program¹, including:
 - Potential elimination of lower competitive levels or retention.
 - Reduction of recreational classes to create capacity.
 - Engage with other clubs that have introduced the Xcel Program and consult Gymnastics Ontario for insights.
- Establish the optimum class size for both competitive and recreational programs.
- Develop a structured plan and share it with the Gymnastics Ontario CEO for feedback.

¹ The Xcel Program is a competitive gymnastics program developed by USA Gymnastics as an alternative to the traditional Junior Olympic (JO) program. It offers a more flexible and inclusive approach, allowing gymnasts of varying abilities and commitment levels to participate in competitions. The program is designed to provide a rewarding gymnastics experience with a focus on sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork, and fun. The Xcel Program includes several divisions. Each division has its own set of optional rules, meaning gymnasts can have routines choreographed to highlight their individual strengths and personalities, rather than following a compulsory routine.

8. Fundraising Update

- J. Hammond updated on current and upcoming fundraising activities.
- The Konzelman Winery fundraiser has been launched, with notices sent to both competitive and recreational families.
 - Some members inquired about paying the club via cash or e-transfer rather than credit card through the site.
 - Since the club does not have a credit card, this would require a board member to place the order on their personal card, which will not be made available.
 - Discussion on whether a QR code could be included on flyers and posters for easier access.
- Preparation is underway to launch the calendar lottery.
- Fundraising Committee to meet in the near future to plan a bigger fundraising event
- C. Kissmann informed the Board of two new applications:
 - Sign-up.com, a volunteer sign-up application, can be used for Bingo and other volunteer sign-up opportunities
 - A fundraising application, Zeffy, a 100% free fundraising platform designed for nonprofits, covering all transaction fees and offering tools such as online donations, event ticketing, an online “store” for fundraising orders, peer-to-peer fundraising, and membership management to streamline fundraising efforts efficiently.

9. Facilities/Operations Update

- a) Roof repairs
 - The landlord has requested a meeting to discuss scheduling and coordination of upcoming roof repairs – P. Westlake will schedule a meeting and report back to the Board on impact on operations
- b) Storage
 - Shelving has been put up in the lobby area and some rearranging has been done
 - Board members, L. Schmidt, P. Westlake and S. Rocco to coordinate a Saturday afternoon to finish the purging and reorganizing
 - C. Kissmann to order/make a branded curtain to cover the shelving
- c) Cameras
 - Cameras have been ordered; just need to send form to make payment of deposit by credit card and installation will be scheduled
- d) Foam pit
 - L. Schmidt shared an alternative and more sanitary option to foam pit; she will share information with the Board and see about arranging a trial
- e) Front door pin pad lock
 - P. Westlake looking into options for a pin pad that would allow door to be locked during non-office hours and parents can open using pin code; need to

be able to hard lock the door when gym closed; options between \$850 and \$1,300

- f) Window in door to gym
 - P. Westlake looking into options to install a window in the door to the gym to address safety concerns (children injured by the door); discussed replacing door with a standard door, but this would be more costly as would require reframing

10. Other Business

- a) Board Member Training Compliance (Safe Sport, [Effective Board Governance](#), [Sport Governance by Sport Law](#)) – 2 members yet to complete
- b) Board Member Information forms – 1 member has not provided required information. Ontario Business Registry has been updated with all members who have provided information.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday, **March 6**, 2025, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Teams) *date changed from March 13th due to March Break

Monday, April 7, 2025 In person (same or similar venue)

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.