

474

This is Exhibit N referred to in the affidavit of Kam Sene sworn before me, this 19 day of May, 2015  
[Signature]  
A commissioner for taking affidavits

WHL looking at tweaks to player benefits

Page 1 of 2

## WHL looking at tweaks to player benefits

BY DANIEL NUGENT-BOWMAN, THE STARPHOENIX FEBRUARY 27, 2014

While the Ontario Hockey League has implemented some significant changes to its player benefits package this season, the WHL hasn't followed suit - yet.

However, some alterations could come for the 2014-15 season.

"We continue to review further enhancements to the player benefit package," WHL commissioner Ron Robison said. "But we have no further update at this stage.

"We are continuing to review these matters, which we do in conjuncture with the OHL and the Quebec league. We're all heading toward a consistent approach for the players."

As reported by Yahoo Sports last week, the OHL ratified changes to its packages at a board of governors meeting last August.

Amendments were made to both the league's education and player reimbursement policies. Robison said those topics are always on the agenda, and will be discussed at the next WHL meeting in June.

"We've made some improvements in recent years, which we think are important to do," he said. "We continue, we think, to offer the best player development experience that's available at any other level.

"With our scholarship program, these are major financial investments our clubs are making. But we continue to challenge ourselves to ensure we're offering the best environment possible for players."

One of the biggest changes to the OHL program, according to the report, is that players will now have extra time to invoke their education policy.

Under the previous policy, players were afforded a year of post-secondary school funding for every season they play in the OHL, but had to activate the package within 18 months of their final game.

They now have to activate the package within 18 months of the completion of their overage season.

Robison said he likes the deadline to activate the policy.

He added that the WHL has the support of parents and Canadian Interuniversity Sport. Those concerned believe the longer players are out of the classroom, the less likely it is that they will return.

"It's hard to take the professional dream out of the system, so we think it's a good balance," Robison said.

In addition, an OHL package would be void in the past if a player signed an NHL or AHL contract.

475

Some AHL contracts will no longer terminate the package, as a player can sign an AHL tryout contract and not have his WHL education package voided.

A standard player agreement is currently not allowed.

"But we are reviewing that currently right now," Robison said. "Providing the most flexibility for the players is the goal."

Robison said the WHL is also working with CIS to ensure players are no longer redshirted for the rest of a season if they leave their pro team for a Canadian school after the current Christmas deadline.

In terms of player reimbursement, the OHL plan now calls for a player to receive up to \$470 a month to cover expenses like gas, clothing and food rather than issue a weekly stipend. Instead, Robison said the WHL makes sure players' out-of-pocket expenses are paid for.

Each OHL team will now provide up to \$1,000 for each player's summer training expenses. The WHL does not, although that area - like everything else - could be reviewed, Robison said.

"We look at it as providing a very extensive benefit package for the players, which includes all of their expenses while playing in the WHL, full scholarship upon completion and all players are treated in the same manner.

"Our feedback has been very positive from our player and parents."

dnugent-bowman@thestarphoenix.com

© Copyright (c) The StarPhoenix