The Value of Registering as a Society

Little League British Columbia encourages each league to get incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia. Being a registered Society protects the Officers and Directors as individuals should legal action be taken against the league. Additionally, a Society can gain direct access to gaming revenues in the province. The following excerpts from the Society Act outline the purpose and procedure:

Purposes

> ***2*** *(1) A society may be incorporated under this Act for any lawful purpose or purposes such as national, patriotic, religious, philanthropic, charitable, provident, scientific, fraternal, benevolent, artistic, educational, social, professional, agricultural, sporting or other useful purposes….*

Procedure for incorporation

> ***3*** *(1) Five or more persons may apply for incorporation of a society by sending all of the following to the registrar:*
>
> > *(a) an original, signed by all applicants, and a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the proposed society according to Form 1, 2 or 3 of Schedule A;*
> >
> > *(b) a list of persons who will be the first directors of the society, in Form 4 of Schedule A, stating their full names and resident addresses;*
> >
> > *(c) a notice of the address of the proposed society in Form 5 of Schedule A;*
> >
> > *(d) the prescribed fees.*

You will need legal advice and assistance in registering. The fees are less than $300, not including any fee your lawyer may charge. (Look to your league, maybe you have a lawyer-parent who will do the work pro-bono). A lawyer will be able to direct you on what the bylaws must contain, as well as the constitution. The full Society Act and its regulations can be found on the B.C. Government web site at:

http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/S/4_78.htm

http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/S/96433_01.htm

Once registered, you will be required to file an annual report with a small processing fee, but it is a very small price to pay for the liability protection this offers to your Officers and Directors.

Make it a topic at your next Board Meeting. "Are we a registered Society in good standing?" "If not, WHY NOT?"