

BMH Spring Notes 2017

Good Day,

Over the month of May I have attended the Spring AGM for Hockey Alberta and the Spring AGM for the All Peace League, and from both meetings there is change coming this season and for the next couple of seasons after, but here are the key ones that will show the direction of Hockey Alberta & the All Peace League for the upcoming season.

Hockey Alberta (2017/2018 Season)

- Initiation level is mandated half ice games and practices. No full ice will be allowed. At this moment mandates on net and pucks sizes are not in place, but could be in the future. Ice dividers are required for games, but the Association has purchased these a couple of years ago and they are located at the arena along with a second set of nets.
- Alberta One Strategic Objective will start to be implemented throughout the Minor Hockey League's in Alberta. Step 1 of implementation for this upcoming season that they would like in place is a standard 6 tier system, a standard suspension policy, and a standard league start and end date. But leagues are encouraged to implement other future standards earlier if possible. Alberta One Strategy is designed to eventually align all the minor hockey leagues in Alberta to follow the same standards and guidelines. The statement for Alberta One is:
'The entire "Hockey System" aligned and working together to provide consistent operations for all Minor Hockey. Administration and participation areas are aligned to enable leagues to deliver minor hockey for the members on a day to day basis.'
- Provincial Categorization regulation rule has been slightly changed, in that the Hockey Alberta Minor Regulations Committee at the annual draw meeting to decide zone play downs can now reclassify a team if they deem that team is currently not placed in the best interest of the Provincial Championships. And that League play and tiering can be used as a determining factor. Example: If a team places first in Tier 1 League play and is classified as a 'D' provincial team based on criteria, Hockey Alberta can now move that team to play at the 'C' or possibly the 'B' level because their season play dictates they are a higher level team. (Section 9.1(c))

Provincials:

9.1(b) A Zone **Categorization** meeting shall be held within **each Minor Hockey Zone prior to the** Minor Regulation Committee Draw Meeting for the purpose of potential reclassification of teams within the zone.

9.1(c) During the Annual Draw meeting, HA Minor Regulations Committee reserves the right to classify and place a Team in whatever Category and series it may deem is in the best interest of **the HA Provincial Championships (League play, Tiering, Exhibition and Tournament play may be used as determining factors)**. After midnight on **January 15**, no Team(s) will be reclassified nor will any appeals be accepted regarding classification.

9.1(i) LMHAs wishing to host Provincial tournaments must make submission to the HA office by **November 1** of the current Hockey Season.

- (i) Under special circumstances, LMHAs may apply for and make submission **to host a Provincial Tournament one year earlier than the current season's deadline.**

- All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must now have Respect in Sport – Activity Leader program complete before they can be registered to their team. Basically if you are going to be a Coach you will not be allowed on the ice with your team until the Respect in Sport – Activity Leader has been complete. This also applies to all team officials to take the Respect in Sport Activity Leader before they can be registered. Team officials defined by Hockey Alberta are: Coaches, Managers, and Trainers.

All Peace League (2017/2018 Season)

- 6 Tier system based on the Hockey Alberta One strategy. This doesn't mean that the All Peace will run with 6 tiers at all levels every year. Instead of having tier 1,2,3,4 we might have a tier 2,4,5 run this year for an example at Peewee based on teams and criteria, and then the next season the league may run a tier 2,3, & 4 at Peewee based on teams and criteria. But with a standard tiering if you play in a tier 2 for the season you will be categorized with all the other tier 2 teams in all of the leagues in Alberta. Here are the following new standardized criteria for tiering:
 - Tier 1 – Towns with the top team at AA capability within the APHL league, and any from a lower tier if they choose to move up.**
 - Tier 2 – Towns with multiple tiered teams with the top team capability below AA (top tiered teams for those towns), and any team from a lower tier if they so choose to move up.**
 - Tier 3 – Towns with one team and towns with multiple non-tiered teams, and any team from a lower tier if they so choose to move up.**
 - Tier 4 – No Criteria Defined Yet.**
 - Tier 5 – Towns with multiple tiered teams (lower tiered team)**
 - Tier 6 – Non-body checking teams.**

- Home teams (Manager or Rep.) are now responsible for entering game sheets and stats on the All Peace Website and sending game sheets and ref write ups to the commissioners no matter if you win, lose, or tie. In the past winners of the game were responsible for game sheets and the team that was getting the ref write up was responsible for sending that in to the commissioner.
- Exhibition games for tiering purposes can be up to a max of 4 games. The added exhibition games are designed to tier more fairly based on the new tiering structure. And new this year the All-Peace league will be scheduling the exhibition games.
- Increase in fine to \$250 per deemed ineligible game sheet. Encouraged by league that each team in an association has 2 to 4 members that are trained to properly and correctly complete a game sheet. **Please be diligent this season when filling out games sheets as the fine is now getting steep, and the coverage of the fine will fall back on the team fined this year.**
- Each team can blackout 2 weekends in the season to be used for tournaments or other. (No league games will be schedule for your team on these weekends) The blackout weekends must be scheduled before the league schedule meeting in Mid Oct. And no other tournament can be scheduled outside of the blackout weekends until the league schedule has been issued.
- **Tumbler Ridge Minor Hockey** has been approved to join the league under probation for the upcoming 2017-2018 season. Tumbler Ridge was playing out of the house league NERHL for the last few years while the competitive players have been playing out of Chetwynd or Dawson Creek in the All Peace for more than a decade. They are looking to field an Atom, Peewee, and Bantam team for the upcoming 2017-2018 season.
- **Loon River Minor Hockey** has been approved to join the league under probation for the upcoming 2017-2018 season. Loon River Minor Hockey is based out of **Red Earth**, and is a brand new Association built from the ground up with Hockey Alberta being involved from the beginning. Team divisions and number of teams are yet to be determined. They are looking to have at least one team from Atom to Midget, but since Peace River and Slave Lake currently have about 80 members that would fall into the new Loon River Association borders these members have a onetime option to be grandfathered into their current Association. And based on their decision for placement may increase the amount of teams or decrease the amount of teams.

Beaverlodge Association (2017/2018 Season)

Key Dates

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| Sept 6/17 | Fall Hockey Meeting/Registration |
| Sept 11/17 | Start of Condition Camp Week (Tentatively) |
| Sept 18/17 | Start of Power Skating Week (Tentatively) |
| Sept 25/17 | Start of Tryout Week (Tentatively) |
| Sept 30 - Oct 1/17 | ATC Goalie Clinic |

- Criminal Record Checks are required every 3 years now, based off the Hockey Alberta system. If you handed in a Criminal Record Check this last season you will be good now for 2 more seasons before renewal.
- Criminal Record Checks will now also be required for Team Managers and Safety Trainers for the upcoming season and hence forth. This will make the association more compliant with screening of individuals involved in hockey who hold positions of trust. The safety of all participants is what this policy is designed for.
- Based on the New Head Coach Selection Policy all individuals who would like to apply for either a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach position for the 2017/2018 season must do so by Sept 10th. With interviews between the following dates Sept 15th – Sept 18th.
- Planning on a Manager/Head Coach meeting the beginning of Oct to review changes within the All Peace and to show what a proper game sheet filled out looks like.

Thank you and have great summer!

Ray Currier

Beaverlodge Minor Hockey President