



## Female Division 2018/2019 Update

Female Midget AAA Programs:

After much deliberation, the AAA Mac's Tournament Board regrettably announces that we will be postponing the Female Division for the upcoming 2018/19 Mac's Tournament, due to a lack of interest from Female Midget programs over recent years. We are hopeful that this is a 1 year leave of absence, and that we will be able to reinvigorate the interest for this event and operate again in the 2019/20 season and beyond. This decision was not made in haste, but as a Board we felt it was important to communicate this information in advance of the 2018/19 playing season so that the few teams committed could make alternate plans.

The Female Division of the Mac's tournament was first initiated in 2003/2004, to provide a similar experience to the male program, whereby Calgary would host and showcase the top level midget female teams. The first 10 years of this event were met with a great deal of success, with numerous teams applying, and the tournament running at full capacity of 15 teams. Unfortunately, the changing landscape in Female Midget AAA hockey along with the reduction of AAA teams both in Calgary and around Alberta has reduced the demand for this event. In recent years we have been unable to fill this event, dropping to a tournament low of 8 teams in the 2017/18 edition.

The Board did not feel it was viable to continue to run this event with this few teams. In recent months the Board has worked hard to find ways to maintain this event. Despite discussions with numerous teams and proposing alternative formats and timing for the upcoming year, we did not see the interest improving.



This has been a very difficult decision for the Board but one we feel strongly that we need to make. In the coming months the Mac's Tournament Board will work closely with interested stakeholders, Girls Hockey Calgary and Hockey Calgary to find ways to get the female portion of the tournament reinstated for the 2019-20 season.

In closing we would like to thank all the teams, players, parents and volunteers who have continued to support the Mac's tournament. Your commitment has been vital to our past success and will be paramount in getting the female portion of the tournament back in operation as one of the premier female tournaments in the country. We thank you for your understanding and wish you great success as you embark on the 2018-19 season.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas please feel free to reach out to our Board through the following email, [operations@macstournament.ab.ca](mailto:operations@macstournament.ab.ca)

Regards,

Mike O'Neil

Chair AAA Mac's Tournament