

2016-2017 Directors Year-End Reports

INITIATION & NOVICE – Craig Finer

In general, the feedback received at the end of the season was positive. The “swag” that was provided for the year end events was cool and well appreciated by all. They are nice reminders for little players about all the fun they had while they wait for next year. We lost a few (3) players during the season but, by all accounts, the rest are coming back.

Suggestions for next year include making regular use of coaches as the second ref(s) during half ice games. This can both cut down on the demand for paid refs and it can also allow coaches to teach and motivate when it's needed from close by. On ice coaches at this level always seem to try to be fair and helpful to both teams and if they take turns, it seems like a good solution. Young refs can be shy about teaching and it helps to have a coach out there for that purpose when the kids are still learning the basics in real-time.

The idea of smaller nets and light pucks also seem like a great step forward in scaling the game to better suit smaller players that are just learning. I think the combo will provide direct feedback and rewarding experiences – for, players and goalies.

There were a few suggestions regarding rules and guidelines for half ice games. One of those was the idea that a clear rule should be established about the use of the “dead-end” of the ice. Whether there is unused ice at center as in the case when two cross ice games in the ends are going on, or at one end or the other, in the case where a shorted ice game is using the middle, some expectation, rule or guideline should probably be setup. As long as access to the dead-end is relatively equal and fair to both teams, and the players are supervised, it might be a good way to make game day more fun and active. On the other hand, it might just also be a headache and the alternate suggestion is that the dead-end simply be off limits during games.

We may want to look at establishing guidelines for giving out “C's” and “A's” at these age groups, in the event that these questions come up again. It turned out that this was handled well by the teams this year, but the potential for confusion was there and a simple guideline would solve the problem.

We should also look into creating a guideline that helps to define how ice times and team pairings are to be rotated or shared when there is a need to do so. In the event that the practice ice times are not similar, we should ensure that all teams share or rotate whatever advantages or disadvantages exist fairly. The same is true for on-ice practice pairings. I understand that for a variety of reason this was not practical this year, I do believe that ideally, all the players should be encouraged to share ice with a variety of kids and be exposed to different coaching/communication styles. Some discussion is needed to clarify how these situations are handled before any conflict comes up.

I think a good number of the coaches from novice and initiation are playing to volunteer again, granted, some at a higher division level. While there were mistakes made (mostly by me) and suggestions for improvements offered, the general feeling is that they felt supported by PMHA's admin and the coach coordinator and they seemed to have positive experience overall.

We had a heck of a time getting enough volunteers for both tourneys, but in the end, we got great help and the tourney's came off very well, and were both well reviewed by our out of town guest teams to my knowledge. We need to start recruiting (or force participation) earlier next season in order to cut the workload and stress for both our admin and the volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who helped me and my little hockey players with the whole process this season. Pam, Kara, Dano, Kelsey and Darrell did a *lot* of my work for me and I'm greatly appreciative of all the help from everyone on the board and the teams who were patient with me.

ATOM – Jill Wrigglesworth

My first year as a PMHA director has certainly been an interesting one with lots to learn and personally improve upon for next hockey season.

This year was met with some great successes by all Atom teams in both the recreation and development programs.

Atom Rec #1 Kal Tire team Coached by Ron Egilson wrapped up their exciting season after winning the Super League Playoff Championship then headed to the District tournament in Ashcroft, March 17 to March 19. There were some concerns as to the last minute format changes which OMAHA will address.

Atom Rec #2 Johnston Meier Coached by first year head coach Steven BYRNELL finished another great season as the League Champs.

Atom Dev #1 Brand Messenger Coached by Jamie Materi also had a great season finish as the Playoff Champions.

Atom Dev #2 Game Time Sports Coached by Trevor Aubie had a strong season both on and off the ice this year taking bronze in the Apex Winter Classic in January which raised over \$24,000 for BC Children's hospital from only 6 participating teams. The team made an additional contribution of \$1,500 to the Sick Kids Foundation from their team's fundraising efforts.

In January, Mr. Wayne Stolz of Yesterday's Treasures graciously donated 40% of his profits from a Sports Memorabilia silent auction which he organized in December at the Ramada Hotel. Mr. Stolz presented a cheque to PMHA in honor of his late son, an avid hockey goalie. Mr. Stolz would like to continue with his fundraising efforts for next year in support of youth in hockey. Two Atom goalies; Jonah Tonhauser and Zack Garnett posed for a photo op with Mr. Stolz as he presented the cheque to PMHA, a gesture that was truly appreciated by this gentleman.

A huge thank you to all the coaches, coaching staff, managers, treasurers and parent volunteers for making your kid's hockey year a success. Thank you to all of you who also participated in this year's coach evaluation process. Your feedback is key to making each year better than the last.

MINI VEES & PEEWEE – Kara Ouellette

During the 2016 – 2017 season, my second as a Director on the PMHA Executive, I was the Director of Mini Vees and Peewee. Overall it was a very successful season.

Mini Vees: This season we were able to have a program specifically for the Mini Vees age group that ran one day per week from 4:30 – 5:30 at Memorial Arena. The program continued to build in numbers right up to December. In total we had 17 players this year registered for Mini Vees. The players used a small portion of the ice to help work on their skating skills and also had stick and puck development. The most important aspect of Mini Vees is to provide the players an opportunity to get out on the ice and have fun. I had mini Exit Interviews with many of the players on their last day and 90% of this kids I spoke with said they were going to play next year and that they had fun most if not all of the time. The recommendation I heard the most this season from parents was to start Mini Vees ice sessions at 30 minutes and increase the time as the months progress. There were several on-ice helpers, coaches, and a wonderful Manager that volunteered this year. A huge THANK YOU to all of the parents who dedicated their time to ensuring the kids had a fun and rewarding year.

Peewee Recreation: There were three Peewee Recreation teams this year with a total of 43 players coached by Jeff Janzen, Colin Powell, and Stephan Wiedner. I would like to give a special thank you to Stephan Wiedner who was new to Penticton Minor Hockey and stepped up to head coach at the beginning of the season when it was determined a third team was going to be put in place. I would also like to Congratulate Stephan Wiedner and his entire team and coaching staff on winning the OMAHA South Central Regular Season Banner! Each team had a minimum of 4 AP (Affiliated Players) on their teams. This provided Atom Age Kids the opportunity to play at a higher level. There was much debate the beginning of the year whether or not we should have 2 teams or 3. Like with anything there are pros and cons for every

decision but I believe that having the three teams allowed all of the players to get a great amount of ice time and allowed increased use of the AP system. We do need to put more work into trying to encourage/recruit children to play goalie as only having one goalie per team did prove difficult at times, especially since there weren't many goalies. Another issue that I faced this year was balancing the teams appropriately – we had one team finish 1st; one finish 5th; and one finish 10th – out of ten teams. Although score, within 1 point, evenly divided the teams once the players got on the ice there could have been a few “tweaks” that could have helped make the teams more balanced. Although teams want to get going at the beginning of the season, I would recommend in the future the teams be divided and then a few exhibition games be played before the teams are set in stone.

Peewee Representative: This season we had both a Tier 2 and Tier 3 team coached by Ian Fotheringham and Mike Rampone. Both teams carried 15 players and 2 goalies. The Tier 3 team was able to acquire a goalie from Summerland after only 3 goalies tried out for rep. This was perfect fit allowing the Tier 3 team to have two goalies and giving the player the opportunity to play at the higher level, which is what he wanted. The Tier 2 team finished 3rd out of 7 teams. The Tier 3 team struggled all season finishing 15th out of 15 teams. There has been a great deal of discussion with parents, Coaches and the Coach Coordinator on what different avenues could be exercised when a team struggles like the Tier 3 Team did in future seasons and these will continue to be explored as we move forward. After the season ended an invitation was extended to all of the players and parents of the Representative Teams to have an Exit Interview. A number of players and parents did request Interviews and the information gathered will be used for future reference and consideration. One issue that did arise this season where past fundraising staples within the Association. For well over 20 years the Peewee Tier 2 team has participated in a Calendar Fundraiser but this fundraiser was actioned by the Bantam Tier 2 team this season, without the Peewee Tier 2 team knowing it existed. This was in part my error as I also was unaware that the Peewee Tier 2 Team had historically completed this fundraising opportunity until a concern/question was received from a local business inquiring about the change. This was discussed by the Executive and it was determined that going forward teams that want to complete a similar fundraiser that has been with a division for several years will need to request special permission first.

A huge Thank You to all of the Coaches, On Ice Helpers, Managers, Safety People, Tournament Chairs and volunteers for all of your hard work this season. The season couldn't take place without your hard work and commitment to the players and it is much appreciated. I very much enjoyed being Director for both of these divisions.

BANTAM – Brian Hutcheson

Overall, we had a successful year at the Bantam level, despite a challenging beginning to the year.

The year began with some uncertainty with player numbers due to possible zone teams, as well as the possible addition of players from Summerland Minor Hockey at the Rep level. In the end, the zone team did not materialize, but the addition of players from Summerland did occur.

With the addition of these players, it became possible to develop both a Tier 2 and Tier 3 team at the Rep level, as well as 3 Rec teams. Although the numbers were lower than hoped at the Rec level, most of the coaches and parents preferred to go with 3 teams and fewer numbers, rather than 2 teams with large rosters. This allowed each team to have more playing time, as well as accommodating a number of goalies to play.

Bantam Rec:

1. Bantam Rec Team # 1 - Coach Kelly Spence

Coach Spence labeled this team as the most improved group that he has coached in a number of years. The team came together well, and finished 6th in league play, despite only having only 1 less loss than the first place team in OMAHA League play. During the playoffs, the team lost to the eventual league winners in game 3 of a 3-game series. A positive indication for the season

was the consistent commitment by players and parents to attend practices, games, and tournaments.

2. Bantam Rec Team #2 - Coach: Tony Orioli

Team 2 had a very strong, successful season on the ice. The team finished 1st in OMAHA league play, and made it to the OMAHA South Central League finals and lost in a very close game 3. As well, the team won all 3 tournaments they attended in Kelowna, Castlegar and Penticton. Overall, a successful season with a 36-4-3 record.

3. Bantam Rec Team #3 - Coach: Bill Keyes

Coach Keyes described the season as a "...very successful season both on and off the ice..." The team demonstrated positive growth throughout the season and gelled well as a group. Despite a slower start, the team improved over the season in each and every game, and provided the opposition with a couple of good games in the playoffs. Tournament highlights included a 2nd place finish in Winfield, as well as a semi-final loss to the eventual champions in their home tournament.

Bantam Rep:

1. Tier 2 - Coach: Greg Berkholtz

The Tier 2 team enjoyed a very successful season, on and off the ice. On the ice, the team won the OMAHA Bantam Tier 2 banner with an overall record of 13-4-1. The team continued their strong play in the playoffs, and eventually won the OMAHA league banner with a perfect record of 4-0. This banner allowed the team to earn their way to participate in the BC Hockey Tier 2 Championships that were held in Powell River. Although the record may not have met expectations, Coach Berkholtz believed that the learning the team gained during their experience far outlast the results

Other highlights - early season bonding trip to Boise, Idaho, effort and participation during on and off-ice sessions, growth as both individuals and a team, a great group of players, parents and coaches.

2. Tier 3 - Coach: Gus Cave

The Tier 3 team was a little late to come together, but the bonding of players from 2 different associations was a definite highlight for the year. Coach Cave described the season this way, " By the end of the year this split group of kids that had been rivals only months before had grown into one of the best dressing rooms I have every been involved with." This is a tribute to the players, parents and coaches. Overall, although the stats may not indicate, the team came together well and had an overall good experience.

The development of this Tier 3 team did come with some challenges due to the melding of 2 different groups, with 2 different set of expectations. Despite these difficulties, I feel strongly that it was important to provide these players with the option of playing at the Rep level. There is still some work to do to help alleviate some of the issues that came up this year, but I am pleased that an opportunity was provided, and would encourage any future opportunity to repeat this experience.

I would like to congratulate all the players for their efforts over the past season. I would also like to thank all those parent volunteers that stepped up to help out during the season. To the managers of each team, your efforts are appreciated, and you deserve great gratitude for the tireless work you do on behalf of your team. Thank you to the coaches and assistant coaches for their efforts in guiding these PMHA players, both on and off the ice.

As I will be leaving PMHA this season, I have enjoyed my experience the last 16 years. I encourage every parent to do what they can to help PMHA function. Without volunteers, this opportunity to play this game would not be possible. Look at the big picture, step up, and do what you can to contribute. Thank you for the experience!

FEMALE – Barb Main

The female program continues to move forward with an increase in enrolment and development. Our strengths continue to be great parent volunteers with enthusiastic girls and abundance of knowledgeable coaching. Our major weakness is overall numbers, typical of smaller communities. For the younger teams, a struggle was finding similar caliber female teams to play against.

Mentorship and role modeling is a goal for our program and very important that the older girls become leaders and the younger girls have role models. This year we experimented with Peewee girls sharing the ice with the Novice female team rather than a male team. Despite the obvious size and skill differences, the girls were able to warm up together and build some connections. Hopefully we can continue to build leadership into the program. It is also great role modeling to see some of our players as skilled referees.

Another success was our Junior Coaches Program. Two girls from the Midget teams helped our coaches on a regular basis. Sydney Sandrelli attended one practice weekly with the atom girls as a junior coach. Adrienne Beresford was a regular with the novice girls. This was great asset to the coaches and for the young girls to have female role models. The OHA varsity team also helped with the atom girls and the coaches appreciated the skill in running individual stations.

Each of our six teams had yet another successful season. The Midget Rep Team coached by HC Shawn Carter, and AC Dave Sandrelli and Mark Henderson combined players from Kelowna, Summerland, South Ok and Penticton. They had an excellent season winning the Penticton tournament and coming second in the OMAHA league. They lost to Kamloops in the third game of playoff finals in an overtime game. The team will be graduating many players this year so we are working on a plan for our remaining rep level players to be part of a team that covers a larger geographic area.

Midget Recreation team had yet another successful season under the coaching of HC Shawn Black, Lloyd Lindsay and Dan Blais. They came third in the OMAHA league and fourth in playoffs. This team will graduate a number of players as well but will have a strong core of players remaining for next year.

The Peewee Recreation team had a great first season together under the coaching staff of HC Andy Oakes and AC Todd Lindsay. This team came third in OMAHA regular season play but advanced to the finals in Playoff season despite lack of a regular roster goalie. We were able to AP the two atom female goalies to this team without detriment to the atom teams while getting our goalies some extra development. A priority would be recruiting and developing a regular goalie for this team.

The Atom division had two equal teams. One team was coached by HC Jason Seddon and the other by HC Don Wrigglesworth. There were some challenges at the beginning of the year with creating two equal teams. However, the teams moved forward and the process of equal division was reviewed and will be revised next year. The two teams practiced together in order to keep development parallel. Another struggle was that each team had 13 players and relied upon AP players to fill the roster. The Seddon team had a successful season with a win at the Penticton tournament and a win at the Surrey tournament in the C2 division. The Wrigglesworth team also had a good season and came third in the OMAHA division and second at the Coquitlam tournament losing in a tight game to a C1 team.

The Novice division had Ryan Hawes as HC with a number of skilled assistant coaches. This team struggled with finding teams to play. There was a lack of female novice teams in the Interior. It was a lot of work for the manager to find other teams to play against. Many of the girls were affiliated to the atom teams allowing them to develop on full ice and have more game play. They did enjoy a few tournaments, both in Penticton and Surrey and are a very competitive team that saw a lot of skill development.

We plan to continue to increase our membership through media and public awareness. The girls have a distinctive purple team color with the longstanding Ice Dragons logo on it which is

very unique. The novice team entered the Christmas parade with a beautiful float and lots of enthusiasm. Another highlight was Don Wigglesworth team playing at one of the Nursing Homes in Penticton against a resident who had played on team Canada many years ago.

We will host a Try it Out days this spring aimed at the novice age group. There will also be girls volunteering at the Loco Landing Easter Egg hunt.

It is a success that so many girls are graduating this year and have finished their entire high school years playing for Penticton Minor Hockey. These girls have become leaders in the community and will eventually come back to help with the development of young hockey players. Hopefully we can replace those numbers with young girls coming into novice this year.