



2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VICE PRESIDENT - DEVELOPMENT REPORT Presented by: Brad Robbins

The following is a wrap-up report from the 2016-2017 hockey season, the report highlights various activities in the area of development and also includes some new initiatives that SMHA is working on for the upcoming season.

Pre-Season Skills Camps

The 2016-17 seasons was the third year SMHA has offered pre season skills camps during the first two weeks of September in an effort to slow down the rush to try-outs and to prepare our players for try outs once they start. These camps focused on individual skill work and tactics specifically focusing on the areas of skating, stick handling, passing and shooting while at the same time allowing players to get used to new equipment, etc. prior to the try-out process. In addition to the skill sessions, we added a specific power skating component this past year with Val Norrie giving each player 2 hours of instruction specific to skating. Each player in the division were given the opportunity to participate in four (4) of these optional ice-time and power skating opportunities to prepare for the start of the hockey season. We will look to continue this program in the 2017-2018 season as the feedback received was very positive. Pre-Season Skills Camps are tentatively scheduled for the weeks of September 11-15 and 18-22.

Female Hockey Skills Weekend

Similar to the pre-season skill camps outlined above, our female players were given the opportunity to participate in a skills weekend during the third weekend in September. The weekend camp was offered to SMHA players from Novice to Bantam but was also opened up to players from outside of SMHA at the Novice, Atom and Pee Wee divisions to help in the recruitment of players (both new to hockey and players looking to try female hockey). This year we used our Midget aged players to help instruct and coach. This was the first year that a Novice Division was added and the weekend allowed us to guarantee an all girl's Novice team for the very first time. In addition to on ice skills sessions, sessions were also held off ice focusing on, yoga, strength and conditioning along with a ball hockey component. The weekend was capped off with mentorship games with players from each division participating together against their peer groups on another team. The Female Skills Weekend is schedule for September 16-17 this coming season.

Power Edge Pro Partnership

To kick off the 2016-17 season SMHA partnered with React Hockey and the Power Edge Pro (PEP) training system. These skills sessions were held the weekend of September 10-11 and were user pay however SMHA payed the cost of the ice rental. All three sessions (Atom, Pee wee and Bantam/Midget groups were full and feedback was very good. The sessions focused around power skating and puck handling in combination working with the PEP patented training device

Coach Mentorship Training

This season we once again gave our coaches the opportunity to participate in professional development. Two sessions were held one on October 18th and the other on October 25th. The training was done by the Hockey Alberta Central Regional Centre with guest presenters Jesse Hale, Regional Centre Manager and Fran Gow, Hockey Alberta Elite Coach Mentor. Our session on the 18th focused on "Building a Yearly Plan" and coaches were able to work through a process based on the team they had been assigned for the season to develop a plan that would focus their practice planning, team building, goals and objectives for the season. On October 25th our head coaches went through a workshop on "Working Skill into your Practice Sessions and after a brief in class workshop were taken to the ice with Fran Gow to work with our Midget B team Approximately 20 coaches attended each of the workshops. SMHA will be looking to host 2-3 similar type sessions, mid-week for 2 hours in the 2016-2017 season as feedback on both the speaker and format was very good.

2017-2018 Hockey Season

Smytty's Skills - The Stettler Minor Hockey Association is excited to announce that Smytty's Skills will be coming to the Stettler Rec Centre on September 9th and 10th, 2017. Players registered for the weekend will receive 4 on ice training sessions in 2 days to maximize their ability to progress and further develop their skills! The camp is open to players in Novice, Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam aged players. The camp is not exclusive to SMHA athletes and is limited to the number of participants it can accept (max 20) at each level so register early.

Goaltender Development - The Stettler Minor Hockey Association is excited to announce that GDI will be coming to the Stettler Rec Centre on September 23rd and 24th, 2017. Players registered for the weekend will receive 4 on ice training sessions in 2 days along with dryland and classroom sessions to enhance their goaltending skills! The camp is open to players in Novice, Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget aged goaltender. The camp is not exclusive to SMHA athletes and is limited to the number of participants it can accept (12-15 goaltenders per group) so register early.

Coach Development - Continue to expand the mid-week coach seminars by offering 2-3 sessions in the 2017-18 hockey season. In addition, SMHA has also offered to pay the registration & accommodations fee for our coaches wishing to attend the Hockey Alberta Coach Conference being held July 7-9, 2017. We had three coaches that have registered and will be representing SMHA. In addition, SMHA is sending representatives to Hockey Alberta's Development Seminar June 17-18, 2017 which will focus on three areas; MHA Development Directors, Goaltending Instructors and Coaching Skills

Mite and Novice - The board has essentially finalized a draft of the Mite/Novice Development Policy and the policy is now before the Board for approval. The policy has been established to help guide development programming and game structure during our introductory levels of hockey.

I would like to thank the SMHA Board of Directors for their support of these various initiatives and commitment to developing our participants. I would also like to thank our coaches for their passion in providing a quality experience for our players. Lastly, a huge thank you to our players for their commitment and desire to be their personal best at whatever level they participate at.

Yours in hockey,

Brad Robbins
Vice President - Development
SMHA