

## **A/B Seeding Committee Recommendation:**

**Use the EYBA Pre-Season Tournament/Jamboree to seed teams into A & B divisions before the season starts.**

### **STAGE 1: TRYOUTS AND DECLARATIONS**

- Zones to conduct their "A" tryouts/evaluations and make "A" teams.
- Zones could create "B" teams at the same time based on "A" Evaluations and final cuts etc.
- Zones would declare their "A" & "B" teams (in Bantam and Midget categories) to participate in the EYBA Tournament/Jamboree so they can be seeded.
- We are also including the option for stronger "C" teams to enter the tournament (at the Zone's discretion) if they want to see how they stack up.
- **Declaration Deadline: Sept 10, 2017.**

### **STAGE 2: SEEDING TOURNAMENT**

- All declared "A" and "B" teams would participate in the EYBA Seeding Tournament two weeks before the official start of the season.
- Tournament would be a Friday/Saturday format with shortened games of 20 minutes (two 10-minute halves).
- All teams would play 1 shortened "mini-game" game vs. one another.
- Results of these "mini games" will determine who plays in "A" and who plays in "B" for the regular season. Stronger "B" teams that do well in tournament would be seeded up to play in "A" Division. Weakest "A" teams would be seeded down to play in "B" Division.
- Ideally, we'd like to create divisions of at least 6 teams and at most 8.
- **Seeding Tournament/Jamboree: Sept. 15&16, 2017 @ Saville Centre.**

### **STAGE 3: IMPLEMENTATION**

- Based on the tournament results, A and B teams would start the regular season:
  - Boys (Bantam and Midget A & B teams) would play on Tuesdays
  - Girls (Bantam and Midget A & B teams) would play Wednesdays
  - Mix night: To accommodate the increased # of games, both boys and girls teams would play games on the odd Thursday night in addition to their regular Tuesday or Wednesday game.
  - Gym availability and access: In order to accommodate the increased # of games with B Division moving to a weekday:
    - We'd like to tap into each major Zone (SW, NW, SE, NE, SBA & St Albert) and ask them give us one practice gym slot (ideally, 3hrs of practice time every other week on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)
    - We suggest Zones consider doubling up some of their teams for practices on occasion to accommodate for this and lessen the impact of giving up a regular practice slot...it is not ideal but definitely doable.
    - EYBA would look to compensate the zone by giving them a comparable weekend practice time – at another gym (Saville or possibly a City of Edmonton Facility).

### **STAGE 4: MID-SEASON RE-SEEDING**

- Before the Christmas break, teams in both A and B divisions will be assessed again to determine if any re-seeding of teams is required.
- Bottom teams in A could move down to B and Top teams in B could move up to A. Multiple top and bottom teams in each division could be moved.

## **OBJECTIVES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR "A/B" DIVISIONS**

### **The following objectives and Guiding Principles will help us support and implement this recommendation:**

1. Recognize that all players have a choice to play either "tryout" (A/B division) or "community" (C division and lower) basketball. Some players may play in EYBA to be with friends or have a more 'relaxed' experience as they may also play school basketball.
2. Work towards having "tryout" divisions that are both competitive and developmental while optimizing the number of players and teams playing within these categories.
3. Work together to optimize the number of players participating in the A/B Divisions:
  - The goal is for Zones to promote the 'tryout' divisions NOW – before summer. Get info out to parents/players now so they can keep it top of mind and possibly gear some of their summer activities/camps toward this.
  - Zone directors could canvass their 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Mini, Bantam and Midget coaches to identify and get info out to players who they feel have the skillset and attitude to play at this level to try out.
4. Make each major zone (NE / NW / SW / SE / SBA / St Albert) in EYBA more accountable in getting their teams seeded correctly. Require each major zone to declare at least one team (ideally two) in the A **and/or** B division.
5. Work together to minimize forfeits of "B division" Teams during Jr. High Tournament season in Jan/Feb. (players choose to play in tournaments for their school teams on Saturdays instead of playing for their EYBA team which results in teams not having enough players to play a game.)
6. Share knowledge, information and resources to help us continue providing positive basketball experiences for youth.