This year WKMHA is offering a separated tryout in the Peewee Tier2/Tier 3 Division

Atom, Bantam and Midget Tryouts will follow the traditional combination of all participants based on age, number of registrants and evaluation objectives. Those will commence the week of August 29th.

In the past few years we have had certain developments within the tryout process and WKMH felt strongly that by splitting the two tiers for the evaluations it will help us address those concerns. Those concerns were, in no particular order:

* Too many kids within the ice sessions at the large enrollments (Bantam 2015/16 season)
* Far too large of variance in skill sets within those numbers especially in the contact division of Bantam where we risked injury
* Slowing the selection process and thus backing up our Tier 3 and Recreational level selections and evaluations
* A shrinking number of tryout participants who may be skilled and competitive enough to play at a Tier 3 level but chose to avoid the process from past experiences
* A difficult evaluation when judging kids who are not within their skilled groups. Not fair to both top and bottom evaluated players

**How to register?**

**For Peewee and Bantam after registering and submitting the fee for the tryout process you will be asked to submit the level in which your son or daughter wish to try out for, simply email your desired level to:**

**westkelownaminorhockey@shaw.ca** **please give your participants full name, position, division and desired level if registered for Peewee or Bantam**

**If you have already registered for a house program and would like to add the try outs to your registration you will need to email the office to have your account manually updated.**

**How do I know what level to register for?**

Ultimately this decision is up to the participants and the family. To help with the process ask these questions, what level did the player play at last season? Are they prepared to play at the level they choose to try out for should they make the team? Can they make the commitment to ice times, dryland, tournaments and overall schedule? What team does the player have the best chance of making?

These are difficult and to be fair we understand this is not easy. We just ask be honest with the answers and we want all our kids to have a fair chance to make the team best suited to their skill and desire.

**Should I use the tryout process to just get my participant some extra ice time and get ready for the season?**

No, this is not a hockey camp. Doing so is dangerous for the players and it reduces the productivity of the evaluations. If you are in question at all simply register for the Tier 3 tryout in your division and if the player is evaluated at a high level and or the Tier 2 coach and evaluators want your player to be evaluated within the Tier 2 process they will be provided an opportunity thru Hockey Operations and the Divisions Manager.

**If I register for the Tier 2, I’ll get more ice time for my participant?**

No, please resist this temptation because if the evaluators and coaching staff believe strongly after any evaluation skate that your participant should continue to be evaluated at our Tier 3 level then that player will be released after that ice time and will continue within the Tier 3 process. This is preciously why we chose this direction, to have more participants that want to try out within their peer group at the Tier 3 level and at the same time allowing the more advanced and competitive players a more thoroughly evaluated process. This allows our coaches more time and more opportunity to evaluate those players at both levels.

**Does my participant get the promised (3) evaluation skates even if released early?**

Yes, if your player happens to be released from the Tier 2 process prior to the 3rd skate at that level they will continue on to the Tier 3 process the following week. It will be a fresh evaluation and our Tier 3 coach will evaluate the payers based on those three ice times.

In the end this new process is designed with the best intentions to help all three levels of play within our association. It is designed and intended to have players reconsider and tryout for the Tier 3 teams who may be closer to their level of play, it is designed to allow the coaches and evaluators time and ability to evaluate fairly and have more players compete at their peer level. It’s designed to protect those from injury who may not be able to protect themselves if the range of play is too great. Its designed to increase evaluation time frames to give our coaches at the Tier 3 and recreation levels the proper amount of time to evaluate and sort their teams. It’s designed for our Tier 2 teams to represent our association with the best players possible through a thorough and lengthened process.

Please consider all of these when choosing your level of play to be evaluated at.

James Rayburn

Director of Hockey Operations – West Kelowna Minor Hockey