

YELLOWKNIFE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

FEMALE HOCKEY

2007/08 SEASON

Approved: 01 November, 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A number of responses from the members' survey indicated that there is some uncertainty with respect to female hockey for 2007/08. This note is intended to:

- Summarize the past and projected number of female registrants by division;
- Present some key conclusions from recent program experiences;
- Indicate the "way forward" for the 2007/08 season.

2.0 FEMALE REGISTRANTS

The following table summarizes the number of female registrants, by division, for 2006/07 and the projected number of registrants for 2007/08.

Division	Age	2006/07	2007/08
Initiation	4-6	10	10
Novice	7-8	14	13
Atom	9-10	7	9
Peewee	11-12	8	7
Bantam	13-14	21	12
Midget	15-17	25	26

3.0 RECENT PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

The hockey program for senior females (Bantam and older) went through a mid-year adjustment during the past season. Initially, a three-team female division was established but it was determined that the division was not viable. Subsequently, the female teams were consolidated into two teams which were included in an expanded Bantam division. Some "lessons learned" are presented below:

3.1 Female Division

- Due to various other time demands, a number of girls were not able to attend all practices or games on a regular basis.
- A number of girls wished to play mainstream hockey as their first choice.
- As the females which played mainstream hockey were also expected to play female hockey, the extra time demands on these girls were significant.
- There were an insufficient number of girls to maintain a viable female division.

3.2 Bantam Division

- Two female-only teams were added to the Bantam division at mid-year.
- The girls who wished to play with their mixed bantam teams continued to do so.
- The female teams played against each other and against the other mixed teams. All game involving a female-only team was non-contact.
- The female teams which included over-age players were competitive with the other teams in the Division.

4.0 THE WAY FORWARD

- Current information indicates that there will approximately 75 females registered with the Association for the next season.
- As an appreciable number of those registrants will likely play mainstream hockey (based on past practices), there will not be a sufficient number of registrants for a female division.
- Girls who are registered in the Peewee and younger divisions will be assigned to mixed teams as per past practice.
- Senior female players (Bantam and above) may choose one of the following options:
 - 1) Bantam-age players may play on a “mixed” bantam team of male and female players.
 - 2) Midget-age players may play on a mixed midget team of male and female players or a mixed bantam team of male and female players.
 - 3) Midget-age players who wish to play on a mixed bantam team of male and female players must go through the midget-level player evaluation, and meet the relevant criteria, before being eligible to “play down”.
 - 4) Female players (bantam or midget age), who do not wish to play on a mixed team, may play on a female-only team which will play in the Bantam Division.
 - 5) The female-only teams will play no-contact games.
- Senior girls may also try out for a senior female development team.

5.0 OVERAGE PLAYERS

The Association will apply its policy consistently with respect to male and female players. Accordingly, first-year Juvenile female players (less than 19 years of age by 31 December) will be eligible to participate in the Midget division. However, they will not be eligible to “play down” in the Bantam Division.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The current determination is based on the projected number of female players who will be registered with the Association in the coming year. Certain adjustments may be required if there is a substantial deviation from the projected number of registrants.