

2018-19 Atom Director's Report

The 2018-19 Atom season began with 103 children signing up for Atom Hockey. 3 more registrations were received from the First Shift Program for a total 106 Atom hockey players. Of the 106 players, 23 were female.

Preconditioning was held the first 2 weeks of October with each player having 2 skates. Evaluations were held during the weekend of Oct 13/14, and were conducted by 3 independent evaluators. Many thanks to the 3 gentlemen that volunteered their time and expertise that weekend. There were many other volunteers that weekend too. Thank you all for your help and support during the evaluations weekend.

Parents were asked to rank their preference for where they would like to see their child play: STEP League, BMHA Atom Barons, BMHA Atom House Mixed or BMHA Atom House Female. From the preferences indicated, 2 STEP League teams, 1 Atom Barons team, 1 Atom House Female team and 3 Atom House Mixed teams were formed for a total of 7 atom teams. Team practices began the week of Oct 15/18.

One of my highlights for the season was seeing the increase in the number of new coaches and managers. We saw at least 10 new coaches and managers attain their credentials in order for them to be qualified to coach all of our children in the sport of hockey. Many thanks to all coaches and managers because, without you, we wouldn't be able to have the teams for our kids to play on. I thank you with all of my heart.

All teams competed in at least 2-3 out of town tournaments. In addition, this year, the Atom Division hosted 3 home tournaments. The Atom Barons hosted Feb 2-3, Atom Mixed hosted Mar 8-9-10 and Atom Female hosted Mar 16. All tournaments were well attended despite the cold weather and I received many compliments for each tournament. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers that helped to make each weekend a success. Thank you to all 3 great Tournament Committees for organizing 3 fantastic tournaments. The attention to detail made all out of town teams feel welcome. Most divisions have 1 home tournament and we had 3. Hats off to everyone for a job well done.

Most teams organized and participated in at least 1 exhibition game home or away. Sanction numbers and travel permits were obtained as required. Teams organized and participated in Christmas and year end family skates. I was very proud to have teams practicing and playing right until the March 23/24 weekend.

Some recommendations for next season are as follows: One recommendation is to have more coaches in place earlier in October, so please be willing to indicate that come registration time; Another is to use independent evaluators again in order to have balanced teams; Finally, tournament committee chairs should be identified early so that emails can be directed as early as possible to the proper person.

The season flew by very quickly for me. I learned a great deal and I hope to build on that for next season. I had great support from my family and my employer on this journey. In addition, I had great support from the BMHA office and board members in order to complete what was required. Finally, I had tremendous support from coaches, managers, parents, grandparents, friends and even little players that smiled and said this was fun. I thank you all for your input, insight, feedback, advice and knowledge. I couldn't have done it without you.

Sincerely,
Emi Holm
BMHA Atom Director