

2017/2018 Atom Directors Report

Chris Browne – 1st year as director of Atom

6 teams were created (4 House Teams & 2 Hi-Way 14 League Teams)

Various Tasks required by Director throughout the year

Attendance at BMHA Board Meetings and League meetings throughout the year.

Coaches

Coaches interested in coaching the League teams this year were asked to submit a formal application for the position along with a sample practice plan and methodology for the year. This was reviewed by the Atom director in consultation with the Board and President and the coaching staffs were selected for the two league teams prior to team selection.

Coaches for the House teams were selected based on those expressing interest in coaching. Due to the very limited number of Coaching all individuals that volunteered to Coach a House team were selected.

Recommendation: Encourage more individuals to put their name forward and volunteer to coach or assist in coaching so as to have a better player/coach ratio and a more diverse coaching methodology.

League/House Participation

After registration an email was sent to the parent contact of all Atom players with an explanation of the two programs League and House and asking them to indicate which program they wished to participate in. Once this was received players were broken up into groups for evaluations groupings based on their choice. There were 2 groupings for League and 4 for House based on the interest received.

Player Assessment and Team Creation:

After the initial conditioning skates we had an evaluation weekend for House and League. An evaluator was hired by BMHA for the skills skates and additional evaluators were used for the scrimmages. Based on these evaluations players were ranked for the purpose of team balance. Coaches they entered into a draft to form teams.

Recommendation: Same process as used for next year.

Tournaments – Teams were advised that there would be a limit of three tournaments this year as determined by the Board. Some teams did not follow this after consultation with their parents.

Recommendation: The number of tournaments not be set until after coaches have canvassed this with their team in a structured manner – i.e anonymous questionnaire

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Ice Times – Ice time was a struggle this year due to the Winter Games and other outside obligations that affected ice availability. As per the program description League teams received a morning practice and an afternoon practice each week and were to play League games/Tournaments on weekends. House teams were to receive an afternoon weekday practice and ice time for practice/games on the weekends.

Recommendation: The program continue of League teams having 2 weekday practices a week if they are to be playing away or in town most weekends. House teams should have 1 practice in light of the 2 weekend slots they generally receive.

League Team Schedule – League teams were scheduled with practices during the week and played their League games and attended tournaments on weekends. League team games were set at the fall scheduling meetings of the league. League teams experienced a set league schedule and more diverse competition by playing in these leagues.

The Hi-way 14 league teams had a good year team Donahue(14-2) was eliminated in the Semi final against Kindersley and Team Bossaer(16-0) lost in the final to the same Kindersley Team.

House League Schedule – At the initial coaches meeting it was discussed when we wished to start playing league games. At the meeting it was agreed that formal games would begin in late November/early December with referee's being scheduled. Teams were not precluded from playing games prior to this in any format they chose, however the intention was to not schedule league games until this time. Games were played with more frequency as the season moved along. With all weekends in from January on being games.

Coaching requirements – These were discussed with all coaches prior to the beginning of the season. It was explained that a criminal record check in addition to the SHA coaching requirements would be required.

Home Tournament – The home tournament was a struggle this year. We initially tried to hold this in early December but were not able to secure enough teams to participate. Upon review there were 15 atom tournaments in the province on that weekend which likely contributed to this. As a result the director and tournament committee requested the tournament be moved to March and this was done. However we were once again unable to secure enough teams for a tournament. As a result teams were provided with 6hrs of ice to participate in a fun day/skills competition run by the coaches and parents of the House Teams. I have received positive feedback about this despite there being no tournament

Recommendation – It is recommended that the committee be established earlier in the year and that the number of teams and entry fee be established as early as possible. It is recommended that the Atom Home Tournament occur in March so as to avoid the large number of tournaments around the province in December.

General Recommendations for next year

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- Continued use of evaluators to balance teams and that the evaluators be independent
- Use 2 evaluators if possible

