

DIRECTORS REPORT – INITIATION HOCKEY 2017/18 SEASON

Preconditioning began October 6th and the kids each had 8 - one hour sessions prior to teams being made. The official teams started November 1st. 78 players signed up for Initiation hockey this season, that number is up from 66 the previous season. We decided to go with 6 teams. There were 2 teams of 5 and 6 year old kids and 4 teams of 4 and 5 year old kids. The teams were divided to using skill level, maturity and age in an attempt to help the coaches develop the kids.

Coaches meeting was held on October 27th, 2017. All the Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches attended the meeting. Teams were picked and coaches were provided jerseys and pucks to start the year. We really struggled to get enough coaches for the 6 teams.

Refs- the coaches acted as referees this season, this cut out the costs for IP refs.

SHA cross ice Jamboree - held on November 26th, 2016 at the Battleford Rink. It was a success & the feedback was that coaches, parents & players enjoyed the program.

Photographs were taken for all teams on November 19th, 2017

Thanks to The Battlefords North Stars for hosting our teams for Intermission games!

Out of town tournaments were left up to coaches to book. They were one day tournaments near the Battlefords.

First Shift- 10 kids from first shift started hockey and fit in very well with the teams.

A number of the coaches went out with Jordan Trach. All the coaches that went out found their experience very beneficial. I suggest that coaches get a session with Jordan Trach early in the season to ensure that our coaches are teaching the fundamental's of skating properly.

Saturday, March 24th 2017 was the Initiation Fun day home Tournament, 2 out of town teams, Lloydminster and Cutknife came to play. Thanks to BMHA for covering our ice costs. I suggestion for next year would be that the Fun Day be at the Civic Center as there are 4 teams on the ice at once and 4 teams getting ready to go on the ice for the next session. Bigger dressing rooms would be a great.

Affiliate players –no affiliate players were used this season.

Overall, it was an excellent hockey season & kids had a little over 45 hours of practice time. Each team typically had 2 hours of shared ice per weekend. The season ran from October 6th to March 25th.

A suggestion for next year would be that it would be nice to have a set of bumpers to split the ice in half at the Civic Center Arena. If Novice is going to half ice, they will need them as well. Another suggestion is that instead of giving a box of normal pucks to every two teams that share ice times. I suggest purchasing the blue half weight pucks as I seen the kid's puck handling skills develop one team personally purchased a box of pucks for their team.

Thanks to the tournament committee, parents, grandparents & players for a great hockey season. Most of all

thank you to the coaches & managers who are dedicated & organized parents who volunteer their time & efforts to making your child's hockey season fun & helping them learn how to play.

It was a great year. I was very excited to see the number up from the previous year. Things are looking good for the future of BMHA.

Wes Dust, BMHA Initiation Director