



2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VICE PRESIDENT - DEVELOPMENT REPORT Presented by: Brad Robbins

The following is a wrap-up report from the 2017-2018 hockey season, the report highlights various activities in the area of development and also includes some new initiatives that SMHA is working on for the upcoming season.

Pre-Season Skills Camps

The 2017-18 season was the fourth year SMHA has offered pre-season skills camps during the first two weeks of September in an effort to slow down the rush to try-outs and to prepare our players for try outs once they start. These camps focused on individual skill work and tactics specifically focusing on the areas of skating, stick handling, passing and shooting while at the same time allowing players to get used to new equipment, etc. prior to the try-out process. In addition to the skill sessions, we have a specific power skating component with Val Norrie giving each player 2 hours of instruction specific to skating. Each player in the division (Atom to Midget) were given the opportunity to participate in four (4) of these optional ice-time and power skating opportunities to prepare for the start of the hockey season. We will look to continue this program in the 2018-2019 season as the feedback received was very positive. Pre-Season Skills Camps are tentatively scheduled for the weeks of September 4-7 and 10-14 which is one week earlier due to some pressures from CAHL to have teams selected and registered earlier.

Female Hockey Skills Weekend

Similar to the pre-season skill camps outlined above, our female players were given the opportunity to participate in a skills weekend during the third weekend in September. The weekend camp was offered to SMHA players from Novice to Bantam but was also opened up to players from outside of SMHA at the Novice, Atom and Pee Wee divisions to help in the recruitment of players (both new to hockey and players looking to try female hockey). This year we used our Midget aged players to help instruct and coach. This was the second year that a Novice Division was added and the weekend allowed us to guarantee an all girl's Novice team. In addition to on ice skills sessions, sessions were also held off ice focusing on, yoga, strength and conditioning along with a ball hockey component. The weekend was capped off with mentorship games with players from each division participating together against their peer groups on another team. The Female Skills Weekend is schedule for September 15-16 this coming season.

Smytty's Skills and Silent Ice Partnership

To kick off the 2017-18 season SMHA partnered with Silent Ice and the Smytty's Skills Development Camp. These skills sessions were held the weekend of September 9-10 and were user pay however SMHA was responsible for securing the ice rental. All three sessions (Novice/Atom, Pee wee and Bantam groups were full and feedback was very good. The sessions focused around power skating, passing, shooting, puck handling and combinations of.

GDI Goalie Camp Partnership - The Stettler Minor Hockey Association hosted the Goalie Development Institute from Calgary September 23rd and 24th, 2017. Camp was user pay with SMHA securing the ice rental for GDI. The 16 Players registered for the weekend received 4

on ice training sessions over the 2 days along with dryland and classroom sessions to enhance their goaltending skills. The camp was open to players in Novice, Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget aged goaltender. The camp was not exclusive to SMHA athletes.

Coach Mentorship Training

This season we once again gave our coaches the opportunity to participate in professional development. In June, both Rory Rost and Duncan Babchuk attended Hockey Alberta's Coaching Conference which was held over a weekend at the new Roger's Place.

We also held two sessions November 7th and 14th for our coaches internally. The training was done by the Hockey Alberta Central Regional Centre with guest presenters.

Small Area Games (November 7, 2017) - Coaches were able to go on ice with our Pee Wee B team to work with a Hockey Alberta Skills Instructor who demonstrated how to incorporate small area games into their own team's practices to improve their players practice experience.

Coaching Goaltenders (November 14, 2017) - Coaches went through a workshop regarding goalie development. After a brief in class workshop coaches were taken to the ice with Kramer Barnstable (Hockey Alberta's Central Regional Goaltending Consultant) to work with some of our local goaltenders to get a better understanding of how to assist their goaltenders during the season, in practice and most importantly how to plan for goalie specific time during a teams practice session.

Approximately 20 coaches attended each of the Hockey Alberta workshops. SMHA will be looking to host 2 similar type sessions, mid-week for 2 hours in the 2018-2019 season as feedback on both the speaker(s) and format has been very good.

Lastly, SMHA was well represented at Hockey Alberta's Coaching Game Nights with the Red Deer Rebels. Many of our coaches have attended these sessions which focus on numerous topics such as Power Play/Penalty Kill, coaching systems, etc.

Mite and Novice Programming Policy

The past season the board approved a policy focused on Mite/Novice Development Programming to get ahead of the changes being proposed both nationally and provincially. The policy has been established to help guide development programming and game structure for ½ ice and 1/3 ice game play during our introductory levels of hockey and can be found on the SMHA website.

In addition, SMHA met with parents at the Mite/Novice level in October to review the new policy and educate parents on the purpose of the Intro to Hockey program, what their son/daughter can expect to experience during their hockey season, the benefits to shrinking the playing surface at these levels and skill station practice set ups.

Coach Evaluations

This past season SMHA added a new piece to the year-end coach evaluation/feedback process. After the online evaluations were completed the VP Development and President of SMHA met with each team staff to review their feedback, discuss how their season went overall and what changes they could make going forward to benefit their players and personal coaching model. While I was somewhat reluctant to go through this process with each team staff, it turned out to be extremely beneficial and it was great to see the commitment by our coaches to attend, listen to the general feedback received and ultimately discuss how their season went. In total SMHA received 112 evaluations from members which was a significant increase from previous years and I would like to thank Brett Nixon for streamlining the evaluation form making it easier for members to complete.

2018-2019 Hockey Season

Goaltender Development - The Stettler Minor Hockey Association is excited to announce that ATC Goaltending will be coming to the Stettler Rec Centre on September 8th and 9th, 2018. Players registered for the weekend will receive 4 on ice training sessions in 2 days along with dryland and classroom sessions to enhance their goaltending skills! The camp is open to players in Novice, Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget aged goaltender. Different from previous seasons SMHA has made a significant investment covering the base camp costs to and ice rental to host ATC. As a result, SMHA registered goaltenders will only be charged \$100 to attend while goaltenders not registered with SMHA will be charged \$200 to cover off some of the additional costs to hosting. Details regarding registration will be sent out soon.

Method Hockey Coach Development Session - In our continued focus on coach development, SMHA will be hosting a coach development workshop with Chris Fuss of Method Hockey. The session will be held in late October/early November once all coaching staffs are in place at all levels. During these coach development sessions, Chris will take the basic principles learned in mandatory coach certification programs and apply them to individual coaching experiences to formulate a unique developmental environment for each team. This is not a coach certification program, but rather an advanced approach to season planning, drill design, and system implementation.

Coach Development Aids - Over the past 6 months SMHA has invested approx. \$8,000 through various donations in development aids that coaches can use for practices and individual player development. Items purchased include puck rebounders, net targets, tri-pods and stick handling devices. All aids will be put into the coach locker located in the blue arena under the bleachers. The development aids have been purchased to ensure coaches have the tools to run effective skill based practices for their players and to ultimately improve the experience of learning skill during practices.

Novice Power Skating - SMHA is currently working with Val Norrie to expand her current involvement with our athletes and are looking to schedule 3-4 sessions with our Novice aged players. Sessions will be schedule for weekends in late October/early November. Full details will be available soon.

Finally, I would like to thank the SMHA Board of Directors for their support of the various development initiatives and commitment to developing our participants during my time in this role. I would also like to thank our coaches for their passion in providing a quality experience for our players. Lastly, a huge thank you to our players for their commitment and desire to be their personal best at whatever level they have participated at. With this being my last season as VP, Development it has been an honor serving our membership for the past 4 seasons.

Yours in hockey,

Brad Robbins
Vice President - Development
SMHA