

G&T Report September 2016

Welcome back to the Rinks!

Most Provincial level teams were formed last spring, including U12PP. This is a change from recent years where U12PP was restricted to the fall. This seems to be working well for our Region.

U12PP, U19 and 18+ Provincial teams are still permitted to finalize in the fall and a few changes have occurred as a result (mostly additional teams).

Our Regional teams are beginning to be firmed up.

A/AA:

Important change for this season only: **ALL 18+ divisions (A and Jacks) will be competing in Nepean as part of the AA Provincials.** This is a one-time change due to lack of ice in Pickering. Please keep this date change in mind when submitting your Provincial Intent to Proceed. Nepean is the FIRST weekend of March Break. This decision was not easy to make but it was deemed the best choice over far less desirable options.

Tournaments:

Tournament assignments for U14-U19 have been completed with very few changes outside of teams' requests.

U12 and 18+ assignments will be made next week.

The goal of the assignments is 2-fold:

maximize exposure to other teams (especially AA with assigned ranking games), and ensure that the tournament divisions are viable, and as fairly distributed as possible.

Western Region had 2 concerns raised regarding rankings. One was related to distribution (probably should have used A/B) and was resolved early. The other was a late request to change a high ranked

tournament due to travel costs. This request was denied as the team's tournaments were assigned based on what they asked for.

This is a reminder to coaches when submitting in July, to consider the impacts of their tournaments before hitting the "send" button.

I was not able to attend the WORL meeting in August due to a late scheduled business trip. Chris from Kitchener who was at the August G&T meeting was in attendance and attempted to answer questions, but please remember that this was his first experience at G&T. Any questions/concerns should have been addressed to myself and to date I have only heard these second-hand.

Of particular concern are 2 issues raised at WORL:

First was a complaint regarding a team not in a specific (local) tournament. The team was assigned what they requested, with the local tournament not being in their top 4. The team WAS given their top ranked first half tournaments. Had the question been raised in a timely manner, immediately after the lists were posted, the answer would have been given.

The second was a complaint that a team had 2 tournaments with significant travel. What those around the table do not realize is that this was only assigned after discussion directly with the coach and the both away tournaments were *the coach's* choice over a closer ones.

It is disappointing to hear that misunderstandings like these result in G&T being publicly disgraced when we work very hard to find the best possible options for our teams.

All in all 3 Western Region teams were asked to change or choose different tournaments. Thank you to these coaches for your understanding - and for your quick responses! It really helped make our jobs easier.

Regional Teams:

Tournaments:

Now is the time to be thinking about your tournaments for the upcoming season!

Look this year for a few more options in 1-Day tournaments if a full weekend away is not for you.

Plan your year and get your applications in so that the tournaments can confirm your division and start their planning process.

Player Restrictions:

Reminder that teams U12 & under are restricted for the number of tournaments they may participate in.

These restrictions also apply to the players in these age groups.

Keep this in mind for 2-team players.

U12 teams:

5 tournaments including Provincials or Regionals

U12 Players:

7 tournaments including Provincials and/or Regionals (for 2-team players)*

*this is a Western Region policy for all other divisions please refer to Sport Development.

Substitutions:

Please review "Western Region Substitutions process"

Penalty Reporting:

Please review "Western Region Penalty and Suspension Reporting"

Tournament Hosts:

This was the first year of ORA's new allocation of divisions to the Regions. All in all, Western Region hosts were all able to offer the divisions they requested. Tournament assignments were then made based on the team's rankings of their choices (for A) and that combined with needing to cover as many ranking games as possible for AA.

Hosts are reminded that their initial schedules are due to G&T four (4) weeks prior to your tournament, or three (3) weeks prior for 1-day events.

U12PP

Tournaments may be reassigned in December for the 2nd half based on tiering.

This will affect both teams and tournament hosts.

This is our second year for this approach and we will be working with all affected parties as we go through this.

Contact information:

My updated contact information is on the WRRRA website. Please only use the posted phone number as my other one has been permanently retired and probably re-issued by now :-). If calling my cell, I do not normally answer during business hours due to my employer's policies. Please leave a message or text/email, or call after 5pm. I normally return messages within 24 hours (less if possible).

See you at the rinks,

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