

G&T Western Region – Report for General Meeting, Nov. 17, 2016

Provincials

As of today, Sun Nov 12th, the G&T committee has not received the fee amounts from the ORA Board. This is a significant concern. Teams are expected to pay this amount next week and we don't have the amounts. We also need their signed Intent to Proceed, but they could be signing without a known amount for commitment. I can't speak for the coaches of our region, but I know I would have concerns with signed what is basically a blank cheque.

I am aware that they have had the budgets from U12PP (Forest) and AA's (Nepean) for some time. I am aware that there was an issue with the A's (Pickering) but I don't have any details. I have asked Brian Breckles if he has any information and he indicated he did not. I have asked Brian to try to find out when this information might be available so that we can make alternate plans to collect the required documents and payments.

Reminder to 18+A teams that Provincial A divisions (McCarthy, LaJeunesse) will be held in Nepean with the AA event due to ice issues in Pickering.

Provincial Divisions:

The beginning of the season got off to a bit of a rocky start with teams requesting changes to assigned tournaments several weeks after posting. Teams are reminded that when their tournaments selections are submitted, the expectation is that they will attend the assigned tournaments. Once the list is released, the expectation is that they will check their tournaments, and report any errors in a timely manner.

Most of these issues have been sorted out and we are into full league and tournament mode.

The A/AA league is running well with our AA teams playing in the CORL loop.

A reminder to ALL Provincial A teams to provide feedback on any team they may feel should not be in the A division. Your comments are confidential however you are truly the eyes and ears at the tournaments and have the best possible feel for your own division.

Regional Teams:

The Regional league is up and running but with a few challenges due to number of teams and their locations. There was also a lot of discussion around overage players, and, as in the process in our region, the overagers were approved first by the league (members) before being accepted by the Region. The consensus was that a player 1 year overage was acceptable. 2 years over was considered in exceptional circumstances only, and players 3 or more years over were rejected. While some players were denied the ability to play overage, almost every one of them was given options with other associations which speaks to the excellent support process the league provides.

Substitutions:

With tournaments starting up we are seeing the next set of challenges with substitutions. The London tournament alone had a total of 14 substitution approvals for our region's teams plus another 3-4 for teams outside of our association, using Western Region players. When teams expect to need a substitute, please arrange this well in advance. Special requests may need G&T committee approvals and you MUST be prepared for your substitution to be denied if it is not by the book. Waiting until the week of the tournament does not change the rules.

Changes this year for substitutions should help some teams but may hinder others. These changes are:

AA teams may not use lateral substitutions. What does this mean? You may not use AA players from your level as tournament substitutions. This was put into place due to team complaints about opponents using selected substitutes to replace missing, weaker players. This change also means that Regional G&T can approve your subs without needing to go to the G&T committee, including for ranking games.

18+A-Jacks teams may now use U19AA players as substitutes.

18+A & Jacks teams may now use U19 players who will turn 17 or 18 by December 31st of the playing year.

18+A & Jacks teams may still use lateral substitutes as well.

Reminders on Substitutions:

Players registered on teams U19 & under can only substitute in one (1) tournament per year (goalies are exempt). In addition there are strict substitution restrictions on players U12 & under. These are Sport Development rules which will be followed closely by G&T.

Players registered on 18+ teams may substitute in two (2) tournaments (again, goalies exempted).

A player is considered to have substituted if she (or he) dressed for at least one game at a tournament and went out on the ice to warm up and play, even if they were not actually played (which just FYI would be against Fair Ice Policy for most age divisions).

Goalie substitution is goalie for goalie. If there are no skater (i.e. non-goalie) substitutions, then you are not restricted by the 12 skater rule.

As soon as you have one (1) skater substitution (skater for skater) you may not have more than 12 skaters in total, or the number of skaters you have on your TRF if less.

In addition you may have a total of 4 subs at a tournament in total. This includes both goalies and skaters. This could be 4 players (the same 4) for every game or it could be one different player for each of 4 games, but the total may not exceed 4.

At no time may your roster size be increased with substitutions. (Note that there is one exception to this rule re 2nd goalies at provincials)

Please contact G&T with any questions you may have on substitutions.

Suspensions:

So far we have had only one suspension. I am pleased to say that the coach reported this almost immediately and proper process was followed.

See you at the rinks!

Nancy Nicolson-Houghtling
G&T Western Region