

Western Region G&T Report – April 2014

The Associations of Western Region hosted 11 tournaments including one 3-on-3 tournament, one pre-season tournament and A Provincials. Please continue to encourage your teams to support our local tournaments, at both the provincial and regional level.

This year we saw a total of 3 player and 6 coaching suspensions, not including provincials. The player suspensions included 2 Match penalties, 1 ejection due to excess penalties.

This is a considerable improvement from last season (10 & 10) however all associations need to remind coaches of the expectation of behaviour when on the bench.

Minor fully served penalties:

14 Unsportsmanlike – 38

16-1 Major Boarding – 5

16-2 Major Body – 31

16-4 Major Crosscheck – 7

16-12 Major Slash – 5

16-13 Major Tripping – 1

17 Rough Play – 2

16 Major unspecified – 3

Player substitutions – WRRRA saw approximately 50 player substitutions at tournaments. League substitutions were not tracked.

Regionals:

Regionals was enjoyed by 95 teams from U8 to U19. This year the 18+ Regional teams participated in the OAIC, the weekend prior to Regionals, instead of Regionals.

Concern was raised over the 7 team divisions. 7 team divisions will be avoided where possible next year.

2015 Regionals – tentatively March 27-29 to avoid conflicts with Provincial events and Easter Weekend.

2015 Provincials

- AA March 12-15 London
- A March 19-22 Newmarket
- U12 April 9-12 Oshawa

2016 Provincials

- Applications are currently being accepted for all provincial events
- Timmins has submitted for A's

G&T Review of Changes for this year:

- G&T assigned tournaments for the provincial "A" teams
 - o Well received by teams and hosts

- Would like better allocation of “who plays who” within each tournament → this has been added to the task list for the 2014-2015 season. Tournaments will be advised of the required matchups for all tournaments.
- AA and A Provincials – no overtime on round-robin games
 - Kept games running closer to on time – well received.
 - Did not have a significant impact to mini-games but did mean that the mini-games were played earlier on Saturday (except one due to injury delays).
- U12 Provincials – change to medal structure
 - U12 Provincials was changed to only 3 teams moving forward to Sunday with the semi-final being 2nd vs 3rd, the winner advancing, and the loser winning the bronze medal. This format will continue.
- Consistent Runtime rules
 - Fairly well utilized
 - Reminder that this applies to both tournament and league/exhibition play.
- Consistent U8 rules
 - Fairly well utilized
 - Reminder that this applies to both tournament and league/exhibition play.
 - If there is extra time available, time can be added to the 2nd period.
- U7 “games”
 - If U7’s are playing a “game” towards the end of the season, the U8 rules should be followed.
- Hotels – CSTT
 - Some concerns raised will be addressed with the provider.
 - Request from Western Region to ask for properties list in advance to allow teams to be better prepared on selection day was granted. (This request still needs to go to CSTT).
 - Request from Western Region to allow booking of multiple teams at the same time was not granted as this may give some associations an unfair booking advantage over others. It is recommended instead that teams use the advance hotel list to co-ordinate their booking.

G&T Motions this season affecting teams and tournaments:

MOTION: Carried D2-13-20 THAT: If a team attends more than the maximum number of tournaments as per the compliance rules without written authorization from Sport Development at U10 and below or from G&T at U12, then the team will not be allowed to participate in Provincial Events.

MOTION: Carried D2-13-21 THAT: The definitions for a Tournament, a Funfest and an Exhibition Game be approved as written:

☐ Tournament: This term refers to an event where game results will be used to determine standings, rankings or qualification for a championship, including semi-finals and finals.

☐ Funfest: This term refers to an event that is non-profit, is limited to one day per division, is limited to two (2) games per team for U12 and below and to three (3) games per team for U14 and above. There will be no semis, finals or awards. This event will not be used to determine standings, rankings or qualifications for a championship including semi-finals or finals. This event will

not count towards the maximum number of tournaments a team can attend. All Funfests must be sanctioned.

☒ Exhibition Game: This term refers to a maximum of two (2) games played between the same two teams on a single day. Participation is by invitation. There is no registration fee, however, there can be an agreement between the two teams to share the cost of the ice and the officials.

MOTION: Carried D2-13-25 THAT: An 18+ Open A University team that is planning on participating in the ORA Provincial Championships may attend tournaments in the University League Division. Results from a maximum of one tournament played in the University division will count towards the A Provincial rankings as per the chart below. A maximum of one tournament played in the University division will count towards the A Provincial Championship qualifications.

- ☒ 2 points for a win with a goal spread of 5 or more goals
- ☒ 1 point for a win with a goal spread of 4 or less goals
- ☒ 1 point for a tie
- ☒ 0 points for a win against an 18+ Open B, non-University team
- ☒ 0 points for a loss

MOTION D4-13-11 THAT: The maximum number of guaranteed games at an invitational tournament will be four (4).

MOTION D4-13-15 THAT: The 18+ Open A division will be considered for reseeding in accordance with the Mid-Season Reseeding Process that applies to all other divisions and levels of play beginning with the 2014/2015 season.

MOTION D4-13-16 THAT: The winner of the 18+ Open A McCarthy tier at the A Provincial Championship will automatically be registered in the 18+ Open A Jacks Division for the subsequent season. This will be effective at the 2014 A Provincial Championships.

Sport Development Motions affecting teams and tournaments:

- (carried) MOTION D4-13-22 THAT: All U12 Provincial and Regional divisions at sanctioned events be co-ed beginning in the 2014-2015 playing season. [Note that there is another motion coming forward which may change this].
- (tabled) MOTION D4-13-25 THAT: The age division of U19 Belle be adjusted to reflect the natural end of minor to coincide with the end of high school and be changed to U18 from U19 beginning in the 2014-2015 playing season. [Be aware that this motion may come back to the Board at a future date]

Discussion points from the April SCM's:

- Request from Western region to remove tournament fines and replace with warnings for first offence – declined. Committee felt that rules and deadlines have been in place for a number of years and tournaments should be very familiar with them at this point. All rules and deadlines are in the tournament package and available online.
- Enforcement of the fair ice policy – under development to include incident reports, warning, and subsequent suspensions of coaches if not followed (joint project with Sport Development). Reminder that mini-games are defined as the same as the “last 10 minutes of regulation play” and fair ice policy should be managed accordingly.
 - o Request has been made to move a copy of the fair ice policy to a stand-alone document under Sport Development. It currently can only be found in the Sport Development section of the ORA Operating manual.
- Change of tournament deadlines – G&T would like draft schedules 4 weeks in advance to ensure that issues can be dealt with and that the schedule can be released at minimum 2 weeks in advance to teams.
- Changing medal format in A/AA's – proposal that if 8 or less teams in the division, that the 3 team format be used for finals, and if more than 8 teams, then the current 4 team format will continue to be used.
- Clarification of substitution policy: Teams are permitted 4 substitutes per tournament. The same 4 players may be used to replace different missing/injured players. Any request for more than 4 players must be submitted in advance with full justification. Regardless of the number of substitutes granted, at no time may a team have more than 4 substitute players per game, nor more than 12 skaters (or the number of skaters on their roster if less) at any time. Substitute players who are not playing may not be on the bench.
- Clarification on number of tournaments for players in U12 & under – a player registered to a team in these age divisions is restricted to the number of tournaments allowed in the age division of their team. This includes tournaments as a 2-team player and/or as a substitute. Any circumstance requiring an exception must be submitted, in advance, with full justification for review and approval by Sport Development. Note that where a 2-team player is unable to play due to compliance, a substitute of same or lower calibre may be requested, following all other substitution rules. The normal expectation is that the 2-team player will participate in all games and tournaments in the priority listed their contract within the compliance limits. If this contract stipulates that they will only play “when needed”, then they may not be substituted.
- If 2-team players are not attending provincials, the team must provide verification of the reason(s) and also provide adequate proof that the players have participated throughout the season with the team before a substitution will be considered. The general expectation is that the player will have attended and played at tournaments as a regular member of the team following the playing priorities as established in the contract.
- Proposed change to the Substitution policy for 18+ teams to allow a player to be a substitute in 2 tournaments at all levels of 18+ (Rec thru A-Jacks). This aligns G&T substitution rules with Adult substitution rules.
- Recommendation to not allow 18+ A-Jacks players to substitute on 18+A non-Jacks team –this will be enforced as calibre of player.

- Changes to sanctioned event form:
 - o U8-U12 Regional is co-ed only
 - o U12 Provincial is female only (pending motion from Sport Development to remove co-ed)
 - o 18+ divisions to be A-Jacks, A, BB, B, CC, C
- Discussion of University division and methods of continuing support
- Discussion of University division and impact on wildcard points using current University-specific formula.
- AA/A/U12 tournament selections
 - o U14A & U16A assigning process moved to summer with AA's. This will help associations and leagues better determine ice requirements.
 - o Standardized form will be used – no other format of submission will be accepted.
 - o A pre-release of assignments will be sent to teams prior to posting the final listing for the purpose of validating and ensuring that there are no errors. Changes to requested tournaments will not be permitted.
 - o AA teams must select at least one tournament from each region.
 - o Teams must select 6 (or more) tournaments on at least 4 different weekends - where possible, the top 4 selections will be assigned.
 - o If assigned, teams will be expected to attend .
 - o “Comments” in the selections are always welcomed (eg, Ajax or Newmarket but Newmarket preferred, & then rank both the same!)
 - o Comments such as “please assign to the same tournaments as [enter appropriate team]” will be considered but not guaranteed. Please limit this type of request to the divisions being looked at at the same time (AA's, U14A&U16A, U19A&18+A, U12PP)
 - o Comments such as “we selected this one but we will not attend for yadda yadda reason” will not be considered.
- U12PP tournament assignments – there may be a requirement for some adjustments in December for later tournaments in an effort to keep comparable calibre teams together. Teams and tournaments should be aware that there may be some changes from mid-to late January on.
- Reseeding – all teams are considered on notice of review at the beginning of the season. Teams at any level may be asked to move up.

Calendar reminders for the upcoming season:

- June 30th – Tournament applications to be received by the office. Late applications may be subject to surcharge and/or refusal.
- Mid-July – AA Provincials budget to be submitted to G&T for review and finalization of fees at the August SCM
- AA, U14A, U16A tournament selections to be submitted by July 15th. Public release expected August 21st.
- U12PP, U19A, 18+A & A-Jacks tournament selections to be submitted in early Sept (dates to be confirmed)

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