

MHMHA ATOM A – Year End Directors’ Report 2016/2017 Season

Director: Mark Parsons

The Atom A division consisted of (68) players this season. Of these players, (60) of them were born in 2006 and the remaining (8) were born in 2007. There was one 2006 born female in the division. There were (24) coaches within the league, split up amongst (6) teams. Four teams consisted of (11) players and there were two teams of (12) players.

Prior to the season starting there was a weekend “get back into hockey camp”, followed by one weekend of evaluations. This year players could select on their registration if they wished to be evaluated as a potential candidate for Atom A or just Atom B. The evaluation weekend was September 24/25. With the revised registration process for both Atom divisions, (67) 2006 skaters, (7) 2006 goalies, (44) 2007 skaters and (8) 2006 goalies attended the Atom A evaluation weekend. Six evaluators were on hand for the entirety of the weekend and their averaged evaluation scores determined the placement of the players and the subsequent A/B split.

The teams were selected by the coaches through a draft on September 27, 2016. Each coach was allowed to specify only one assistant coach, and all other on ice help was selected during the draft. The draft was setup to ensure even teams for the year, and for the most part this was achieved.

The season ran from evaluations on September 24/25th to the end of playoffs on March 26th, 2017. The playoffs were of a round robin format, where every team played each other once. After this a ranking was determined and each team played in a final game. The Atom A home tournament was a great success and many teams/parents had nothing but positive comments to say about its’ organization and format.

The continued partnership between Medicine Hat Minor Hockey and Coaches Edge was met again with positive comments and participation from the divisions’ coaches. Changing the Platinum Star Power Skating sessions back to an individual team format, was equally met with positivity from both coaches and parents. The World Pro facilitated goalie clinics twice a month, was another positive development tool that goalies/parents utilized frequently throughout the season. The YMCA dryland training did see a small drop off in attendance this year compared to the previous season, but those who attended their teams’ slots enjoyed the sessions.

Points for consideration for next season:

- This season, a first year player had to evaluate in the top 30% of all skaters to make the Atom A division. This percentage should be modified and increased slightly for next season to hopefully close the skill gap within the entire division.
- The number of players on each team should be increased by 2-3.

In Summary, I believe that this season was a success. Many players saw great improvement and development throughout the year, while keeping fun as the driving force behind the year. As always, each season is only as strong as its volunteers, and it was evident this year that many good people stepped up and filled necessary positions to make the year what it was. Thank you to all on be-half of our hockey players,

Mark Parsons
(Atom A Director)