

## Novice Minor Division (1<sup>st</sup> Year Players) – Year End Director’s Report

### **2018 – 2019 Season**

Director: Curtis Presber

This year the Novice Minor division consisted of 84 players over 5 traditional house style teams and one all-female team. MHMHA welcomed in 2 teams from Irvine Association and we had an 8-team house league.

The season kicked off September 15<sup>th</sup> weekend with a skills skate, followed up with the September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> weekend evaluations. After the evaluations, the teams were then drafted using the individual performance ranking to create as balanced of teams as possible. The first practices of the season started off on September 30<sup>th</sup> when we had our P3 consultants in town to guide the coaches through their development model that MHMHA has been using successfully for a number of years now.

This season was the first season of full transition to the Hockey Alberta mandated Novice half-ice format implemented for the 1<sup>st</sup> year Novice players. Collectively we worked together as coaches, officials, parents and Board members to make this transition as successful as possible. There were some challenges with the teams being larger in roster size to facilitate the gameplay format suggestion. We worked with the officiating to help them mold their model to work with this format. The Association purchased custom built ½ ice dividers to ensure that the game play felt authentic and player safety was maintained. Overall the gameplay proved to provide equal opportunity for development, ‘puck-touches’ were high for all, the players were all challenged to improve equally and the fun level was very high.

The season wrapped up on the March 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend with successful home tournament. This year’s tournament was an 8 Team Tournament, with all Medicine Hat teams participating as well as one of the Irvine teams and a team from Strathmore. A tremendous volunteer group effort went into this tournament and it once again proved to be very popular. Next year as the rest of the province fully transitions to ½ Ice Novice gameplay, there will be greater opportunities to expand this tournament again.

**P3** coaching tools were implemented for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row into the Novice division and the feedback was very positive from the coaches. **World Pro Goaltending** clinics were extremely well received by this age group with the goaltending specific clinic working with these kids at a crucial age where they are intrigued to learn the different aspects of this position. **Platinum Power Skating** was awarded the power skating instruction that was made available to the teams periodically throughout the season as well.

Thank you to all of the coaches, parents and volunteers that worked so hard to see that this season was such a great success!

Sincerely,

Curtis Presber

MHMHA Novice A Director