

2019-20 Midget City Director Report

The 2019-20 Midget City Hockey Season overall seemed to be very successful from a director's point of view albeit shortened at the end due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the beginning, my goals for the Midget City League this year were to:

- Be fun for the kids
- Continue to develop the younger kids through some practices, games and good coaching so that they can enjoy the game in the years regardless of what level they play
- Allow the older kids to only play games.
- Provide good mentorship from a group of coaches who understood the impact that good leadership has in helping shape these young men & women into good adults
- Create good team environments so that our children become "Leaders through the enjoyment of hockey"
- Try to schedule it so that players would not have to miss too many other sporting activities so often
- Make the teams as even as possible while having half the teams travel and practice a bit more than the other 2 teams who only played games.

The League

- We had 4 teams (Green, Benders, Knights, & Wolverines) each consisting of consisting of 12 or 13 skaters & 1 goalie each.
- In total, there were 54 players who played (29 1st year players & 11 2nd Year Players & 14 3rd year players)
- We had 53 boys and 1 girl
- Ice Times this year were generally as such:
 - o Mondays (Occasionally)
 - o Tuesdays (1 or 2 ice times)
 - o Thursdays (1 or 2 ice times)
 - o Sunday evening (2-3 ice times)
- Our ice scheduler tried to keep no set practices or games on Fridays or Saturdays to allow more kids to play school sports which worked well
- Almost all ice times were shared with another team but there were some full ice practices
- I instituted full ice practices shared by 2 teams together about 2 times throughout the season but gave full ice single team practices occasionally.
- At the beginning, I scheduled all of the teams with the same number of games and added practices to those teams that wanted them. As the season went on, the feedback that I received from Green and the Benders was that they would like to play each other more while the Knights and Wolverines practiced. In the end, the breakdown of ice was reasonable as the cost of game to Minor Hockey is almost twice that of a practice due to the referee costs being just over \$100 per game.
- My other concern was that Green & the Benders would develop too much of a rivalry and this did happen which did result in more suspensions. But in the end, it worked out okay despite not being able for each team to play their final 4 games of the playoffs.
- The breakdown of ice was as follows:

Totals	Green	Benders	Knights	Wolverines
Games (1h 15min)	37	35	30	30
Preseason Games	5	5	5	5
Home Tournament Games	0	0	0	0
Practices	0	0	14	14
Total Games	42	40	35	35
Total Practices	0	0	14	14

Coaching & Managers

A big thank you to all coaches and managers who put in a tremendous amount of time in making our league successful. Having a group of people who were so committed to the kids made this year very enjoyable for myself and I thank them all for their volunteer time. Having coached at just about every level of rep and city hockey, I believe that this level can be one of the most difficult. There seems to be very few other divisions where the skill level and commitment levels of the players & parents is very widespread. Some of it because of other commitments/sports as well as other reasons. There were also a few discipline issues this year that were handled by our Code & Conduct director (Blair Velichko) and I thank him for that. We will await the feedback from the surveys to see how our parents felt that our coaches did. I strongly suggest that earlier levels do a better job of training more coaches so that we don't run out of people willing to do it come Midget.

Creating Even Divisional Play

This year, we tried to use a collective team approach to creating even teams (ie. No draft). I've discovered that drafts are simply about one coach trying to outwit another coach which unfortunately happens in that scenario. There were a total of 10 preseason games that were used to even out the skill level as best as possible. But we also had to take into account that 2 of the teams would travel a bit more and have practices (mostly younger players) while the other 2 would play only games (mostly older players). Some preliminary teams were made up on weekend one and then modified on weekend two. All of the coaches met in a room for 2 long meetings as we also tried to sort out who was coaching with who and what players would be with what coaches. Trying to make everyone be honest about players is not always the easiest, however, if all of the coaches didn't agree, we wouldn't let a player play on a certain team. It will never be perfect and the one modification to next year is a preliminary survey to see what the appetite is for practices vs. games.

Surveys

Will be sent out in the upcoming weeks

Problems Encountered This Year

- This year, there were a few more discipline issues this year when compared to last year. It was a privilege to work with Blaire Velichko who was kept busy at times by our league. However, it was nice to see these issues handled swiftly.

Changes That I feel would benefit City League

- Allow team to team affiliation (instead of player) with Bantam City League. This became too onerous of task to get all of the signatures by every person needed.
- Get Novice, Atom, PeeWee & Bantam Levels to develop more coaches so that we have enough at Midget City League as we need 2-3 coaches per team
- I made mistakes by not giving Green & the Benders a few more games earlier on but corrected it as the season went on
- Adding a tournament to Midget City League which used to happen in the past
- Having more clarity with the affiliation process. Having this outlined in a directors/coaches/managers manual would be ideal.
- Having more players play would give us a bigger league which would mean easier scheduling and less rivalries as you wouldn't play the same team as often
- Adding a preseason survey prior to evaluations

Final Notes

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help in any capacity this year. It's not easy putting in your time to try and better our kids. I want to also thank all of our coaches, managers, tournament volunteers, as well as other MHMHA volunteers and administration who put a lot of work into trying to give our kids a good hockey season. I look forward to as many people's feedback as possible so that next year can be improved further. I hope that everyone has a good summer.

Sincerely,

Nick Douvis (Midget City Director)