



MEDICINE HAT
MINOR HOCKEY

Novice– Year End Director’s Report

2019 – 2020 Season

Director: Kristian Danroth

MHMHA Novice consisted of 189 players. Aligning with the P3 methodology MHMA Novice had an A & B division to provide even competition and optimal development opportunity. In the summer of 2019 Redcliff & Irvine indicated wanting to work with our Novice division and each association indicated that they would bring an A & B team to our division. MHMHA then determined that we would have 6 A teams from MH & 6 B to create even numbers of 8 teams for each division. Our top 90 evaluated players were sent to the A division and spread evenly over 6 MH teams. Our B division had 5 mixed teams and one all-female team. Two days after our Novice A draft I was informed that Redcliff was no longer providing a Novice A team. We welcomed in the 3 teams from Redcliff & Irvine Association but would we have known Redcliff was not submitting an A team our numbers would have been readjusted to more efficiently utilize our limited ice times.

Ice times were Saturdays and Sundays along with some 4pm weekday ice times. The weekday ice times were not originally available for Novice and positioned as extra ice that teams/players could utilize if they are available but not mandatory as it’s a tough time for many families to attend.

The season kicked off September 21st & 22nd with evaluations. We had great participation from many parents who volunteered to run the front table, coaches, evaluators.... After the evaluations, the teams were then drafted by coaches using the individual performance ranking to create as balanced of teams as possible. Due to our evaluations & balanced approach each team as closely matched and competitive within their division. Evaluations are never perfect but after walking through it there are a couple hiccups we experienced that we can improve upon:

1. A miscommunication between myself and the office staff lead to office staff misinforming some parents about registering for Nov B instead of Nov A.
2. I was hoping to have 3 ice times spread out over 2 weekends to allow for further evaluating. Due to a lack of city ice our ice times were cut too 2.

Novice A & B were evaluated on September 21st & 22nd. Evaluators recognized 6 players from Novice B who should be moved to Nov A evaluations. I believe the evaluation placements were a success but the registration miscommunication needs to be better communicated better in future years.

This season was the 2nd season of full transition to the Hockey Alberta mandated Novice half-ice format implemented for the Novice players. Collectively we worked together as coaches, officials, parents and Board members to make this year as successful as possible. There were some challenges with double booking dressing rooms, officiating, goalie gear, goalie storage at the Kin, and facilitating the gameplay format suggestion. We worked with the officiating to help them mold their model to work with this format. The Association purchased our 2nd set of 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 8th weekend. This year's tournaments sold out for both the A & B tournaments with 16 teams for each tournament. A tremendous volunteer group effort went into this tournament and it once again proved to be very popular.

P3 coaching tools were implemented for the 5th 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,

Kristian Danroth

MHMHA Novice Director