



SASKATCHEWAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

#2 - 575 Park Street, Regina, SK S4N 5B2
Phone: (306) 789-5101 • Fax: (306) 789-6112
Website: www.sha.sk.ca

March 29, 2019

Memorandum

To: SHA Board of Directors
From: Kelly McClintock
Re: Zone 4 Meeting Feedback

There were twenty-five (25) people present representing eleven (11) MHA's at the Zone 4 Meeting in Yorkton on Thursday, March 28, 2019. The communities represented were;

Melville, Balcarres, Foam Lake, Yorkton, Kamsack, Ituna, Canora, Norquay, Langenburg, Preeceville and Whitewood.

1. SHA Initiation Program Provincial standard

Please provide your opinion of the SHA Board of Directors Provincial Standard that has been created.

- Like the idea and purpose behind it. Its been finally accepted and look forward to building the program further.
- It's fine, we should be stressing way more skill development.
- Agree/Like it – 12
- Development/Skill focus along with coach mentors is beneficial for all.
- Want to implement the standard information in coaches packages for all new coaches and families to review.
- Like half ice better; don't like cross ice; don't like blue pucks.
- Happy to have a clear set of standards
- I feel the IP Program is working well. Real good for small kids to play on the smaller surface.
- Excellent. Promotes skill development and puck touches which in turn fosters having fun.
- I think we are moving in the right direction. The increase we've seen in numbers has been very positive. The mentor program is a huge asset/resources for coaches and Associations. It's the change in culture for coaches/parents is the greatest hurdle to overcome. I think the standard is on point.
- Seems decent but again mentorship of coaches needs to improve – teaching skills, skills and more skills.

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- Love the direction IP hockey is going, taking the focus off of games and onto skating/skill development.
- I see fairly one-sided play. The same players being involved or uninvolved in the play. I would like to see some official regulations and enforcement of net size, cross vs half, puck use, coach involvement. As every place we went this year was different.
- Blue pucks don't help anything. Use ½ half ice not cross ice. Keeps kids moving up and prepared for next level.

2 SHA Novice Program Provincial Standard

Please provide your opinion of the SHA Board of Directors Provincial Standard that has been created.

- Will be interesting but think once we have 1 year under our belt it will be easier to grasp for some.
- Not for Novice half ice along with free for all, no players on bench.
- Use little nets especially to help develop accuracy and creates a challenge. Focused on skill and development. Also need to focus on rules of game for players moving up.
- I personally feel that moving the age groups and let them stay in IP longer and leave Novice but have 8 and 9-year old's and have only two-year Midget. But if ages are not changing, I am all for starting them off and coaching them on smaller ice.
- ½ ice will still be a hard sell, but it will work, again start with skill and develop the game.
- Good – 14
- Will be an adjustment but understandable. Skill focus should be front and center but getting coaches/parents on board with this may be a challenge.
- Carded in season would be awesome.
- Hope more coaches get involved and on board with it.
- Follow up and make sure Associations are complying.
- Whole season should be played half ice – no exceptions. Fines where applicable.
- Excellent. Simply a step up and a continuation of IP.
- The novice standard is appropriate, and I think it will produce some very positive outcomes. Again, I think it's the coaching of coaches that needs more development. There are still so many "old school" thinkers that don't see the benefit of these standards and yet not enough volunteers that Associations can be super picky about who they have coaching.
- Not sure. Will see how this plays out this year. A change of mentality must occur but again, I think some of the rules are over regulation.
- Allows more opportunity to work on skills versus one player doing it all.
- I do like the idea of building skills, preach heavy to start and back load games. I think the same could be done in full ice vs moving to half ice.
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3. Female Development model

Please provide your opinion of the SHA Board of Directors approved Female Development Model that has been put in place to date?

- I didn't like it because we were the add team out, you want to promote and now we have 1 less option in our area.
- Trying hard to promote female hockey and will continue to do so. Hurt really to lose a team. Don't agree with how it was announced but do understand.
- In favor/Good – 13
- Going in the right direction but be open minded every year.
- As long as it keeps growing the Female game.
- As numbers grow over the years may have a need for bigger leagues.
- Not many female players in Zone 4. A tough one but the statistics proved it had to be done.- 2
- I had reservations but having questions answered and seeing the numbers increase back the model. I'm hoping the young "all girl" teams are being developed to allow girls to play both boys and girls is a great balance.
- I still think more insight needed to be done as the Parkland Region was trying so hard to get this up and running, as well as helping push female hockey in area.
- Could look at certain zones to add teams to fill gaps in the map.
- There is a hole in East Central Sask. where a Bantam AA team could be located.
- Allowing the second team is huge in developing bonds to increase chances for opportunity and to build lasting relationships to keep females in hockey.
- Limits girls in our area to have to move significant distance to play their level. Financial strain for families. Emotional stress greater.

4. Male Midget Program Proposal

Please provide your opinion of the proposed Male Midget Program

Midget AAA

- It's a way to eliminate a team if wanted, if you want to make a strong league then cut deep and make it high level.
- Review is necessary and will be interesting to see how it all pans out and what our neighbors will expect from us.
- Agree with proposal – 9
- Program has to be cleaned up.

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- Not sure why must remove a team. Just add another team if there is enough talented kids in area. Why not expand?
- Teams need to be located where the players are.
- Move one team out (Beardys) and add Weyburn/Estevan

Midget AA

- To apply is fine, but if you are looking at a Midget 15, then again, we will lose our team, as Yorkton will have a AA and a AAA. We could hope at best for the midgets.
- Would like to see the Midget AA teams left for those who want in, unless you want a 15 team.
- Agree – 11
- I think this is functioning well.
- Probably need to look at reducing the number of teams to coincide with the AAA Programs.
- May need bigger centers to attract kids.

Midget 15

- Great/Good – 14
- Three-year midget division is every wide range to deal with.
- Great opportunity for those who want it and a good opportunity for those 15-year old's.
- No – 1
- Terrific option in conjunction with the other Midget programs.
- The proposal seems like its move centered around adding places to play for city programs.

5. Do you agree with the Accelerated Player Process? What other comments do you have regarding it?

- Yes – 20
- Keep age appropriate players.
- But saying that the team that wants that kid should make the case for them to play, not SHA decision if kids good enough or not.
- I am still a big believer of playing in skill sets vs age groups. Everyone develops and matures at much different rates and time.
- If a kid is good at 14, he will be good at 15 too.

6. What are your opinions on the following Hockey Playing Rule/Registration Regulation Proposals;

Mandatory use of Helmets on Coaches?

- Yes – 17
- Yes at least for Atom and below

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- Get them better, faster.
- We will get used to it. We should do it, its just a cultural change that needs to happen.
- Probably a good an idea but why force things.
- Own risk.
- I like wearing my ball cap.
- Would be very hard to mandate – already hard to retain coaches in smaller communities may be another deterrent rather than a positive.
- Association based rules/regulations.
- No helmets for coaches, kids don't take you serious.

Sanctioned Exhibition Games counting towards Suspensions?

- No, unless game was prescheduled.
- Only if booked in advance - 8
- Yes – 12
- No - 2
- As long as not abused by coaches for trouble.
- Encourages clean play.

Minor Provincial Playoff Modified Best of Three Series?

- Yes – 18
- 2 game total points adds s much pressure if game 1 is a blowout.
- No – might get a lot of game 2 thrown to get to the mini game.
- Better than 2 game total not as good as best of three.
- Love it. Terrific way to eliminate a terrible game in a Provincial Series.
- Also encourages clean play.
- Still would like best of 3 as we all have off days.
- Best idea ever! May keep kids engaged in close 2nd game instead of thinking about goal differential.
- 2 game total is fine.

No icing during short-handed situations?

- No - 5
- Unsure - 2
- Yes – 11
- Very Interesting. - 2
- Could you make over your blue line you can dump it in?
- Promotes creativity.

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- Never thought about it but it is a great point! It would encourage the focus on skills and creativity which is obviously lacking.
- Kids should be coached to make plays and use their skills.
- Would hopefully result in players and teams being more aware of their actions and hopefully more discipline implemented on the bench.
- Valid point but will require more thought for an official opinion.

Player who is injured and the opposition receives a five-minute major and GM, that injured player not being able to return until the major penalty is served.

- Player should not be allowed on the ice for either the 5 or 10 minutes.
- Agree – 20
- Bench minor assigned if not followed.
- Disagree – 1
- We underestimate toughness of some kids.
- Questionable.
- This would need a lot of education across the Board.

7. Any Other Comments on any Topics?

- Allow Atom Tier 1 in rural communities!! And allow players within the radius to come.
- Good Meeting.
- Still think we need to be more open and proactive! The generation out there is changing and we as an Association should be ahead of the curve. Parents will do whatever it takes for their children.
- Provincials for girls not playing AA. Not all teams are A caliber that play in the A league.