



## MINOR HOCKEY SEASONAL STRUCTURE WORKGROUP

### Terms of Reference

Drafted – February 2019

#### BACKGROUND

Over the past twenty years the minor hockey season has shifted slightly, expanding the season to now encompass most of September and to wrap up for most teams in February. In order to evaluate this current structure, the Minor Leagues Committee and Minor Regulations Committee have initiated discussions related to the seasonal structures within 'tiered' minor hockey. By gathering feedback from MHA's as well as parents and coaches, Hockey Alberta has identified that the minor hockey system has various inconsistencies in the length of the season.

As the governing body for amateur hockey in Canada, Hockey Canada has engaged in a process to provide leadership and guidance with respect to what they believe to be the proper player 'pathway' for minor hockey aged players. These discussions have resulted in a refreshed Initiation model, a new Novice hockey model and, most recently, some new non-negotiables' to be implemented at the Atom division in the 2020-2021 season.

#### Non-Negotiables for Atom

- No Tryouts prior to or during the first week of school;
- Must provide a minimum of 4 practices / skills sessions prior to formal evaluations starting;
- Must provide a minimum of 3 formal tryout / evaluation sessions;
- Must provide a period of development time following team selection and prior to the start of the regular season;
- Must utilize tournament style playoffs rather than elimination rounds.

#### PURPOSE

The workgroup shall be charged with evaluating the current processes and structures, reviewing the new national criteria and developing recommendations for change to efficiently and effectively implement a new Seasonal Structure for all 'Tiered' Minor Hockey (Atom – Midget). This shall be done with proper process and consultation of the member MHA's and stakeholders involved in the respective levels of hockey.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals and objectives are based on the direction derived from the Hockey Canada Strategic Plan, the Hockey Alberta Strategic Plan and the nationally mandated player pathway guidelines. Specifically:

- Review the current practices for seasonal structure utilized by the members and/or leagues;
- Review all national mandates and recommendations;
- Consult member MHA's and relevant stakeholders regarding potential change;
- Identify ideal start dates for development, tryouts and regular season;
- Identify ideal end dates for regular season and playoffs/provincials;
- Evaluate current league scheduling processes and make recommendations on the use of 'Showcase Weekends' as opposed to the standard single game scheduling;
- Identify an ideal 'Tiered' Minor Hockey Playoff structure;
- Determine the maximum number of games to be played in a season (by level);
- Determine if, and when, seasonal breaks should take place during the season;
- Make recommendations on Ice Allocation guidelines (practice length, times of day used per Division, etc.);
- Make recommendations on travel times by level.



## **MINOR HOCKEY SEASONAL STRUCTURE WORKGROUP**

### **DECISION MAKING / AUTHORITY**

The workgroup will either reach consensus or hold a vote of the members in attendance on each subject at hand. Each decision will be compiled into the final report for the CEO (or designate) as recommendations.

### **REPORTING**

The workgroup is under the authority of the CEO and shall report in such a manner. All meetings will have notes kept and those will be submitted to the CEO (or designate) as information. The workgroup is tasked with compiling a final report that will identify any and all recommendations for change, as well as the rationale supporting those recommendations.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Meetings will be held from time to time, as needed, via conference call or in person. Through the staff lead, the workgroup shall determine a meeting schedule and plan to meet as many times as deemed necessary prior to May of 2019.

### **COMPOSITION**

All delegates will be appointed by the CEO and the workgroup shall remain in place until they have fulfilled the purpose as set out herein. The workgroup will consist of the following positions:

- One (1) representative from Hockey Edmonton;
- One (1) representative from Hockey Calgary;
- One (1) representative from an MHA with 500+ registered players;
- One (1) representative from an MHA with 200<500 registered players;
- One (1) representative from an MHA with <200 registered players;
- Staff members shall be appointed to lead the committee on behalf of the CEO;
- From time to time, staff may use other individuals to provide information, facilitate sessions, or collaborate with the workgroup.