



NON-SANCTIONED HOCKEY WORKGROUP

Terms of Reference

Drafted – February 2019

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years the scope of minor hockey has changed within Alberta with the addition of 'competing' programs that are not registered by Hockey Alberta. The programs have gained momentum by promoting themselves as an alternative to minor hockey that provides choice in programming, a different schedule, and in some cases a better development experience for the players.

The Minor Hockey model in Alberta has remained quite static for a long time. The system currently has boundaries in place that identify which MHA a player can register within at each specific level of hockey. We then use player movement to look at exceptions for players that would like to go elsewhere. The model relies on the member MHA's to establish league play and implement league rules regionally, leading to various different models across the Province. The perception of better development is simply that, a perception, as no one has ever been able to guarantee that experience since that relies solely on the coach each team receives.

Hockey Canada has a national policy in place that currently restricts Hockey Alberta programs from accepting a player (within the season) that has participated with a non-sanctioned league after September 30. Some member MHA's of Hockey Alberta have challenged this policy asking why they cannot make their own choice on whether or not to accept a registration. Falling in line with the policy, Hockey Alberta has restricted player programs that lead to select team events (ie – Alberta Cup, Peewee Prospects Cup) to only accept players that are currently registered with a member MHA or sanctioned Sports School. Some individuals have attempted to challenge this stance, arguing that a PSO cannot restrict an Alberta resident from having the opportunity regardless of registration status.

PURPOSE

The workgroup shall be charged with evaluating the current environment, the current rules, regulations and structures that are in place within Minor Hockey and developing recommendations for change to ensure the structure of Minor Hockey is aligned with the Vision, Mission and Strategic Direction of Hockey Alberta. 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. Specifically:

- Review the current non-sanctioned (Competitive & Recreational) programs in Alberta and how they operate;
- Consult participants to determine why they have made the choice to move to a non-sanctioned program;
- Identify how Minor Hockey should react to non-sanctioned programs (Ignore, Compete, or Partner);
- Consult member MHA's regarding potential change;
- Identify current rules, regulations and/or policies that are used as reasons for people to leave;
- Review the use of 'boundaries' at all levels of Minor Hockey;
- Recommend changes to the Minor Hockey system.



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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 June 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.