



**BEDFORD AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION 2014/2015 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

January 2015

[Abstract](#)

Reports from Executive VPs on the current state of the association

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NOTICE

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2014/ 2015 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CP Allen – Conference Room

January 28th, 2015

6pm

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Call to order by President**
- 2. Roll call of members**
- 3. Reading and approval of previous minutes**
- 4. Executive Reports**
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Adjournment**



President's Report

Chris Bewsher

I would like to start by wishing a Happy New Year to the Bedford Minor Hockey Community. I hope everyone is looking forward to 2015 and the remainder of our season together.

I would like to especially thank each of our executive Vice Presidents and our coordinators. As leaders within our association I appreciate the countless hours you commit to working on behalf of this association. In my opinion you bring tremendous value often going over and above what is expected. Thank you!

On the ice the association continues to provide a structured program of development. Shawn Mackenzie and Matt Oxford continue to exceed our expectations with regard to the support they provide to our association and its members. Our volunteer base at every level is comprised of good people doing their best in the interest of playing hockey in Bedford. I encourage you to please take the time to personally acknowledge the efforts of those people volunteering around you. Overall, Bedford Minor Hockey is in a good place.

My Highlights for the first half of this season as follows;

Core Skill Programing:

We are extremely pleased with our Core Skill Sessions (CSS) program. We have received a lot of positive feedback with regard to the quality of coaching and the structured curriculum which takes place during each session. We think we are on target and supporting our athletes to reach their personal potential while having fun and setting the stage in support of their long term involvement within the sport of hockey. While tweaks and refinement may occur our intention is to continue, if not build upon this approach.

Parent Concern Coordinator: Mrs. Barb Rathbun

Your concerns matter and we have taken extra steps to ensure your voice is heard. We've recognized from time to time parents may be reluctant to raise concerns with the coach, manager and or executive members for reasons which vary from person to person. Creating the role of a Parent Concern Coordinator allows anyone to ask questions or raise concerns with someone who is experienced, though

not directly associated with the current BDMHA administration and or its volunteers. We truly appreciate having Barb Rathbun serve in this role. To learn more about Barb and this initiative please click [PCC](#).

Strategic Planning;

Over the last year, the new executive recognized that Bedford Minor Hockey required vision and mission statements and ones that would truly reflect who we are as a hockey association, our values and what we are trying to accomplish.

In order to achieve this, we reached out to members across all levels of the association and held strategic planning sessions throughout the 2013-14 season. After many meetings, debates, and great discussions we are pleased to share the results of our efforts. I encourage you to click the following link, look over our work and share your comments with us by way of bdmha.feedback@gmail.com

[BDMHA Mission Vision Statements](#)

CBC's Hockey Day in Canada: BDMHA has been asked to participate within this year's festivities. We expect to see our association featured within the CBC's programming in February. More information about Hockey Day in Canada can be accessed by way of the following link.

[Hockey Day in Canada](#)

In the following pages you will find the reports for our various Vice Presidents as well as our Hockey Development Professional Shawn Mackenzie. We remain cognizant of the collaborative contributions made by many people within our association. If you're a head coach, manager, time keeper, post-game cookie maker; whatever your contribution is, we thank you for playing your part within the game of hockey in Bedford.

Respectfully,

Chris Bewsher, President

Report from VP Finance

Henri Michaud

For the 2014-15 season we budgeted \$854,800 in registration fees based on total registration of 1,090 players. Actual total player registered was 1,132 which has resulted in \$31,314 increase in registration revenues.

Tryout fees was budgeted for 380 competitive players and 55 female players. Due to the Association hosting all the female tryouts the actual registration for female players was 255. This has resulted in an increase in tryout revenue by \$20,000. The remaining difference was a result of addition the Spring ID Camp \$6,500. Tryout costs are in line with increased female tryouts.

As a result of the addition of Core Skills Program the Association did not host as many fall development sessions and is not projected to hold as many winter development sessions as original budgeted.

Increased registration has resulted in the Association icing 2 additional teams this year. The extra ice costs for these two teams is approximately \$20,000. In addition, the initial budget estimated some ice savings resulting from the Core Skills Program; however, due to adjustments in the delivery of the program the saving was reduced by \$10,000.

Jerseys are budgeted based on a 5 year replacement. In the current year the Association outfitted 9 teams with new uniforms resulting is a small overage. Projected replacement of all old jerseys is now 4 years.

REVENUES	BUDGET 2014-2015	ACTUAL DEC.31	PROJECTED APR. 30	PROJECTED DIFFERENCE
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Registration fees	854,800	886,114	886,114	31,314
Family discount	(3,800)	(3,350)	(3,350)	450
Tournaments and camps	175,050	94,840	122,280	(52,770)
Tryout fees	56,750	83,295	83,295	26,545
Miscellaneous	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,751</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>600</u>
Total revenues	<u>1,085,200</u>	<u>1,063,650</u>	<u>1,091,339</u>	<u>6,139</u>
Expenses				
Ice rentals (net of recovery)	507,200	302,489	537,751	30,551
Development activities	136,200	83,664	141,361	5,161
Insurance	78,000	76,457	80,800	2,800
Office and administration	50,800	37,558	49,856	(944)
Referees	54,200	30,335	57,815	3,615
Interest and bank charges	24,000	27,103	28,103	4,103
Jersey fund	16,400	19,279	19,279	2,879
League conference fees	8,200	7,220	8,420	220
Bad debts	500	642	642	142
Equipment	800	-	-	(800)
Tournaments and camps	166,400	64,190	89,284	(77,116)
Tryout expenses	<u>32,500</u>	<u>44,253</u>	<u>44,253</u>	<u>11,753</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,075,200</u>	<u>693,190</u>	<u>1,057,564</u>	<u>(17,636)</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net surplus	<u><u>10,000</u></u>	<u><u>370,460</u></u>	<u><u>33,775</u></u>	<u><u>23,775</u></u>



Report from VP Female

John Weatherbie

This year the Halifax zone teams (Bedford, Halifax, Tasa, Sackville, Chebucto) combined the female players from peewee to midget from each association into regionalized teams. Joint tryouts were held with guidance from Shawn Mackenzie and evaluation support from the Dalhousie Tigers female hockey team and representatives from all associations. The VP's from each association worked together to run the tryout process. The number of female players evaluated was much higher than any individual association has handled in the past and was approximately 250. At the conclusion of tryouts and evaluations, the following teams were formed:

- Three Peewee A teams
- Two Peewee AA teams
- Four Bantam A teams
- Two Bantam AA teams
- Two Midget AA teams
- 3 Midget A teams

Bedford is hosting the following teams:

- Atom A
- Peewee A
- Peewee AA
- Bantam A
- Bantam AA
- Midget AA

Overall, the feedback has been positive and collectively across associations there has been far fewer complaints than in previous years. There were a number of lessons learned for next year such as:

- The scheduling of initial conditioning sessions pre-tryout,
- Longer gaps between AA and A sessions,
- Additional, early goalie evaluations,
- Better consolidation and communication of registration lists, and
- Additional volunteer support

Team and player wise, the key challenges this year are:

- Goalies in Atom and PeeWee. At the end of tryouts there was not a Bedford based goalie in Atom. There were only 2 goalies for 5 teams in PeeWee and 5 goalies for 5 teams in Midget.
- Female coaches – in Bedford we have female coaches in PeeWee A, Bantam A, Bantam AA and Midget AA. The majority of these coaches are first year and we need to continue to find and develop strong female hockey minds to step behind the bench.
- Ice time – there is an extreme ice crunch this year which has made it difficult to get two practices in per week and will potentially impact development in future years.
- Reconciliation of ice costs will be challenge this year due to teams using ice contributed by other associations.

We are waiting to hear from Hockey Nova Scotia and Female Council on the status/model for next year. It is anticipated that the Halifax associations will continue to be regionalized next year and will potentially be forming a new Minor Hockey Association that will have its own constitution and branding and be separate from Bedford Minor (as well as the other Halifax zone associations).

We'd like to thank all coaches, managers and players who are participating in the female program this year. I would like to thank Halifax, TASA, Chebucto and Sackville for their support and cooperation in making regionalization happen this year as well as Shawn Mackenzie and the Dalhousie Tigers for their fantastic support for the tryout process.

Sincerely,

John Weatherbie, VP Female



Report from VP Recreation

Meghan Milloy

We established 21 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) this season: 6 Atom; 5 Pee Wee; 4 Bantam; 5 Midget; and 1 Minor Junior team. We are extremely fortunate to have experienced and committed Division Coordinators in place for each division, and a full roster of exceptional coaches and team managers. The Coordinators are as follows:

- Atom – Carri Mitchener
- Pee Wee – Chris Davison
- Bantam – Neil Wortman
- Midget – Darrin Quigley

Thank you to each coordinator for working tirelessly to plan, organize and run their respective divisions within BDMHA over the course of the last five months. Without each of you, the recreational program would not be the success that it is! Thank you Neil, Darrin, Carri and Chris!

All of the teams play in the Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL). There are 20 teams in the Atom division, 20 teams in the Pee Wee division, 17 teams in the Bantam division, 19 teams in the Midget division, and 9 teams in the Minor Junior division. MMHL offers a tremendous opportunity for the kids to play against other associations across all divisions. I would like to acknowledge David Greenfield who is working tirelessly on our behalf as our MMHL representative. Thanks David!

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held two on ice sessions (for each division) in September/October, where multiple evaluators (coaches/volunteers) rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey knowledge. We would like to thank Shawn Mackenzie and his staff for coordinating the on-ice evaluation sessions. Thanks Shawn- it was a huge advantage for all the kids and the volunteers to have you involved with the evaluations!

The results of the balancing process were compiled and each player was ranked. The players were then separated into groups based on their relative rankings. We posted an open letter on our website explaining the process and we held instruction sessions with each division coordinator in advance of the evaluations.

Core Skills Sessions (CSS) were introduced for Atom and Peewee aged recreational teams in 2014, in conjunction with coach lead individual practices. This approach to practices (a mix of CSS and coach-led practices) has been very well received based on feedback received to date.

We hosted the annual B&DMHA Christmas Tournament from December 26-28, 2014. We had a total of 42 teams involved in the tournament at the BMO Centre. The players had a tremendous amount of fun and there was lots of great hockey played over the three days. Congratulations to all Bedford teams who participated, and congrats to the Peewee Bedford Oilers who won the event and brought home the gold medal, and the Atom Bedford Aces who brought home silver!

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this tournament a great success. This is a huge undertaking and involves hundreds of hours of volunteer time behind the scene both before and during the Christmas break. They deserve a very special recognition.

Minor hockey could not exist without the full participation of hundreds of coaches, managers, volunteers and parents who put in long hours of commitment to see their kids compete and have fun. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who have volunteered your time to make this happen within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association so far through 2014-2015.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Executive members for their support and encouragement. These people put in significant time on our behalf and they make hockey work for all of us at BDMHA. We are looking forward to a successful completion of the 2014-2015 season at BDHMA.

Happy New Year Everyone.

Meghan Milloy, VP Recreation

Report from VP Development

Bryan MacLean

With our HDP Shawn and administrator Matt handling the development programs, the focus for this role is moving more towards off-ice issues that affect hockey and team development. The first goal was to focus on the issues that divide teams over a season especially at the Atom, Pee-Wee and Bantam levels.

This summer, there were several area's identified including consistent coaching guidelines for all teams, manager / treasurer responsibilities and a place for parents to turn when they are frustrated.

To address consistent coaching guidelines for all teams, the Core Team Guidelines were created that can be seen under development section on the web site. The goal of these principles is to promote team play — setting team goals as opposed individual goals, rolling lines, opportunity for all players in special teams, discouraging set captains for a season but still providing a leadership avenue for those ready, teaching on and off ice accountability to coaches and fellow players, supporting multi-sport athletes and promoting the Bedford Blues identity to all the players. Not all members may agree with these principles but our goal of this association is to develop young hockey players and provide an opportunity for all players especially in Atom, Pee-Wee and Bantam. These guidelines support BDMHA fair play policy where the third period of a must win game is with the coaches discretion.

To address team management and fundraising there was a need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of managers and treasurers. The manager's handbook was updated to clearly state that managers and treasurers are both very important roles and are both of equal status. The treasurer does not report to the manager. The treasurer reports to the VP finance and manager reports to VP Operations. Having the treasure report to the VP Finance enabled more diligence in tracking expenditures to comply with BDMHA fundraising guidelines. We ask for a lot of money from our community during fundraising season for hockey development and it's vital that we do not abuse these funds.

Lastly, there was a need for members to have a way to address their concerns in a manner they would not feel there would be consequences. The role of Parent Concern Coordinator was created to give members access to someone who would hear and understand their issue and follow up with the necessary people to ensure their concern was addressed, anonymously if preferred. Members are encouraged to work with managers where possible and if not then with the Parent Concern Coordinator.

Also a constant focus is coaching support and what we can do to improve coaching. Towards the end of the year, an organization contacted us to look at their hockey development software that provided coaches illustrated session's plans and drills consistent with Hockey Canada's long term development model. This software will be made available to our coaches shortly to kick the tires and if all goes well, use for next season. This will enable our HDP to develop session plans and skill focus with our coaches and have much better communication and consistency across all teams. For coaches, much less time on drill searching and session plan making and more time for coaching and strategy development.



Report from VP Novice/Initiation

Abigail Cook

Initiation Program & FUNdamentals

The 2014-15 season started up with the continued growth of the initiation program. We have 199 kids divided into 5 Initiation programs. One Fundamentals group, two IP 1 groups and two IP 2 groups. We started a new program this year called Fundamentals'. This program is targeted to the 4 year old or first year skater. We have partnered with Bedford Skate Club and the program consist of 1 session of Can Skate and 1 hockey session per week. The program filled up very quickly and so far has been very successful. This season our IP1 groups consist of majority of 5 year olds and the IP2 program is all 6 years old players.

Due to the growth in the IP program this season (23 more kids than last season) the groups are at maximum capacity. If we have continued growth into the next season we hope to be able to add another group to help decrease the number of kids in each group. This will all be dependent on available ice time.

Thanks to the hard work of our Initiation Coordinator Doug MacKinnon and the sponsorship of Tim Hortons, the IP program had a successful Moosehead Jamboree at the Metro Centre on Jan 11th 2015. A couple of our IP groups also attended jamborees over the Christmas vacation.

Novice Program

This season we have 11 novice-age hockey groups. We have 2 advancing teams, 2 Intermediate teams, 2 female intermediate teams and 4 developing teams. All teams compete in the HRM novice exhibition series.

Due to our decrease in numbers this season we were not able to offer our Introduction to Hockey group. Hopefully next season we will get this group up and running again. All teams compete in the HRM novice exhibition series.

The novice girls program continues to be attracting increasing registration. We have 2 balanced females' teams consisting of all Bedford players. We had initially planned to have two tired novice female teams, but due to unforeseen circumstances we had to balance the teams a few weeks into the season. I want to thank the female parents the coaches for the understanding of the hiccups we face in developing the novice female program in Bedford and in HRM. The novice female hockey program in HRM now has 10 teams. The goal for next season will be to have an advanced and intermediate exhibition series for the female players. This will be discussed with the other Novice VP and HNS.

Our novice Coordinator Simon Wilkin did a great job of organizing the evaluations again this year. I would like to thank the people who stepped up to help with evaluations and on ice organization. I would also like to thank all of the coaches and managers for stepping up in both Novice and IP, and to Shawn MacKenzie, our development professional, for providing support to the coaches when needed.

This season we have continued with our goalie training. The novice goalies meet with Jack Haritgan every Tuesday evening for specialized goalie sessions. This is of no cost to the player. We continue to make a commitment to develop our goalies at the novice age. We have approximately 8 sets of gear on loan from our association to novice/IP aged kids to help facilitate the young players interested in goaltending. I would like to thank Jack and the executive for coming together to make this arrangement possible.

Looking forward to the second half of the season.



Report from Hockey Development Professional

Shawn MacKenzie

Each year we evaluate how to best service our players and provide adequate instruction of essential skills of the game. Thorough discussion has led to the implementation of Core Skills.

Why Core Skills?

For the 2014-15 season we have been running Core Skill sessions for the Atom & Pee-Wee levels. Core Skills is basically a station format practice with small groups of five to six players doing a series of drills designed to isolate specific fundamental skills. Each station has one to two coaches in place to provide feedback, encouragement and instruction.

Player Development as seen by Hockey Canada places priority on fundamental technical skills (skating and puck related skills) at all levels of minor hockey from IP through to Midget. As a Hockey Canada member association, Bedford Minor Hockey supports that improving players fundamentals should be at the forefront of development.

Hockey Canada breaks down the amount of practice time for each age group that it recommends should be allotted to technical skill development.

- IP 85%
- Novice 75%
- Atom 50%
- PeeWee 45%
- Bantam 40%
- Midget 35%

Within this formula there are also smaller percentages of recommendations for things such as individual tactics, team tactics, team play, and strategies. However, the development pyramid clearly shows that fundamental skills should be prioritized, especially through the early and middle years of the minor hockey journey.

If we look at today's minor hockey practice structure, it appears that the IP and Novice levels are delivering programs that fall in line with Hockey Canada's recommended allotments. However, this seems to change somewhat as the players enter the Atom stage of minor hockey. We see programs at Atom often putting team play as a main focus. This trend looks to continue into Pee-Wee and Bantam, resulting in a high number of players playing with fundamental deficiencies.

While these players may appear to perform adequately on the ice against their similar trained peers, it is quite possible that flaws could be exposed through the demands of higher levels. Of course each player needs practice time devoted to learning the game and his/her position. Hockey Canada recognizes this, as shown in the age specific pyramids, but fundamentals skills, much like the foundation of a house, remains the back bone of the build. The Core Skills initiative is an effective way for our association to meet the directives of Hockey Canada while still allowing each individual team enough practice time to meet the needs of things such as positional understanding, tactics, and systems.

If a child's personal goal is to improve and strive towards being the best player he/she can be, the development emphasis **must** be on fundamental skills. Player assessments at most every level of hockey first evaluate a player's fundamental skill set with skating usually being seen as the most important. Most tryouts consist of first assessing these basic skills and then progressing to see how well a player can apply these skills against an opponent; first in control practice situations (i.e. 1 vs 1, 3 vs 2, etc.), and then later from their chosen position in game circumstances.

It can be tempting to deviate from basic skill development being a primary focus. Negative game results or outside opinions of team needs can influence the development plan. Most certainly individual and team success is an important element in the overall picture as successful game application tends to fuel confidence and a desire for more improvement.

Development plans need to strike the appropriate balances allowing for each player to fully enjoy today's hockey experience while providing them the tools to meet the known challenges of the hockey future. At the completion of the season BDMHA plans to survey parents and children that participated in the Core Skills initiative. This feedback will be entered in the process when deciding future development programs.



Report from VP Competitive

Jamie Stone

The 2014-15 Season is now past the half way point and the Bedford Blues are competing strong at a number of different levels and divisions. A couple of big issues came at us as an Executive early on this season and we have done our best to address and work around them. The biggest issues came at us from Hockey Nova Scotia changing the structure of Atom Competitive divisions. Eliminating the AAA program completely, and mandating that larger Associations like Bedford field two Competitive AA teams. The second issue from a Competitive Division standpoint was the change or elimination made to the Provincial Tournament and how teams now qualify for a new 'Provincial Day of Champions'. However as an Association we have we tried to work through the new changes and maintain a fair and competitive environment amongst all our teams.

Our 2014-15 season really began last May with an attempt to make the Competitive tryout process a little more efficient, while trying to cut-back on the stress of the fall tryout process. In May of 2014 we adopted a Pilot Spring AAA level ID Camp, similar in structure to the Major Bantam ID Camp process. This was essentially the first step in the process of moving towards a more complete Spring Tryout process that will complement the fall tryouts next season, while cutting down on the time and stress involved in that fall tryout process.

The tryout process continues to be a long and tension filled time for players, parents and volunteers alike. Changes to the on-ice tryout process over the past two seasons have definitely improved the process for the players. Changes to the communication and information posted have also reduced the stress and tension for many parents. However the same time and commitment levels from volunteers makes the tryout month, and beyond, a very difficult time for our more than 100 tryout volunteers. Improvements and changes will continue into next season as we strive to get better each year.

Bedford Minor Hockey has a large pool of players that are interested in trying out for competitive teams each year and it is continually growing. Once again this year we saw record number of players try out in all levels. Atom saw growth as a large group of younger players moved up from Novice looking for a shot at a competitive team. Pee-Wee again saw an increase while Bantam seemed to stay about the same or possibly decrease a little this season. Midget level numbers increased once again as a strong and large 1999 cohort made its way into the Midget level. The increases in Midget are welcomed as it shows that Bedford Minor is providing a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game.

The challenged faced with the increasing numbers of players trying out for competitive levels, is trying to make room for them all. Many players have the interest, commitment, and capability to play at competitive levels, but there is only so much room on those teams. In an attempt to accommodate as many as we could this season, a decision was made, in concert with a new mandate from Hockey Nova Scotia, to create multiple competitive teams at various levels. While in theory offering more spots and opportunity for players to play at a competitive level sounds like a positive, in reality it has given us some unforeseen challenges. The biggest issue being competitiveness from a team perspective when we are essentially splitting our players into multiple teams. The plan at this point will be to re-think this approach and possibly take a step back next season to a single team format at each level, with possibly 2 "B" teams at each level as in the past. We believe Bedford has the depth to offer two teams at the B level, but not ready to do the same at other levels. This change should also increase the competitiveness of both our Competitive and Recreational level teams. This new direction will also see increased competition amongst our own players vying for a spot on one of our Competitive level teams.

In the coming weeks we will open Registration for a new Spring Tryout process. This tryout process will be mandatory for all players interested in playing on a competitive level team next season, and will be an initial assessment of all players in order to place them into tryout groupings headed into next September. Holding this step in the process in the spring offers every player an opportunity to show their skills at or near their peak of a regular season. It will also allow us to reduce the number of tryout sessions held in September.

From a Bantam Major perspective, our Bedford Barons are having a very successful season. This year's team and group of players have shown tremendous growth which has led to more success. This is in large part to our Coaching staff and Team Manager who have remained intact and in their second season with the team. We are looking forward to a strong run into the playoffs this year.

Finally, after six seasons as a member of the BDMHA Executive, I will be stepping down at the end of this hockey year. I have greatly enjoyed volunteering for Bedford Minor Hockey, but it's time for others to step in with new ideas and fresh passion to continue to move our Association forward. I hope to continue to volunteer going forward as possibly a coach or coordinator in some capacity.

I look forward to a strong second half for all of our Competitive level teams as they enter into Provincial and City Level play downs. Good luck to all!

Jamie Stone, VP Competitive

Report from Ice/Administrative Coordinator

Matt Oxford

I am entering my second year as the association's administrator and ice coordinator. In addition to these duties the added role of Chair for the Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament was a welcomed challenge.

Player registration has increased from 1087 to 1132. This continues the trend of player registration increases each year and brings our total growth since 2010 to 19%. However, if female hockey regionalizes for the 2015-2016 season for Atom-Midget, we may see our total registration numbers drop by 100 players.

The registration process this year was adjusted to accept credit cards as the primary payment method. This allowed the association to capture more registration fees immediately reducing the number of outstanding payments. In previous years, walk in registration fell near the end of August and the Administrator/VPs were scrambling to register all players before the Labour Day weekend leading into tryouts.

The association decided to eliminate a single walk-in registration day and run registration throughout the summer months. This enabled the ability to update player registration in the HCR and deposit payments quicker. Members can expect a similar format to continue for the 2015-2016 season.

Aside from the number of female players transferred from other regional MHAs, Bedford transferred approximately 50 players from outside associations. There were a considerable number transferring to Bedford from Ontario and Newfoundland this season.

Roster management in the HCR has gone very smooth. No major issues other than the standard transfer or creation of coaches/managers creating profiles. We were pleased that very few players withdrew from hockey this season compared to last year.

As mentioned in previous reports, the association's ability to accept all registrations is limited by available ice time. Registration numbers have to be monitored closely at every level to ensure that the association has enough ice to satisfy all players registered. When registration officially closes on August 30/31, registration numbers are assessed to determine how many teams/groups are at each level. This is very important for our IP, Novice, and Recreation programs but also determines how many additional "late registrations" we can accommodate, if any, at each level.

The current use of ice has been extremely effective. There have only been 15.5 prime, and 12 non-prime hours of ice left vacant on the Bedford Minor Hockey Ice Contract and 5 hours on the Female contract. 3 of those prime hours were between 9:45-11:15 PM on Sundays due to a game conflict. This number is lower than previous years and should continue to fall by way of effective ice management. We've maintained our relationship with the Rocky Lake Dome and have been able to secure additional ice time hours with.

The increased number of tournaments held at the BMO Centre impacts the number of ice times user groups receive during the season. BMO presently hosts five tournaments during the season, four of which impact the BDMHA ice contract. The current tournaments held at BMO are:

- Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament – Thanksgiving Weekend (typically Oct. 10-12)
- SEDMHA Female Tournament – Nov. 28-20
- Bedford Christmas Tournament – Dec. 26-28
- East Coast Ice Jam – Jan. 7-11
- HNS Day of Champions – Mar. 28-29 (subject to change each year)

Our friends at BMO, Deb Nickel, Ice Scheduler and Bill Cruickshank, General Manager have been great to work with. I would to thank them for being so accommodating with our association. Specifically, with regard to the adjustment of practice ice times as and when conflicts arise.