



**BEDFORD AND DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION 2016/2017 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

*January 2017*

[Abstract](#)

Reports from Executive VPs on the current state of the association

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**NOTICE**

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2016/2017 SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BMO Centre – Multi Purpose Room

January 28, 2017

12 pm

**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

***Keith Foster***

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Imagine if you will a business that has 1,100 customers and over 2,000 stakeholders with revenues over \$1,000,000 and sales and expense transactions in the thousands. Then think of the infrastructure and manpower that would be required to run that business. It amazes me every day that we run this business called B&DMHA largely with volunteers. I would like to thank everyone that contributes countless hours from the board to team managers and coaches. Without the commitment from these people our kids would not be playing hockey. We are also fortunate to have two very skilled and dedicated staff members in Matt Oxford and Shawn McKenzie who are the envy of other associations.

It has been a busy first half of the year for everyone at Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association from players and parents to all the volunteers that help our Association run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. We have made it through the fall tryout and team placement processes and this is the time to enjoy watching our kids play the game they love. While we all love seeing our kids win, I have come to understand over the years that kids get over losses much quicker and easier than we as parents do. For our children, it is the comradery of the team or hanging with friends in the hotel at tournaments that matters the most.

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

### **Novice 3-on-3**

Prior to the start of the season we had the opportunity to sit down with the other Halifax zone minor hockey associations to discuss running a trial of half ice 3-on-3 game series. Everyone agreed that we should proceed with this trial for the developmental and intermediate groups for at least a portion of the year. Hockey Nova Scotia will be completing a full review of Novice hockey this year and it is felt that half ice will be high on the list for changes next year. Our VP and Director of Novice hockey will be preparing a report summarizing what we have learned from this trial (i.e. what worked well, what we would change etc.) with the intent of presenting this report to Hockey Nova Scotia as part of their review. I would ask that you assist us in preparing the report by sending us your thoughts and comments.

### **Halifax Zone Meetings**

The presidents of each MHA in the Halifax zone decided in the fall that we should begin to meet on a regular basis to review and discuss issues that arise in each of our MHAs with the intent of sharing solutions and identifying common issues to take to Hockey Nova Scotia. We believe that a common front and a unified message on issues will allow us a better opportunity to effect change when it is required. In addition we have all agreed that while we will continue to compete vigorously on the ice it is time to stop competing off the ice. We have agreed that we must work toward aligning our policies and procedures so that no matter where you are playing hockey the rules and regulations are the same. For example, we will be looking at try-out policies and timing as well as fundraising guidelines, etc.

### **Fundraising**

Hockey is an extremely expensive sport to participate in. Beyond the annual registration fees many teams fundraise to cover the costs of tournaments, extra ice and dry land training. This puts an additional burden on parents to either do the fundraising or pay more money out of pocket. The Board has struck a committee chaired by Abigail Cook, our past president, to review our fundraising guidelines including limits and what teams should be allowed to do. Abigail and her committee will be reaching out to many of you to gain your insights and concerns to report back the Board in the spring.

### **Tournaments**

Our Jordan Boyd and Noah Llewellyn tournaments were again a great success. The volunteer time and effort put into these two events is staggering. I would like to thank both the Boyd and Llewellyn families for continuing to be involved with these tournaments and allowing us to honour these two kids.

The following pages contain more detailed reports from our Vice Presidents as well as our Hockey Development Professional and Administrator. I would again like to thank them along with all the volunteers in our association for making B&DMHA a model organization. Good luck to all the teams on a successful year.



## Report from VP Operations

***Jeff Smith***

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We are halfway through the 2016/2017 hockey season and looking forward to the stretch drive. It has been a busy but successful season so far for BDMHA. Bedford teams showed their colours winning tournaments at every level – a few highlights to date: Atom Vipers win the Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament, Bedford B Blue win gold Moncton Challenge Cup Tournament, Bedford Atom AA White bring Gold home from Sydney at the Allan Sullivan Memorial Tournament, Bedford PeeWee B White took gold in O'Leary PEI, Peewee AA Take home Silver at the Moncton Challenge Cup, Peewee AAA Take home Silver at the Buster Harvey Memorial Tournament, Bantam B White won gold in PEI at the PEI Police Association Bantam Tournament as well as the Colin Chipman Memorial Tournament in Bridgetown, the Bantam Oilers went undefeated in the Noah Llewellyn Christmas Tournament defeating the Bedford Canadians who took silver, Midget B won the gold medal from the PEI Police Association tournament, Midget A won gold at the Rylee Sears Memorial Tournament in Sackville and the Midget AA team won gold at Mike Schmitt Memorial/KFC tournament.

Clearly a lot of success to date and lots to be proud of for our association!!!

### Coach Certification

As occurs yearly, Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) audits the qualifications of volunteer coaches in each minor hockey association. BDMHA has made great strides to ensure our coaches meet the various requirements outlined by Hockey Nova Scotia however, however, each year various bottlenecks in the certification process impact the system. Over the past few seasons, the Criminal Record Check, (CRC) and the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) certification have been the predominant bottlenecks. To facilitate and improve the CRC requirement, in 2015 BDMHA implemented the online 'MyBackcheck' process. Managed by the Coach Certification Coordinator, Cameron McInnes, MyBackcheck continues to improve BDMHA's efficiency in obtaining this requirement. While the CAR remains a bottleneck, with no way to improve the process from our perspective, diligent and proactive communication will hopefully minimize issues related to obtaining this certification. BDMHA is mandated by HNS to remove coaches who have not met the basic requirements for their level. This year, the deadline for credentials was December 1<sup>st</sup> at which point coaches are suspended from participating with their teams. They then have until December 31 to finalize their credentials and if they have not, they are permanently removed from the team rosters.

## League Performance 2016/2017

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our coach/manager volunteers for the job they do. While our overall performance as an association is strong this season, hockey is much more than a game. It cultivates friendships, work ethic, commitment, comradery, teamwork, responsibility and leadership to name but a few. While these traits are inherent in the game, they are reflected in and by our coaches and managers and for that, on behalf of the players and executive of Bedford Minor Hockey, I thank you.

Below is a brief recap of how our teams are competing in their respective leagues. As you can see, our teams are very competitive in each division and are looking forward to a successful playoff season.

### **Metro Minor Hockey League (MMHL)**

Division	Mid-Season Recap
Atom	5/6 teams in top 8 of 20 teams
Peewee	4/5 teams in top 6 of 18 teams
Bantam	3/5 teams in top 10 of 17 teams
Midget	4/6 teams in top 7 of 19 teams
Minor Junior	2 <sup>nd</sup> place of 7 teams

### **Central Minor Hockey Federation (CMHF)**

Atom	Team(s)	Mid-Season Recap	Teams In League
	AA (White & Blue)	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	13
	A	1 <sup>st</sup>	10
	B (Blue & White)	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12
Peewee		Mid-Season Recap	
	AAA	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8
	AA	4 <sup>th</sup>	7
	A	6 <sup>th</sup>	11
	B (White & Blue)	1 <sup>st</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	12
Bantam		Mid-Season Recap	
	AA	6 <sup>th</sup>	7
	A	6 <sup>th</sup>	11
	B (White & Blue)	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9
Midget		Mid-Season Recap	
	AA	1 <sup>st</sup>	9
	A	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10
	B	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8

## Hockey Development Professional (HDP)

Our Hockey Development Professional (HDP), Shawn MacKenzie, continues his diligent work providing development and growth opportunities for our players. He has taken much of the feedback from last season's Core Skills program to grow and improve this year's version. Core skills is designed to offer standardized coaching to our younger players to ensure they are getting the proper mix of drills that focus on the core skill elements of hockey. Also of note, Core Skills is also a great coaching resource, especially for new coaches who want to develop their drill repertoires and Shawn is always available for advice or feedback. Many thanks to Shawn for his relentless work and his commitment to Bedford Minor Hockey. We clearly see the impact he has had on program through the success of our teams and players.

## BDMHA Administrator/Ice Coordinator

As was noted last year, there is very little that goes on in Bedford Minor Hockey that isn't in some way positively influenced by Matt Oxford. Since taking over the day to day administration of BDMHA, he continues to improve efficiencies within the organization and through his efforts, has ensured the BDMHA continues to be one of the flagship organizations in Nova Scotia minor hockey. While Matt's work is often behind the scenes, it is a critical part of the smooth day to day operation of BDMHA. A small sample of his body of work includes Registration, supporting the Executive board, coaches/managers meetings, BDMHA Website, ice scheduling, league scheduling (both MMHL and CMHF), Jordan Boyd & Noah Llewelyn tournaments as well as the countless interactions with parents, HNS and other MHAs. A truly great resource, always willing to lend a hand. We are fortunate to have him.

## Apparel

During the summer of 2014, BDMHA went to RFP to select an apparel and uniform vendor. We are in the second year of an agreement with IIG/Nova Trophy. They continue to supply great products for our association and many of you have seen the new dye-sublimated style jerseys many of our teams are wearing. We will continue to cycle in new style jerseys until all Bedford teams will sport the same look. Please note that IIG/Nova Trophy has moved to a new location in Bayers Lake. They are much more accessible to our membership and will have proper white/blue socks available for purchase onsite without having to place an order.

## Executive Volunteers

Finally, I would like to thank the current members of the executive for all the work they do on behalf of the membership. Bedford Minor Hockey is comprised of roughly 1150 players. With a membership this large, it takes a strong group of dedicated volunteers to ensure day to day operations run smoothly. We are very fortunate in Bedford Minor Hockey to have individuals with a multitude of talents and tireless energy all working towards a common goal. It can be at times complicated, often thankless & occasionally stressful but our volunteers have answered the call and have lead our organization to be one of the most respected in Nova Scotia.

Wishing all our members the best for 2017!

Respectfully Submitted,

***Jeff Smith, VP Operations***



## Report from VP Finance

**Jason Hale**

For the 2016-2017 we budgeted \$858,800 in registration fees based on a total player registrations of 1,108 players. This includes male and female registrations. Our actual player registration is currently showing 1,181 players (2015-2016 registration was 1,151). The overall budget for the organization has total budgeted revenues at \$994,800, total budgeted expenses of (\$985,200) leaving a small surplus at the end of the fiscal year of \$9,600. Addition revenue to BDMHA arises from tryouts, development sessions, interest income and tournaments. The organization is working hard to meet this budget and continuously manage all programs/expenditures based on the budget. It is expected that the final fiscal year end results will result in a surplus in line with the budgeted amount.

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year the player registration fees were set at the following amounts:

	<b>Current Season 2016-2017</b>	<b>Prior Season 2015-2016</b>
Fundamental	\$495	\$495
Novice IP	\$485	\$485
Novice	\$705	\$700
Atom Rec	\$810	\$805
Pewee Rec	\$810	\$805
Bantam Rec	\$810	\$805
Midget Rec	\$810	\$805
Atom Competitive	\$930	\$925
Pewee Competitive	\$930	\$925
Bantam Competitive	\$930	\$925
Midget Competitive	\$930	\$925
Minor Junior	\$670	\$665
Jump Into Hockey	\$195	\$195

We have a slight increase in registration fees for Novice, all recreation divisions and all competitive teams. The increase was \$5/player and was made to bring the organization back into a surplus.

The organization's largest expense is our ice rental contract. The budgeted expenditure for ice associated with registration fees is \$464,200. This does not include ice costs associated for camps, tryouts,

development programs and female hockey. It is expected that the final ice expenditure will be in line with the budgeted amount. These ice costs are built into the calculation of the registration fees.

BDMHA has also continued the jersey replacement program. This program ensures that all jerseys get replaced based on a 4-5 year schedule. The budget jersey expense for the current year was \$20,000. The Association outfitted 8 teams with new uniforms for a total cost of \$20,116.

Camps and development sessions had a net income budget of \$10,636. To-date net income for these sessions and camps totaled \$9,603. There are some user-pay sessions that will continue over the winter season and net income is expected to meet budget.

In summary, the overall financial position of BDMHA remains strong, including our cash position. The organization has a very detailed budgeting process which tracks very closely to our actual results.



## Report from VP Female

***John Weatherbie***

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This season is year two of Hockey Nova Scotia officially restructuring female hockey into six regionalized female zones with an Executive Committee tasked with overseeing each zone and working with the host minor hockey associations. Our region, Metro West, consists of Bedford, Halifax, TASA, Sackville and Chebucto. This year I am acting as the Chair of the Metro West Force Executive Committee.

Joint tryouts were held with oversight from Female Council and evaluation support from the Dalhousie Tigers female hockey team and impartial representatives from all associations. The Executive Committee worked together to run the tryout process. The number of female players evaluated was approximately 350. At the conclusion of tryouts and evaluations, the following teams were formed:

- Three Atom A teams
- Three Atom AA teams
- Three PeeWee A teams
- Three PeeWee AA teams
- Three Bantam A teams
- Two Bantam AA teams
- Three Midget A teams
- Two Midget AA teams

Bedford is hosting the following teams:

- Atom AA
- PeeWee A
- PeeWee AA
- Bantam A
- Midget A
- Midget AA

A major step forward for us this year was the purchase and distribution of distinct Metro West Force jerseys for all our female hockey teams. This has allowed us to begin creating our own brand and is a step toward the creation of a separate female hockey league.

The coach selection process this year was executed by the Executive Committee. We had a strong group of candidates that were interviewed and subsequently selected. We thank all who participated.

Overall, the feedback has been positive on the regionalization initiative but there are always complaints and areas which can be improved. There are a few items which have caused the majority of complaints. They are like previous years and include:

- Players that previously made AA at their current level were assigned to A based on the tryout results. There is no grandfathering of level in our model, each assignment was tryout performance based.
- Different fee structures, inclusions, policies and guidelines between different MHA's. This will only be resolved by a consistent female program for all female players within the zone.
- The initial psychological stress of playing for a different brand than the player (and the parents) is accustomed to. This will change over time.
- Too many AA teams. The number of AA teams is driven determined by the number of players trying out as per Hockey Nova Scotia rules; Metro West adhered to these rules. We implemented changes to the tryout processes this year in an attempt to make the process less stressful to players. In cases where we were extremely close to being required to have an additional AA team (within 2 to 3 players of the rule) and we felt we had sufficient depth, we went with the additional AA team. An Executive Committee concern to be looked at for next year is the impact that this has had at the A level. There is no easy answer to balancing the development needs of all players. One consideration is the creation of a non-travel "c" league for those very new to hockey.
- Late registration was a huge problem this year with almost 100 players registering after the close of general registration. Next year we will be changing the registration model and time frames. This created serious issues for the executive committee as the number of players to place changed dramatically late in the process which created additional ice demands. There were many parental complaints when they did not like the ice time they were assigned or the team they were on. In general, this caused significant turmoil for all involved.

We'd like to thank all coaches, managers and players who are participating in the female program this year.

Sincerely,

***John Weatherbie, VP Female***



## Report from VP Recreation

***Krista White***

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This has been a very successful recreational hockey season thus far. We created 23 recreation teams within Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association this season: 6 Atom; 5 Peewee; 5 Bantam; 6 Midget; and 1 Minor Junior team. I would like to thank our recreational coaches, team managers, and divisional coordinators for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our players. This season our divisional coordinators are:

- Atom – Carla Lane
- Peewee – James Mitchener
- Bantam – Karen Bowes
- Midget – Darrin Quigley

Special thanks go to each of our coordinators who have been watching over our teams in their respective divisions, and taking great care to make sure that things were running smoothly over the past few months. They have been a great help to me as they act as the first point of contact for our rec membership. I would also like to acknowledge Bill Hunt and Matt Oxford, our MMHL representative, who makes sure teams know about scheduling changes and ensures that our teams report their scores in a timely fashion.

Similar to recent seasons, we completed a formalized process for balancing the Bedford teams in each division. We held one on-ice session (for each division) in September, where multiple evaluators (coaches/volunteers) rated the players on their skating, puck handling and overall hockey ability. This year, Shawn MacKenzie and his team lead the on-ice evaluations for Atom and Bantam and we are looking to introduce this process every year for all divisions. 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 at a player draft for each division. 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.

Our recreational teams have done very well this season in the Metro Minor Hockey League, which is entering their playoff season. This year, the MMHL has divided each level into three divisions: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

- 4 of our 6 Atom teams are competing for the Gold Division championship and 2 are competing in the Silver Division championship.
- All 5 of Peewee teams are poised to compete for the Gold Division championship.
- 1 of our 6 Bantam teams is competing for the Gold Division championship, 3 in Silver and 1 in Bronze.
- 3 of our 5 Midget teams are competing for the Gold Division championship 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.
- Our Minor Junior team is currently second in the Gold Division championship.

Good luck to all of our teams in the MMHL playoffs. The Day of Champions will be held at the end of March and the top two teams in each league division will play for gold!

Core Skills Sessions (CSS) continued this season for Atom and Peewee aged recreational teams, balanced with coach lead team practices. This approach has been very well received based on feedback received to date.

We hosted the annual Noah Llewellyn Memorial Tournament from December 26th-28th at the BMO Centre. We had a total of 28 teams involved in the tournament, which saw lots of great hockey, and most importantly, the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to all Bedford teams who participated, and congrats to: *Division semi-finalists--Atom Bolts, PW Oilers; Silver medal winners--Atom Aces, PW Bolts, Bantam Canadians and Bantam Wings; Gold medal winners—Atom Vipers, Bantam Oilers, and Midget Leafs. Again, this was a very strong showing by Bedford teams.* 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 scenes both before and during the Christmas break. I would like to extend a special thanks to my tournament committee who all contributed a great deal of time and effort.

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 their time to make this happen within BDMHA so far through 2016-2017. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Executive members for their support and encouragement. They put in significant time on our behalf and make hockey work for all of us. We are looking forward to a successful completion of the 2016-2017 season. Good luck to all of our teams.

***Krista White, VP Recreation***



## Report from VP Development

***Chris Bewsher***

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I would start by wishing every one of our players, volunteers, and their families a Happy New Year. Overall 2016 was a great year. Going forward I believe we are truly fortunate to belong to such a great organization.

As a not for profit organization, the cost associated with Bedford's Hockey Development Programs are run as close to breakeven as possible. Any residual profits are reinvested back into the development of Bedford Minor Hockey Players and its programing. This includes funds recaptured from team bank accounts every year.

It remains a work in progress toward ensuring the money we're spending on development translates into value for your players. In a not for profit, volunteer based association it's occasionally difficult to meet the needs of everyone all the time. However, we do our best and with limited resources often have to look for efficiencies and this is one of the reasons we have Core Skills in place.

Our development programs are principally designed by our Hockey Development Professional, Shawn MacKenzie. In addition to his extensive knowledge and experience, Shawn is well connected within the hockey community. His closest connections are routinely leveraged on the ice to train Bedford Minor Hockey players. We are one of the few associations in Canada who have someone like Shawn working with us. As an organization, we stand out among others because of this.

Within this report, I would like to briefly share some developing news regarding our goaltending program. For the last three years Finngoalie Training has been working with our association ensuring the players who occupy these positions receive adequate training and development. Over recent months our Core Skills Program has come under discussion with respect to the amount of money we are spending on the development of the goaltenders playing in Bedford Minor Hockey. At the present time, we are running close to overspending the goaltending budget which was set within our Core Skills envelope.

For the information of members, the Competitive Core Skills Program was altered slightly this year with the addition of a Thursday makeup session. This was done to accommodate teams which would periodically run into conflicts with their regular Monday or Wednesday night slots. The net impact (no pun intended) meant that few teams missed their Core Skills in any given week resulting in a slight increase in costs to pay our development staff, including goaltending instruction.

It's been suggested that one solution to come in on budget might be to cut back on goaltending development during the last half of the season. A number which in retrospect may have been set in absence of a full understanding of the impact of changes in this year's schedule would have upon the cost

of goaltending training. I'm concerned if we take this approach we've lost sight of our obligation towards supporting goalies because we're fixated on the budget we set for developing them.

Through internal discussions we've come to recognize the need to formalize our terms and lock in our commitments with respect to goalie development going forward. As such I've been leading the discussions with a view to formalize our agreement with Finngoalie. Something which, as alluded to previously, has not existed up until this point. If realized this would effectively enable the association to bring clarity around the costs, fund appropriately and safely plan our its programs for years to come.

In November of 2016 I've met with our Hockey Development Professional, Finngoalie Training and our VP of Finance. Taking information away from those meetings I have since drafted prospective terms and structure of the associations formal arrangement with Finngoalie Training. This information has been shared with the President and I've requested the topic be raised at an upcoming executive meeting for discussion and ratification. Since that time competing schedules and the onset of the Christmas break have delayed further discussion around this matter.

In the background, we continue to monitor the present expenditures closely. As an executive committee, I think it's important we adjust and tweak our internal processes in an effort to meet the hockey developmental needs of all players playing hockey in Bedford. If we find ourselves in a deficit position, it's my intention to ask the executive committee to fund any shortfalls out of non-allocated monies recaptured from team bank accounts this year.

I believe this is an important issue or I would not be writing about it. As members of BDMHA this is your association. With this in mind I would encourage members, particularly goaltending parents, to ensure your voice is heard with regard to the future of the associations goaltending program and its commitments.

With the inception of our Core Skills Program I believe there is more we can do to position ourselves as a model association. Taking a broader perspective, I think there's an opportunity in front of us to be more strategic, taking a long-term view of development. Aligned with Hockey Canada's Player Long Term Athletic Development Model we need to find ways to bring 1) Consistency in the coaching philosophy and 2) Consistency in what are coaches are teaching. Having established goals, we need to ensure our spending relates squarely to the objectives the association has set for itself. One which attempts to meet the needs of every child playing hockey in Bedford from Recreation to our top competitive teams.

In closing....

Associations like ours cannot run without volunteers and I remain thankful for those, particularly around the executive table, who have stepped forward in the running of our association. These people donate so much of their time and should be acknowledged for the work they do behind the scenes. Sadly, we have many exceptional people within our midst who, for one reason or another, choose not to be involved. If you love hockey and value the important life lessons this sport can teach kids, you could make a real impact by being involved. No experience necessary, just a passion for the game and the reward is often priceless.

Yours truly,

***Chris Bewsher, VP Development***



## Report from VP Novice/Initiation

Simon Wilkin

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This year, we continue to see consistently high levels of participation at the Initiation and Novice levels. A large part of the success is due to the great commitment from our players, parents, coaches and all our other volunteers.

Below is a brief summary and overview of the various programs at the Initiation and Novice levels.

### **Initiation / FUNdamentals Programs**

For the 2016-2017 hockey season the Initiation Program continues to operate at capacity. For the second year in a row we have approximately 200 players in the Initiation Program (IP) level and have divided into two (2) IP 1 teams, three (3) IP 2 teams and one (1) one FUNdamentals group. The change this season is our adding of a third IP 2 group to the program.

The FUNdamentals group includes approximately 40 players and continues to be targeted towards 4 year olds or first year beginning players. We continue to partner with the Bedford Skate Club and the program consists of one (1) session of CanSkate and one (1) hockey session per week. The program filled up very quickly and continues to be successful.

We are able to continue to have our two (2) IP 1 groups structured towards 5 years old players and three (3) IP 2 groups structured towards 6 years old players. These groups are also still operating at maximum capacity.

Our IP groups have participated in Halifax Mooseheads intermission games, the Tim Hortons Jamboree and various other jamborees.

Joanne Lenihan has returned to the position of Initiation Coordinator this year. It is great to have Joanne back for a second year and the success of the Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association (BDMHA) Initiation program would not be what it is without her dedication. Thank you to Joanne for her commitment and hard work.

## **Novice Program**

The number of teams at the Novice level continues to be high for the 2016-2017 hockey season. We have over 200 players at the Novice level divided into twelve (12) teams: four (4) Development teams, two (2) Female teams, three (3) Intermediate teams and three (3) Advancing teams. All Novice teams compete in an HRM novice exhibition series.

The Novice Female program continues to develop and grow. Again this year the two (2) female teams are comprised of female players solely from within the Bedford boundaries. It was decided this year to go with two (2) balanced teams and that both teams would participate in the female exhibition series.

Specific goalie training at the Novice level was offered on a user pay basis this year. While a high percentage of the Novice goalies participated, we will be looking into the possibility of strengthening our offering for Novice goalie training in the future.

Scott Urquhart is a new to the role of Novice Coordinator this year. Scott has been an excellent addition to the team and has made a tremendous contribution in the organization and operation of the Novice program. I would like to thank Scott for the countless hours he has volunteered and the great job he has done at the Novice level picking up the Coordinator role.

A meeting of the IP and Novice coaches and managers was held in the first portion of the season, which was hopefully beneficial in supporting our teams as they kicked off their season.

Thank you to everyone for the support and assistance at the IP and Novice levels and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Respectfully submitted,

***Simon Wilkin, VP IP/Novice***



## Report from Hockey Development Professional

Shawn MacKenzie

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### Level Specific Mid-Season Report

**Fundamentals:** This is our third season we have partnered with Skate Canada for our Fundamentals program. The majority of players are 4 year olds. This introductory program has been well received and has benefited these starters by laying a solid foundation giving the next year IP1 coach a group with more consistent and advanced basics. In Fundamentals, one weekly session is under the direction of Can Skate with the second being conducted by coaches in a traditional station format.

**IP 1 and 2:** Continues to have strong numbers with good progression. Most sessions are station type formats with skating skills being prioritized. Enthusiasm is high with coaches doing a great job of not only growing skill but also keeping fun factor on the forefront. Weekly growth is evident in most participants.

**Novice:** The number of teams that we have at the top level of Novice (Advancing) is dictated solely on enrolment numbers and does not consider skills, capabilities, or the contribution of those players that may have difficulty meeting the standards of novice advancing. There is of course an argument that these weaker players will fast track by being with so called better players. This theory is not supported by all in player and team development but for time being it is the direction and it is up to the association and coaches at the advancing levels to meet the challenge. In games, at the Intermediate & Development Levels we look to be doing quite well but because we have 3 teams at Advancing, we are not as strong. Not to worry, we are confident that our Novice program will continue to develop strong Atoms for our association.

This season HNS rolled out cross-ice small area 4 vs. 4 games at both Novice Development & Intermediate. This took place over a 6-week period in November/December. The thought behind this addition to Novice was that it would be a progressive step eventually leading to full ice games. The rationale was the early season is spent developing skills. The mid season apply the skills against opponents in a format that allows for increased player participation and better utilization of the ice surface. Players have now shifted into full ice games. HNS is in the process of collecting feedback on the cross-ice games. We expect this will be a part of future novice programs.

**Jump Into hockey:** This program continues to sell out. It has been a great addition to BDMHA. Our hope is that other associations will soon put forth a similar offering. This would allow us to bring the Jump In program to the next level. We envision this next step would be cross ice play against other associations. We have had several players from last year's Jump In sign up and are now playing at the recreation level.

**Atom:** Overall, Atom is quite strong at both rep and recreation levels. Our coaches at Atom put a strong emphasis on passing and sharing the puck. I believe that this is a big difference maker at this level and it is the catalyst of the success. Our teams are now gearing up to meet the challenges of play offs. We will look to continue to improve while maintaining the goal of "out teaming" the opponent.

**Pee Wee:** At PeeWee, our B and recreation teams are at the top of the standings. This reflects good depth within our association. Our A to AAA level are in the thick of things and have demonstrated the capabilities needed to knock off those currently ahead of them in the standings. The common hold back for these groups has been consistency as well as being overly dependent on a few players to carry the load. In order for these teams to realize post season success, they will need both consistency and more wide spread productivity.

PeeWee is an age where players often equate success with goals & assists. They are now at a level when some will have difficulty putting up the same type of numbers that they did in previous years. It is a time when players must start to realize that numbers are only a small part of being a productive hockey player. Coaches at this level need to reward players for effort and sacrifice that may not necessarily be reflected on the game sheet.

**Bantam:** Our Bantam teams have had a competitive first half with the 2 B teams leading the way in the standings. We saw some players at the AA & A levels have early struggles adapting to full contact hockey. We will be looking for solid progression in the second half, as we feel we have several teams that have the potential to make noise in the play-offs.

**Midget:** Midget is a 3-year window for players. This can create some challenges as coaches have to work to connect different levels of maturity and social interests within the team. Coaches must still demand commitment and team first mentalities but the coach must also be flexible & understanding as many players are carrying heavy academic loads and some have part time jobs. For the most part all midget programs face similar challenges. The leadership group that is best at keeping players on a harmonic page is usually the most successful. We are fortunate to have solid coaching at the midget level.

We did have some controversy with regards to balancing our recreation teams. BDMHA needs to review the recreation balancing policy to be sure that balancing of team's takes precedence over previous player/coach relationships or player with player requests. I feel we should still listen to requests, particularly when dealing with these older groups but when entertaining these requests, we need to be sure that balancing is not negatively affected.

**Minor Junior:** Traditionally a strong program for us and it is again this season. It did not start that way as we initially did not have the numbers to ice a team. Recruitment took place and we are happy that we once again can offer a quality hockey experience to our most senior players.

The minor hockey journey can run for 19 years (4-23 years). BDMHA has close to 1150 young people participating in our game. We are fortunate to have dedicated coaches, managers & support people putting in countless hours over the winter so that those 1100 + can have a rewarding experience. We are not without our issues and there is certainly room for betterment but all in all our programs are healthy. As leaders we need to offer the best guidance we possibly can, unconditional support and acceptance of who and what each individual player is. We must always remember that the minor hockey game belongs to the children. Always has. Hopefully always will.

Yours in hockey,

***Shawn MacKenzie, HDP***

## Report from VP Competitive

*David Greenfield*

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The 2016/17 Season is now past the half way point and the Bedford Blues are performing and competing at all divisions meeting our expectations. We have iced 17 competitive teams and statistically speaking Bedford would like each division to run minimally at taking home 55% of the total available points. While we can drive the same expectation down to a team level, with 17 teams it is inevitable that some teams will be much stronger and weaker in any division in any given year. If we review the division results to-date the Atom teams are extremely competitive having earned almost 72% of possible points to date, with PeeWee gathering 61%, Bantam at 64% and Midget also very strong at 73%. Overall the Bedford Minor competitive teams have earned over 67% potential points. This is based on Central Minor games played to-date, not tournaments or exhibition games. We all know it is not the scoreboard to ultimately determine success in Minor Hockey, but it is an indicator we can use to determine if we are struggling competitively in any of our divisions, a factor in competitive hockey. As in any year, we do have a few teams requiring attention for various reasons and we have been working with these teams to ensure they have the best possible outcome and resources available to have a successful year.

Our season actually started in April / May of 2016 with the continuation of a concept of an ID Camp / Spring Tryouts for Atom and PeeWee with the goal to make the Competitive tryout process a little more efficient and to cut-back on the stress of the fall tryout process. The overall feedback from the membership and the Executive has been positive and we intend to continue this process for the 2017/18 season. As stated last year I had an intention to look for a way to introduce a similar process for the Bantam division, being mindful of the timing and overlap with the Major Bantam Spring ID Camp. This has now been decided for the 2017/2018 season and we are reviewing ice slots and associated costs and look forward to have Bantam as part of the Spring ID Camp. As the association is so large, the process continues to be a long and tension filled time for players, parents and volunteers alike with over 70 hrs of tryout ice over a 3 ½ week period that doesn't take into the account the many off-ice hours required to prepare, setup and cleanup after games, scoring tabulation etc. It currently takes over 1,000 hrs of total effort for Bedford to run the fall tryouts (not including spring).

Midget, as with last year, we didn't have enough players registered / interested to ice four teams therefore we went with three teams, AA, A and B. The Central Minor Midget B division last year only had 4 teams and most associations were backing away from the Midget B level at the start of the 2016/17 season while Bedford was very active at the table to maintain this level of hockey. With this advancement, there are now twice as many Midget B teams, 8, and this shows Bedford Minor continues to put focus at all levels of hockey to ensure we are providing a fun environment for players to continue to enjoy the game regardless of the divisional letter attached to the level.

The challenge faced with the association is the increasing numbers of players trying out for a competitive level is 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. While in theory offering more spots and opportunity for players to play at a competitive level sounds like a positive, in reality it proved some unforeseen challenges as experienced in 2014/15. We continue to believe Bedford has the depth to offer two teams at the "B" level, but are not ready to do the same at other levels. The increased competition amongst our own players vying for a spot on one of our Competitive level teams ultimately provides an individual drive for growth.

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!

***David Greenfield, VP Competitive***



## Report from Ice/Administrative Coordinator

Matt Oxford

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Entering my fourth year as the association's ice coordinator and administrator I always look forward to the start of every season. Our volunteers and executive's continuous support makes this job a real joy. I am very proud of the membership within Bedford Minor Hockey.

Player registration has dropped slightly from 1096 in 2015-16 to 1084 in 2016-17. The reduction in registration should not be a concern as the overall loss of players was distributed across all levels. No division saw significant losses or gains in total players.

Additionally, the association is hosting 6 female teams (97 players) on behalf of the Metro West Female Association. As previously mentioned, female hockey will soon have their own minor hockey association which will capture all female players at the Atom – Midget levels moving forward.

The registration process was not adjusted for the 2016-17 season. Online registration continued to accept credit card as the only payment method and walk-in registration was open throughout July and August. We did however, make a conscious effort to process payments for all walk-in registrations within a 48-hour period. Most members that dropped off forms had their players registered and paid by the time they returned home from the rink. I would like to thank our VP Finance, Jason Hale and President, Keith Foster for their assistance to help speed up the process.

Roster management in the HCR has gone very smooth. No major issues other than the standard transfer or creation of coaches/managers creating profiles. There have been minimal player withdraws this season.

The current use of ice has been very effective for the 2016-17 season. There have been 21 hours of ice left vacant from October 1 to January 15. By comparison, total ice vacant from October to December 2015 was 51. We saw some Novice and female ice times go unused in the first weekend of the season but this could be attributed to the lateness of teams being picked which was the case for our female teams this year. Overall, we have done a much better job managing ice times to this point of the season and we have had fewer weather days. For example, at the mid-way point of the season we used roughly 1137 hours of ice time. 21 hours of vacant ice would equal 1.8% of total ice, with 12 of those hours a direct result of weather. If you eliminated the weather days from those numbers, we have allowed less than 1% of our ice time go unused this season.

### **Vacant Ice by Month**

- October: 9 hours
- November: 0 hours
- December: 6 hours (all attributed to weather)
- January 1-15: 6 hours (all attributed to weather)

One area of ice management that has continued for the 2016-17 season was the removal of 6 AM practices and adding extra ice time to the primary contract. The association now has separate contracts for early mornings and “extra” ice purchases that are then billed back to teams. As a result, the association has the ability to stay on budget with ice and makes the billing processing easier.

BMO Centre continues to hosts 5 tournaments over the regular season that impacts association ice times. However, we have managed to ensure all members receive the correct amount of ice times while these tournaments operate. With these tournaments running out of the BMO Centre for the past number of years, teams are made aware of these blackout dates and more are attending their own tournaments during those weekends to ensure their teams remain on the ice.

The 4th Annual Jordan Boyd Memorial Tournament was a great success. We were able to increase total registration to 48 teams which again, makes it the biggest tournament to date. The planning process for the 2017 tournament will begin soon. I would like to thank the PeeWee AAA team for their ongoing assistance organizing this tournament, it wouldn't have been possible without their help. I would also like to thank the Boyd family for their continued involvement in the tournament and support of this great event.

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.

***Matt Oxford, Ice/Administrative Coordinator***