



HOCKEY CALGARY

Date: May 17, 2017
To: Hockey Calgary Members
From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director
CC: HC Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Atom League Structure Review & 2017-18 Revisions

In 2016-17 Hockey Calgary, along with our member associations piloted a new structure for the Atom division of hockey. The goal of the change was to improve the overall program and address some of the concerns that had been brought forward from the membership.

Since the completion of the season, the Operations Committee of Hockey Calgary has taken some time to review the results of the past season. We have looked at such things as overall team results (wins & losses), scoring differentials (% of games that were 3 goal differential or less), scoring statistics of the players, and finally we have reviewed the results of a survey that was provided to all atom parents to participate in.

Some of the key findings from this review are noted below:

- *Team Results*
 - *For the most part teams were competitive within their divisions, there were a few outliers, more concentrated in the south region*
 - *Only 3 teams finished 1st in both seeding & regular season, with a great deal of parity and movement within the divisions throughout the season*
 - *Associations did a very good job of creating equally balanced teams within their association, and no 'Stacking of teams' occurred*
- *Scoring Differentials*
 - *Seeding Round – 62% of games had a goal differential of 3 or less, this is an improvement from the 12 divisions of 2015-16, where the number was 53%*
 - *Regular Season – 70% of games had a goal differential of 3 or less, this is in line with the previous season where the number was 71%*
- *Player Statistics (Regular season only, 10 games, as recorded on official game sheets and input in HC system)*
 - *Division 4 – no player had more than 17 points, (less than 2 pts/game)*
 - *Division 5 – no player had more than 24 points, (2.4 pts/game)*
 - *Division 6 – no player had more than 25 points, (2.5 pts/game)*
 - *Scoring Distribution across the team was no different in the regional model than it was in the 12 division model. In other words the spread of players scoring or not scoring followed the same linear path, players with 0-3 points was approximately 60% of team, players with 4-10 points was approximately 35% of team and players with 11+ points were approximately 5% of team*

- *Survey Results*
 - *Over 1000 responses to survey, over 60% response rate*
 - *Results were polarizing, some families were very supportive of the change and other families were not, overall 50.4% of respondents ranked their satisfaction with the 'Atom Regional Structure' at 7 out of 10 or higher*
 - *The program was more well received in the north and west regions than it was in the south zone*
 - *Areas of Strength*
 - *Reduction in time & travel to and from games*
 - *Games were competitive*
 - *Player improvement, increased development throughout the year*
 - *Areas of Concern*
 - *Skill gap too wide within teams*
 - *Not enough variety in associations played*
 - *3 teams from 1 association in a division is too many*

After reviewing all the information and taking into consideration some of the recommendations of the membership, the 'Operation Committee' voted to move forward with 'Atom Regional Structure' for the 2017-18 season with the following modifications:

- Divisions 1-3 will continue to play 'City Wide' (same as 2016-17)
- An extra division will be added to the 'Regional Zones', creating a 7th Division
 - This will address some of the concern on 'skill gap' across teams
 - And reduce the # of associations with 3 teams in 1 division
- Regions will be adjusted from the current '3 region' model, to a north/south model
 - Providing increased variety in associations
 - Creating alignment with the HC Novice Division
 - While still maintaining the reduced time & travel to games
- See proposed Atom grid based on 2016-17 team #'s below, this is **NOT** final and may be adjusted base on team and player count in the upcoming season.

We thank you in advance for your support of this initiative. Hockey Calgary and the Operations Committee has spent a great deal of time examining the data, and we feel this is the best path forward for the upcoming season. We will once again monitor the results, solicit your feedback and determine what next steps will be as we work to improve the game within Calgary for all of our young athletes.

PROPOSED ATOM GRID

City Wide				Regional					
Tiered				Balanced Equal Teams					
Teams are ranked according to skill, the top team being A. Second being B, etc.				#'s represent the number of balanced equal teams in each division					
TEAMS	DIV 1	DIV 2	DIV 3	DIV 4	DIV 5	DIV 6	DIV 7	TOTAL	
GHC				*2		*2	*2	4	
5 Teams		A		1	1	1	1	5	
6 Teams		A		1	1	1	2	6	
7 Teams		A	B	1	1	1	2	7	
8 Teams	A		B	2	1	2	1	8	
9 Teams	A	B		2	2	1	2	9	
10 Teams	A	B	C	2	1	2	2	10	
11 Teams	A	B	C	2	2	2	2	11	
12 Teams	A	B	2 x C	2	2	2	2	12	
13 Teams	A	2 x B	2 x C	2	2	2	2	13	
14 Teams	2 x A	2 x B	2 x C	2	2	2	2	14	

Below Projected Team breakdown is based on 2016-17 team #'s, and may change slightly with 2017-18 registration

SEEDING PLACEMENT BY ASSOCIATION										
ASSOCIATION	CITY				REGIONAL				Total	
	Div 1	Div 2	Div 3		Div 4	Div 5	Div 6	Div 7		
North Region										
Crowfoot	1		1	2	1	2	1	8		
Girls Hockey					1	1	1	3		
McKnight	1		1	2	1	2	1	8		
NW Warriors	1	1		2	2	1	2	9		
Saints		1		1	1	1	2	6		
Simons Valley	1		1	2	1	2	1	8		
Bow River	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	11		
Springbank	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	11		
				13	11	13	12			
South Region										
Blackfoot	1		1	2	1	2	1	8		
Bow Valley	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	13		
Girls Hockey						1	1	2		
Glenlake	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	12		
Lake Bonavista		1	1	1	1	1	2	7		
Mavericks		1	1	1	1	1	2	7		
Southwest	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	11		
Trails West	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	11		
				12	11	13	14			
TOTAL	11	11	14	25	22	26	26	135		