

Hockey Mentorship Program

GENERAL MENTORSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Hockey Mentorship Program is designed to provide Minor Hockey coaches with supplemental educational opportunities, one-on-one mentoring and to provide support in areas that have been identified by hockey experts across the country as “hot” issues in today’s game.

The program is also designed to bridge a gap between elected volunteers, parents and coaches involved in making this game as much fun as it can possibly be for the participants.

The mentorship program is also designed to develop a group of mentors in the Association that will be able to support the needs of beginning hockey coaches and to provide support in a variety of ways to all coaches in the association.

OUTLINE OF MENTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Meetings

Parent Meetings

- This may take an initial format of open discussions about the game and MHA programs, but more importantly begins to bring the two groups together to develop a long-term healthy relationship in the game.

Director & Coach Meetings

- It will be very important that Branch / Branch Mentorship Personnel is a participating member in all MHA category meetings between the various level directors and coaches. This opportunity is important to the success of the program as it allows the Branch and the MHA to introduce the Mentorship Program to all coaches and gain valuable feedback and direction about the coaches needs and wants for the upcoming season.

Board of Directors

- Two meetings with the MHA Board should occur. One early meeting would provide the opportunity to share Mentorship Program directions and various initiatives as well as gather input from the Board. The second meeting would occur late in the season so as to evaluate this year’s activities with the intent of building a better program for the following season.

Values Clarification

- A Branch facilitator should be available for those teams wishing to have all parents, players and coaches participate into the design of the team's season. Through this process, the team builds consensus as to how the season will be "played out". This includes agreements on the numbers of games, practices and tournaments and travel time, costs for the season and roles and responsibilities of parents, players and coaches.

Conflict Resolution

- A Branch facilitator should be made available to those teams experiencing difficulties with the relationship between parents, players and coaches.

Classroom Presentations

- A number of classroom sessions should be conducted on a regular basis throughout the season including the months of October, November, December and January.
- Specific sessions shall be conducted for each category as well as general sessions open to all coaches.
- Instructors and mentors from throughout the Branch will be used as well as those MHA coaches who have significant experience coaching and are certified at the Development and High Performance levels of the NCCP
- Classroom sessions will be specific to each level and will be time sensitive in that the needs of coaches in October will be addressed as well as the needs in December and January.
- Anticipate conducting as many as 12 classroom sessions or more of 2 or 3 hours each
- Potential classroom topics are:
 - Team Building
 - Growth & Development and Teaching Techniques
 - Rewards & Discipline
 - Teaching Offensive & Defensive Team Play
 - Teaching Thinking Skills
 - Teaching Power Plays & Penalty Killing
 - Teaching Forechecking & Individual Checking Skills
 - Teaching Face-offs
 - Teaching Breakouts
 - Conflict Resolution for Coaches
 - Technical Skill Development

On-Ice Sessions

- Ice sessions should be conducted to support the information given in the classroom sessions.
- As well, specific sessions shall be provided for Atom, PeeWee, Bantam and Midget coaches at the recreation and competitive levels.
- These sessions will provide drills and drill progressions that will enable the coaches to be more efficient in teaching the game skills to the athletes.
- Potential ice sessions will include:
 - Teaching Skating, Puck Control, Shooting, Developing Defensemen
 - Teaching Defensive Team Play
 - Teaching Face-Offs
 - Teaching Checking Skills
 - Small Area Games
- Each ice session should be 1.0 – 1.5 hours depending on availability of ice

Goaltending Ice Sessions

- Ice sessions should be held for goaltenders and coaches through the season.
- The objective of the sessions is two-fold:
 - Provide coaches with drills and position understanding so as to make practices more enjoyable for young goaltenders.
 - Provide young goaltenders with “during the season” feedback designed to improve their individual skills.

One-to-One Mentoring

- Mentor coaches shall be made available on a request basis to assist coaches with game and practice situations.
- Players and coaches from competitive level teams should be made available to help all coaches at all levels with direct assistance on ice with individual player needs.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

A comprehensive evaluation should be conducted prior to the end of the season. The evaluation will consist of three parts:

1. Coaches Evaluation & Feedback – all participating coaches in the Mentorship Program should be asked to complete a questionnaire asking them to provide feedback on their experience as well as to provide feedback to make the program better.
2. Parent & Player Evaluation & Feedback – players and parents from participating teams shall be randomly selected to complete a survey asking for their feedback about the Mentorship Program.
3. Board Of Directors – All MHA Board Members will be asked to provide feedback on the Mentorship Program.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTNERS

Branch / Mentorship Coordinator:

- Book all meeting room facilities
- Pay for all meeting room costs
- Provide all instructors/facilitators
- Provide honorariums to appropriate instructors/speakers
- Provide all printed materials that are required
- Pay for all ice time required for on-ice initiatives
- Work closely with the MHA so as to communicate effectively with minor hockey coaches
- Communicate regularly with the MHA any problems or concerns with the program

Minor Hockey Association Will:

- Book ice time for use in all initiatives
- Communicate with coaches and parents with respect to the Mentorship Program
- Provide names, addresses (mailing labels) and phone numbers of all coaches in the MHA as soon as is possible in the season
- Be available for meetings as required with Branch Personnel
- Provide timely support to Branch Personnel as required
- Pay invoices as agreed to in the contract
- Express any concerns about the program in a timely and professional manner