



HOCKEY EASTERN ONTARIO
MIDGET AAA LEAGUE



To: District Chairs, Association Presidents, Members
From: ODMHA President – Denis Dumais
Date: April 20th, 2015
RE: **Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO Midget AAA) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **COMBINED MIDGET AGE GROUP**
 - **Is it safe for my 15 year old to play with 17 year olds?**
 - The Midget age grouping in most every province/branch in Canada is one combined age group of 15, 16 and 17 year olds. ODMHA will now follow suit through a 3-year pilot project. Of note - most Midget Recreational hockey in our branch is combined 15, 16 and 17 year olds playing hockey together.
- **WHO DO I PLAY FOR?**
 - There are twelve (12) confirmed participating teams in the league which will operate under the current ODMHA Minor Hockey rules and discipline codes. With a possibility of an expansion to 16 teams with the residential school teams.
 - Brockville Braves
 - Carleton Place Canadians
 - Cornwall Colts
 - Cumberland Grads
 - Gloucester Rangers
 - Hawkesbury Hawks
 - Kanata Lasers
 - Kemptville 73's
 - Nepean Raiders
 - Ottawa Senators
 - Pembroke Lumber Kings
 - Smiths Falls Bears
 - There are many paths to play on one of the new teams:
 - Protect
 - Draft
 - Free agent – tryout camp
 - *More information to follow by May 25th with regards to above.*

- In a collaborative effort, the players will benefit from a revised catchment area model, different than boundaries and zones, which will allow more players to play as close to home as possible reducing travel and cost for families. All protect & draft selections are prioritized based on closeness to the home arena of the team, considered a “radius criteria”.

- **LEAGUE MANDATE**

The HEO Midget AAA League is a minor hockey league following minor hockey governance, rules and discipline.

1. To provide a league for teams of players at the designated Midget AAA level.
2. To promote fair play and sportsmanship, and to develop the skills of the players in the League, through the provision of a safe and competitive environment.
3. To exercise general care and direction over players, teams, officials and executives of the League to ensure compliance with the League’s Constitution, By-Laws and Playing Rules & Regulations

- Player distribution across the league is anticipated to be:
 - 40%- 45% for the 15s
 - 40%- 45% for the 16s
 - 10% - 15% for the 17s (with a cap of 3)

- **WHERE DO I PLAY?**

- **PRACTICES:** Each team must practice a minimum of two days per week, a minimum of four hours per week. Location of practices in the home arena of CCHL team and/or central locations based on roster composition.
- **GAME SCHEDULE:** Shared Showcase with CCHL Labour Day weekend
 - Monday Night Hockey at Sensplex-all 12 teams play games every Monday (20 games)
 - Saturday Showcase Days at CCHL hosted arenas-all 12 teams play every Saturday (24 games)
 - Minimum 44 GAMES (period length 15-20-20)
- **OFF ICE TRAINING:** All players will have off ice training opportunities as per the CCHL team
- LEAGUE START: LABOUR DAY SHOWCASE WEEKEND
- LEAGUE END: LAST WEEKEND IN MARCH

- **WHAT IS THE COST TO PLAY?**

- The team fee range is \$4,700 to a maximum of \$5,600.
 - Each team is following the league minimum operating standards.
 - For the duration of the pilot program, all funds will be centrally managed through the governance model with a separate bank account.
-

- The fees set are based on existing AAA costs and when verified with the current AAA associations, were found to be within a 10% deviation of their present costs.
- This new league similar to minor hockey is not for profit. This is not a vehicle for minor or junior to profit from the development of minor hockey players.
- **AFFILIATION**
 - **If my player is successful placing on a Midget AAA team, where can he affiliate to?**
 - Players in the Midget AAA League may affiliate to CCHL Jr A or Jr B or Jr C and through dual affiliation, Major Junior. Note – 16 year olds may not affiliate to Jr C.
 - **If my player for the 2015-2016 season is playing Major Bantam AAA, can he affiliate to one of the teams in the HEO Midget AAA League?**
 - Yes players successful in their Major Bantam AAA placement may be affiliated by their nearest HEO Midget AAA teams to a maximum of 4.
- **TOURNAMENTS**

The HEO Midget AAA League will have the following tournaments:

- Showcase Events (eastern based early in the season / western based later in the season)
- OHL Cup:
 - The league in collaboration with the OHL Cup tournament would apply to send two all-star teams of 15 year olds to the OHL Cup.
 - Similar to the current Team NOHA structure in place today.
- Home Tournament:
 - In collaboration with the sensplex east & west, for Year 1, the new league will host a home tournament
- Telus Cup – League Champion advances to the regionals.
- NCAA Tours – the new teams will look to setup tours of NCAA schools with exhibition games.
- Teams will be sanctioned as AAA for tournaments

- **EQUIPMENT**
 - **What equipment will my player receive as part of the team fee?**
 - Each player receives as part of their team fees:
 - Jerseys, home & away
 - Socks, home & away
 - Track Suit
 - Optional equipment packages are available for a fee:
 - Bronze-Pants, Gloves, Helmet & Cage, Jacket
 - Silver-Pants, Gloves, Helmet & Cage, Jacket, 4 sticks

- Gold-Pants, Gloves, Helmet & Cage, Jacket, 8 sticks
- Platinum-Pants, Gloves, Helmet & Cage, Jacket, 12 sticks

- **SCOUTS & OPPORTUNITIES**
 - **Will there be scouts and opportunities for players in the HEO Midget AAA League?**
 - OHL DRAFT – Scouts will be welcomed at every showcase on Saturday & Monday
 - The HEO Midget AAA league format has every game hosted as a showcase!
 - 15 year olds playing at a higher level increases their development
 - 16 year olds gain benefit by playing another season in a high profile league
 - 17 year olds continue their development towards Junior Hockey
 - Central location of creates a huge focus on players and teams

- **IMPORTS**
 - **Will the new league allow imports from players that reside outside the Ottawa District Minor Hockey boundary?**
 - The HEO Midget AAA League will NOT have any imports, nor billeted players.
 - All players must be residents within the ODMHA boundary following the minor registration rules exclusive of the residency schools.

- **TRADES**
 - **Will the new HEO Midget AAA teams have player trades similar to Junior hockey?**
 - No, the HEO Midget AAA teams will NOT have player trades.

- **COACH OPPORTUNITIES**
 - If you are interested in coaching within the new league, the teams are seeking non-parent volunteers as assistants and trainers. Please send your coach application (see link for application on the ODMHA website) and resume to Else Godo (ODMHA Director at Large) elsegodo@gmail.com

Stay tuned for the new league website coming May 30th, 2015!

For any other questions, please contact sub-committee member Sherry Malloy (via email smalloy@sympatico.ca) and allow 5 business days for a response.
