

C PROGRAM

The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association provides C level hockey in response to a need for a less competitive playing environment and a less demanding time commitment than exists in competitive hockey. The philosophy of the Association is to provide opportunities for players to play hockey that is affordable, fun and safe with moderate time commitments. The organization encourages and supports good sportsmanship, fair play, friendship, and respect.

Team Selections

The selection of teams within a C Division shall be carried out by the Divisional C Director with the support of the coaches within the Division. The Divisional C Director shall endeavour to balance teams at the outset of the season and may also rebalance teams until the end of October in each hockey season, should he/she decide it is in the best interest of creating a balanced Division and/or League.

The Divisional C Director shall canvass the coaches to determine if any changes are required and shall in his/her sole discretion make any changes by November 15 of each hockey season; and, there shall be no subsequent changes thereafter. Where possible and with the primary focus on ensuring team balance, the Divisional C Director shall consider special requests for hardship situations such as: transportation of players to and from games and/or practices for single parent families, placement of siblings on the same team. In some situations when teams are involved in League play (e.g. Metro Minor Hockey League); adherence to the League's Regulations is required. If a new player is registered after the teams are selected (including after November 15th of each hockey season), the Divisional C Director shall decide to which team the player will be assigned to maintain the same number of players, whenever possible.

Team Sizes

The Divisional C Director shall balance the teams based upon the number of players who are registered in the Division. This shall include consideration of players competing at different positions (i.e. defence) and age (i.e. first year Under 15 and second year Under 15). The Divisional C Director and/or coaches may require players to play at different positions in order to balance teams.

Coach Selection

Individuals interested in coaching in a C division should contact the appropriate Divisional C Director. The Divisional C Director may enlist the support of other members of the Board of Directors to assist in the selection process. Coaches in C hockey are not required to formally apply for the position as per the Halifax Hawks website policy which applies to AAA, AA, A and B competitive divisions. Volunteers interested in being coaches, assistants, managers must contact the Divisional C Director to apply.

All coaches and other bench staff must meet the certification requirements mandated by Hockey Nova Scotia including the 'Respect In Sport' as well as all volunteer screening requirements. Each team shall have at least one bench staff member certified in Hockey Canada's Safety Program. The Divisional C Director will recommend a slate of coaches to the Management Committee for approval. Upon completion of coach selection, the Head Coach is responsible to recommend individuals for the positions of assistant coach and team manager. All recommendations must be approved by the Board.

Ice Distribution

Within C hockey, the Association subscribes to an 'Equal Ice Policy' for all players. This means that each player should have the same amount of time on the ice. Trying to win is important, but winning is not a higher priority than teaching fairness and allowing each player an equal opportunity to participate and contribute. Ice time over the course of individual games may vary for many reasons (i.e. penalties, discipline) and parents are not to time shifts

of every player to ensure each player gets exactly the same ice time. As long as the ice time over a series of games is equitable then the policy is being adhered to.

Checking and Aggressive Behaviour

Body checking and aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated in C hockey. Disciplinary action shall be taken by the Director as warranted including increased suspensions over and above what is stipulated in Hockey Nova Scotia's Code of Discipline. The current practice is doubling HNS suspensions at the discretion of the Director and President.

Competition

In C divisions where the association has a sufficient number of teams in a respective division, teams may play "in house" as part of the "Halifax Hawks C Hockey League". Alternatively, the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association may place a C Division's teams in the Metro Minor Hockey League or under an arrangement with another Minor Hockey Association(s). The Metro Minor Hockey League is a separate League with its own Constitution and Regulations, specifically established to enable C teams from participating Minor Hockey Associations to engage in League play. The decision to play in a "Halifax Hawks C Hockey League" or to participate in the Metro Minor Hockey League or other similar league must be made by the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors no later than seven (7) days after Labour Day in September of each hockey season.

Game Length

When teams participate in a "Halifax Hawks C Hockey League", games shall be three (3) fifteen (15) minute run time periods with a three (3) minute warm-up and one (1) minute between periods rest. Penalties shall be three (3) minutes. When teams participate in the Metro Minor Hockey League or similar league, the game length shall be in accordance with that League's regulations.

Playing Rules

All C games shall be governed by the playing rules established by Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council and Hockey Canada. Equipment Players must wear all approved equipment as required by Hockey Nova Scotia including neck protectors. Code of Discipline Suspensions to players for infractions shall be assessed in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia's Code of Discipline. Disciplinary action shall be taken by the Director as warranted including increased suspensions over and above what is stipulated in Hockey Nova Scotia's Code of Discipline. The current practice is doubling HNS suspensions at the discretion of the Director and President. In addition, a player who is suspended twice for fighting shall be subject to expulsion from the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association after review by the Halifax Hawks Appeals Coordinator.

Tournaments/Exhibition

Games C teams are permitted to attend sanctioned tournaments and exhibition games against teams of equal calibre (i.e. C). All requests to attend tournaments must be approved by the Divisional C Director. Once approved, travel permits and any related sanctioning must be requested from Hockey Nova Scotia. However, a team's first priority is to ensure that League games are played unless those can be rescheduled to enable participation in tournaments or exhibition games.

Game Cancellations

The Divisional C Director shall be responsible to notify team coaches in the event of a game cancellation caused by power outage or inclement weather. Team coaches will be responsible to notify their team members. Rescheduling shall be coordinated by the Divisional C Director and the Association's Ice Coordinator. Teams participating in leagues external to the Association shall follow the Game Cancellation procedure as set out in the Regulations of the League that they play in.

Placement - C Hockey

Players shall play in their respective age division. A player is not permitted to advance to the next highest Division (e.g. Atom to Pee wee) unless recommended by the Divisional C Director and approved by the Board. Similarly, a player is not permitted to play down a Division (e.g. Under 15 playing in Under 13) unless approved by the Divisional C Director and approved by the Board. Player movement when participating in the Metro Minor Hockey League or a similar league is subject to that specific League's Regulations.