

# INTRODUCTION

The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association is pleased to provide our membership with this document which outlines the various policies of the association. The purpose of this policy manual is to provide direction on key issues that our association encounters each season. We trust that you will find this resource helpful and as we work to evolve this document, we welcome any feedback you may wish to provide on its' content.

## Policy Amendments/Revisions

Policies, unlike the articles and by-laws within the Association's Memorandum of Association which require membership approval at a special and or annual meeting, may be adopted as necessary by the Board. This document shall be revised on a continual basis as determined by the Halifax Hawks Board of Directors when there is a requirement to add new policies and refine existing policies. In the event that any of the information contained in this policy manual conflict with the Association's Memorandum of Association, Hockey Nova Scotia regulations and Hockey Canada policy and this policy manual, the former shall take precedence.

## Structure

The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association is a volunteer based not for profit organization and is fully incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association is responsible for providing minor hockey programming to eligible players within the boundaries of the association, as defined by Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council. The organization is led by a Board of Directors, each of whom has a specific role within the organization. Descriptions on the various positions and roles are defined in the Association's Memorandum of Association found at our website at <http://hawks.goalline.ca> . The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association is a member of Hockey Nova Scotia under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia's Minor Council.

## Objectives

The objectives of the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association are:

- Conduct, foster, organize and instigate for the provision of minor hockey as a recreational activity in the community of Halifax for participants as defined for minor hockey by Hockey Canada;
- Foster and encourage sportsmanship and respect;
- Organize and administer teams at all levels for internal and inter-association competition; and
- Organize and conduct programs and initiatives designed to develop the skills of its participants.

## Values

The core values of the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association are:

- Create a positive hockey experience for all participants in a safe, fun, sportsmanlike environment;
- Foster the development of life skills, including respect for all people by all participants;
- Nurture teamwork, through which we strive to be the best we can be;
- Demonstrate consistency in our decisions and applications of policies and regulations;
- Encourage innovation and creating an environment where learning and flexibility are the tools we use to wisely handle changing circumstances;
- Encourage teamwork, as a lifelong skill; and
- Maintain perspective and a healthy balance between life and the sport

## Programming

The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association recognizes and supports the positive intent of Hockey Canada's Player Development Model. The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association's overall structure provides an avenue

for players to participate in the various streams of hockey as established by Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia. These streams include:

#### Under 7 Stream

The Under 7 Program is designed for players ranging from four to six years of age. The Under 7 Program is a progressive, learn to play teaching curriculum. The objective is to provide a fun environment for players new to the sport while stimulating interest in hockey and a desire to continue participation. The goals are to develop basic hockey skills, obtain a sense of achievement, promote physical fitness, introduce players to the concepts of cooperation, sportsmanship and leadership, encourage initiative, and prepare players for further participation.

#### C Program (Recreational Level) Stream

The C Program is established for players ranging from seven to twenty-two years of age. This program is designed for players who enjoy the sport and who are committed to a variety of other hobbies and sports. The objectives are to provide a game to fit the needs of the participant, be open to all ages, allow players equal ice time, assist in the individual's physical development and foster a sportsmanlike environment.

#### Competitive Program (AAA, AA, A, B Levels) Stream

The Competitive Program is established for players ranging from seven to seventeen years of age. This program is designed for players who have the desire and ability to play at a high level of competition. The objectives are to achieve a degree of excellence, according to the player's interest and potential, provide an opportunity for achievement in an enjoyable and self-fulfilling environment, provide an opportunity to progress to a higher level of competition and stimulate development both from individual and overall sport point of view. Players within the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association are also provided with opportunities to compete within the

#### High Performance Program Stream.

The High Performance programs include Under 15 Major and Under 18 Major as well as Hockey Nova Scotia's High Performance Program. The High Performance Program offers annual programming at the Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 Male levels as well as the Under 15 and Under 17 Female levels. In addition, the four Atlantic Provinces, in conjunction with Hockey Canada's High Performance Programs, also offer opportunities to participate at the Under 17 Male and Under 18 Female with teams that represent the entire Atlantic region.