

<http://www.hockeyeasternontario.ca/pages/safety/gender-identity-training.htm> Orleans Minor Hockey Competitive Director's Report 2017 - 2018

This past year was another successful season for the competitive side of Orleans Minor Hockey. Although this report focuses more on the Rep B Blues program, there were many players who made it to the A/AA and AAA levels, which shows how strong an organization we are.

This was our 3rd year of the integrated agreement between OMHA, GCMHA & BMHA for the Rep B program and things continue to run well between the 3 associations. This past year, we fielded 9 teams from Major Novice to Major Midget. Come try out time in September, most of the levels had enough players registered to try out except Minor Midget. Interest was low with only 12 players signed up. As a result, there was 6 imports from Cumberland that we accepted as they did not run any Rep B programs at the Midgets levels. Other levels ranged from 18 to 35 players, with Major Atom being the biggest group for the 2nd year in a row. Overall, the breakdown of team formation was 50 players from OMHA (down from 62 last year), 47 from BMHA (down 3), 43 from GCMHA (up 7) and 12 imports (up 7). These challenges reflect the changing demographics in our 3 districts as more kids are choosing other sports (soccer, basketball) rather than hockey. As a Blues organization, we continue to emphasize the positives of playing competitive hockey in the GHA.

| Level | OMHA | BMHA | GCMHA | OTHER |
|--------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Novice | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Minor Atom | 7 | 7 | 3 | |
| Major Atom | 8 | 4 | 5 | |
| Minor PW | 7 | 4 | 6 | |
| Major PW | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Minor Bantam | 6 | 3 | 8 | |
| Major Bantam | 4 | 10 | 3 | |
| Minor Midget | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Major Midget | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Totals | 50 | 47 | 43 | 12 |

In terms of development, there was a strong emphasis placed this year on investing in our players. As an organization, each team invested about \$2500 in player and goalie development, either through dryland, goalie sessions or power skating. The Blues were pleased to refund \$4800 back to the teams (about \$600-\$800 per team) in this area, which greatly helps team budgets. We also took responsibility for coach certifications, offering 1 free training per team. This resulted in an additional \$2000 going back to the teams. The goal is to further expand this program for the 18/19 season, with possible ideas including some pre-season dryland sessions with Titan for early registrants, and increased refunds for team training.

Organizational success can be measured in many ways, both on and off the ice. In the case of the Blues, once again we had many this past season. Off ice, we hosted our 1st ever Blues 'Hockey' Fest tournament at Richcraft in late September, whereby 44 teams registered for 7 levels (Major Novice to Major Bantam). This event was a great success and provided plenty of exposure for the Blues brand. Although none of our teams won, the Major Atom Blues came close, losing in the finals to Casselman. We are just in discussions with Richcraft to organize the next one and to keep the momentum going. As well, the Blues hosted two clinics through HEO in September. The Scorekeeper clinic had limited registration and was not found to be worthwhile; however the Development 1 had 35 people sign up and was very successful in terms of exposure and revenue generated back to the organization. Plans are already underway to host another one in September 2018. On ice, the Blues continue to do well. We had tournament wins at Minor Bantam (Stoney Creek); Major Bantam (Lake Placid) and Major Peewee (Guelph), along with many semi-finals for all teams. In the playoff round, we had 4 teams make the A pool and the remaining 5 in the B pool. In the A Pool, 3 teams were eliminated after the 1st round, however the Major Atom team continued it's on ice success and won the Playoff Championship in a 5 game series against Stittsville. They also went on to win the Tournament of Champions the following weekend which capped off a great season for that team. On the B side pool, the Blues hosted the championship day at BMRC, with 3 of the 5 teams making it to finals. Although the Major Novice was unable to pull it off, the Major Peewee and Major Midget won their games, ending a great day at the arena.

After fielding 9 teams from Major Novice to Major Midget the past 2 seasons, this year a decision was made to fold the Major Novice team as a result of cross-ice games coming to that level in 2019/2020. Although it was a difficult decision, it is being made GHA wide (Rangers included) which will provide a better opportunity for younger players to develop in more of a fun environment rather than competitive one. We are also in discussions with GHA competitive group about having joint tryouts between Rep B and Rangers at the Midget level. No final proposal have been submitted, and there are some legitimate concerns from the 6 associations that need to be addressed, however once we have more information, we will pass it along to our membership for further discussion.

In closing, I want to thank once again all the OMHA board members and volunteers who supported our organization for all their help. Without your assistance, we would not have gone as far as we did this year. Thank you!

Riccardo Panarella
Director Competitive
Orleans Minor Hockey