



Administrator's Report 2008-09

During the 2008-09 season, I had the privilege of serving as Administrator for the Tri-Com Minor Hockey League for a second consecutive year. Once again, I have to begin by acknowledging the enormous contribution made to the League by the various Tri-Com Reps, Association Schedulers, coaches, managers, and game reporters of each team. Their commitment to the players simply defines the League. Thank you also to the Host Goulds Minor Hockey Association for giving me the opportunity to return this past season, and to the Caps Minor Hockey Association for their continued administrative and accounting support.

The League made some significant strides in 2008-09 – most notably, introducing a no-clash home night schedule, introducing 2 ice-breaker tournaments, introducing the Founders' Cup, expanding the Bantam A play-off format, and expanding our web site media reporting capacity. The League played 519 games this season without a single default or game protest – quite an achievement. Nevertheless, there is room for much improvement.

Since my report will be brief, I'll quickly put forth my main recommendations for the future. They are as follows:

1. Bantam B and Peewee A games should be expanded to 15 minute periods within 1 ½ hour time slots, with the number of overall games reduced to offset costs. We are simply selling these players short by playing 10 minute periods. Expanding to longer periods would require that clubs play Bantam and Peewee games back to back. Most complaints the League received this season concerned fair ice time – longer games would remedy the situation.
2. The League should explore switching both Atom Divisions from a full 30 game per team format to a multiple tournament format only and thereby allowing all Atom players to register for club house league play. Most Atom players are not ready for the rigor and pressure of all-star hockey week in and week out and the talent pool is simply not there for a competitive league.
3. The League should explore the possibility of a Girls Bantam Division within Tri-Com with officials from Girls Metro Hockey.
4. The Ice Breaker Tournaments should become a regular League fixture and effort should be made to add arm's length evaluators with the flexibility given them to adjust the schedule in flight to achieve the best grading results.
5. The League Operating Manual should be revamped to permit the establishment of an Executive, to remove the Host Association concept, and to better reflect how the League really operates. The League has made gains in terms of how it functions. The Manual has to catch up to current practices.

6. The League web site should be enhanced to take the promotion of the teams and players to the next level. By all accounts, producing our own media is working and the opportunity to create goodwill around the League is endless. Adding a PR Director would be a big asset.
7. Where possible, the League should move to Best of 3 and Best of 5 formats for play-off series. The current first-to-4-points format in divisions below Bantam A lacks intensity.
8. Finally, with four of the weakest teams in the League winning a combined total of just 4 games out of 120, League officials need to hold a special session dedicated solely to how we improve parity between teams. For every strong player in our League, there are two players not ready for all-star hockey. Skill development is the biggest issue in our League.

As always, feedback and debate of any of these recommendations is welcomed. Last year's list resulted in the adoption of many effective changes. I hope history repeats itself in this regard.

You'll note that I've avoided recommendations on pooling of players and expansion of the AAA program – two things I believe are sadly needed. I've done so because they are beyond the mandate of my position with Tri-Com.

The role of Tri-Com Administrator has evolved into a very demanding position. Thankfully, the strong cooperation of those around me has help make the role a rewarding one.

Tim Power

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