



Topics:

- Rep Tryouts
- Female Hockey
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GOT IDEAS?

Gotta topic you would like to see in our next newsletter?

If so, please forward your ideas by email to us at secretary@chbawings.org

Rep Tryouts

Now that Rep tryouts are completed, we as an executive are compiling feedback from coaches and parents to try to improve the process for next season where possible. I felt it important to write to you and give you a little insight from behind the scenes. Although there were some minor glitches along the way, the new process of online releases was very well received and executed. I have seen this in other associations but did not know how or what was involved to make it happen.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Chad Trenholm for his countless hours donated to help develop the infrastructure to make it possible. Chad's time giving tutorials and supporting the coaches to help make it all work, setting up the email notification and then manually assisting in emailing people that did not reply was given freely and voluntarily and was instrumental in the entire process working properly.

Rep tryout schedules had to be compressed this season due to the early startup of the Central Minor League due to Canada Games; there were both pros and cons to that. Some people liked the swiftness of the schedule; others felt the process did not allow players the time to prove themselves. A new format including intra squad and exhibition games was introduced by our Director of Development. Our Ice Scheduler also did a good job making it work, to the best of his abilities with the hours of ice and dates allotted.

The new format along with the training of our referees

on the new four man system for games and intra squad games gave our tryouts a more realistic game-like feel and increased the intensity of the intra squad games that had referees involved. Personally as a coach, this season's tryout process was an improvement to what I have gone through in the past in many ways. Unfortunately there is no perfect schedule or process, ice and scheduling limitations exist and are often beyond the associations control to some extent. Minor hockey players can be inconsistent from day to day and a bad day can cost a player. In many ways that emulates real life. Also, perception is not always reality; people not involved in the process sometimes question it and its integrity because they do not agree with the outcome or understand how decisions were made.

After spending "too many hours at the rink" myself (according to my lovely new bride), I can honestly say that evaluations during tryouts were some of the best I have seen. Sibling verifications were completed fairly and coaches utilized a vast amount of knowledge and experience when conducting evaluations. At the end of the day some players perform better in drills than others, while some perform better in games. The format allowed for all aspects to be seen. In younger groups skills typically dictate how a player can play the game, (the most skilled are typically the most talented and best hockey players), and basic fundamentals are the key to the game at any level.

As players move up in age a player that may look good in a drill at his or her own pace but may get lost in a game struggling with where to be on the ice and when. These situations can result in players dropping a level or two late in tryouts. This is not wrong it means coaches are doing their job in trying to select their best team and place players where they are best suited to play. Rep is "competitive" hockey. Rep coaches are selecting competitive teams to play games as a hockey team and as always opinions vary. Coaches will all continue to develop skills at practices and other ways regardless of what level a player is at. Having fun playing the game, is more likely to happen playing at a level where a player is more involved in the game than at a higher level containing perceived higher notoriety or status.

As a new member of the executive my goal this season is to help the association and its members but more importantly have a positive impact on the kids to the best of my ability. I hoped that any changes implemented would make tryouts better; having said that, tryouts are always a tough time for everyone involved. Tryouts are often seen as an end for players that get cut and often dwelled on as a negative. Now a few weeks into the season I hope the focus is on the beginning a new season with new friends and team-

mates and the potential that the season ahead contains, as it should be. I wish everyone well and the best of luck and success for the 2010-2011 season. GO WINGS!!

Marcel Deveau
Rep Coordinator/Central Minor Rep CHBAMHA

Female Hockey

It has been a busy month and a half for everyone but the girls are finally settled in and have started their categorization process. This will be complete by the end of October and then league play begins.

Congratulations to the Bantam AA for taking gold at the Western Valley Early Bird Tournament on the weekend of October 22,23,24; defeating Pictou 6-2 in the final (See picture of the winning team on the website in the Accolades section of the website).

CHBA will be hosting a Female Development Day for girls at the Novice and IP levels on Sunday December 5th. It is a chance for the girls in the Dartmouth zone to get together for a couple of hours and have a fun day. This is separate from the upcoming Development Weekend and all of the Associations in the Dartmouth zone will host these young girls at some time throughout the year. Eastern Shore held a session on October 22nd that was well attended and everyone had a blast. Stay tuned to the web site for more details as Dec. 5 gets closer.

Brian MacPhee
Female Coordinator

From the Development Desk:

Well the season is officially up and running and the Development department is on the move. Many of our teams have gotten off to a decent start and are beginning to settle into the seasonal grind of practice and play.

As many members may be currently seeing in their daughter or son's program at this point, the focus during practices has largely been spent on skill work; however, as we have prescribed, coaches have been working on three main parts of the game that are important in the building of a foundation for further growth and they are the breakout (and transition from to the attack), defensive zone coverage (and transition from to the attack) and the rethinking of face-offs in our defensive zone with the implementation of the "5 Across System" of alignment and responsibility. This is a system that was largely developed by the Montreal Canadiens, yes I said it, the Montreal Canadiens in the 70's. As Development Weekend approaches, coaches will be asked to start implementation of further systems while continuing to ensure that skill development continues and the maintaining of current processes as a regular part of the development process.

In October, we started a Tuesday morning 6am (1.5 hour) Goalie Training session on Scotia #1. We were only able to provide 20 spots for this program; however, at present we have a total of 7 goalies in the program so we have available spots available for this. The focus has been much defined in the areas of skating for the position and of course save

selection options that we do tailor to the individual goaltender and there is a definite range in ability; however, many improvements already at this point. Also, this past month we started a Skills Program for the Novice and Atom age group. I will say that the success of the program is clear and very popular. We set aside 30 positions that have almost been maxed out; however, still a couple of spots available. Again the range in abilities is wide in some cases, and in most instances we have seen a great improvement in the kids.

I think that it is important to note that there are fees associated with these above mentioned programs. These fees are in place to cover the cost of ice time, not development. It is important to note this as with anything, we want the membership to be properly informed of the purpose of imposing these fees. Coming up in the near future we will be announcing other programming of a similar type for the second half of the season.

If you have interest in these current programs, please consult the CHBA website for information or you can email me at chdevelopment1@gmail.com.

November 6th and 7th is Development Weekend and this season we are really looking forward to presenting the content. Development Weekend this season will see the focus very much on the kids with on-ice and off-ice programming, presentations for our coaches and parents. All important things to watch for this week as the schedule will be produced and the content revealed for this year.

Also on the Development front, December 30th, 2010 is Hockey Canada Skills Day here at Cole Harbour. We will have Paul Dagg of the Atlantic Hockey Centre of Excellence office in attendance for on and off ice programming. This programming has been set up to support the Atom and Pee Wee Recreational Divisions at this time. Information on registration for the program can be found online in the Development section of the CHBA website. For many that have experienced it in the past, it is a great day for the kids and the coaches that get involved.

In closing, things are off and running and happy to see that the coaches are working very hard to provide great programming this season. It's good to be back on the ice with the kids, many of them I am now starting to recognize on a regular basis and believe me that makes the job much easier when you step into the rink. I hope that you are enjoying your hockey experiences with your kids to this point, it is a long season and they and their coaches need your support to make it a successful one.

Paddy Flynn
Director of Hockey Development, CHBAMHA