

I have been involved with Penticton Minor Hockey for the past 12 years as an official and this is my first year serving on the board. It has been an exciting and valuable learning experience.

Novice Division:

- There were 60 players on four teams.
- Many thanks to the Head Coaches; Brad Heintz (Knights), Lanny Swanson (Bulldogs), Rob McLaughlin (Giants) and Dave Acheson (Red Rockets).
- Also a great big thank you to the Team Managers; Margot Heintz (Knights), Kate Swanson (Bulldogs), Heidi McHale (Giants) and Rhonda Erhardt (Red Rockets).
- Thanks to all the Assistant Coaches (too many to name).
- After a rough start due to scheduling issues, the Novice Division settled into a practice routine thanks to the help of Paul Brisson.
 - With the addition of two new ice surfaces eliminating/reducing the number of 6:15 a.m. practices would be beneficial for the Novice Division as we had a number of players that wouldn't show due to such an early time slot.
- Special thanks to the Midget AAA team players Graham Tutt and Lars Hepso for helping out in the practices. Great work with the direction drill. It was a great experience for the kids and parents to see.
- Novice philosophy this year followed the Hockey Canada model of three practices to one game. <http://www.hockeycanada.ca/multimedia/e/develop/players/downloads/mhaddev.pdf>
- The teams also capped the number of tournaments to three, which was agreed on by head coaches.
- The practices for the most part were structured with 5 stations, with players separated by their ability, to help challenge the players at their skill level. PMHA also emphasized pre-practice planning to aid in the head coaches' development.
 - Special thanks to the Okanagan Hockey School for lending us their specialized equipment to better our practices.
- Thanks to Rob McLaughlin for his world class power skating instruction. PMHA is fortunate to have his abilities at their disposal.
- The Novice Tournament was a great success this year. Thanks to Heidi McHale and Margot Heintz for co-chairing the tournament. The raffle table was second to none.
- Some of our challenges this year was in playing associations that tiered based on ages. It was difficult to compete against a team of all 8 year olds when our teams consisted of 7 & 8 year olds. It is being proposed to change our system for next year to a Novice A, B, C type of system (as in other local associations) to address this concern.

Novice Summary

	50/50 Conc	Games	Practices	Practice Plans	Game/practice%	6:15's	Total ice
Team 1	9	18	48	25	38%	10	66
Team 2	7	18	48	25	38%	8	66
Team 3	8	18	49	26	37%	10	67
Team 4	9	19	46	25	41%	7	65

Pre-Novice

- We had 32 players on two teams.
- Many thanks to the Head Coaches Chad Deleuw and Scott MacVicar.
- Thanks to all the Assistant Coaches, too many to name.
- Also a great big thank you to the Team Managers Brianne Canada and Cathy Carley.
- Pre-Novice philosophy this year followed the Hockey Canada model of three practices to one game.
- The practices this year were shared with the Mini-Vees on week nights and combined on the weekends. This was the first year of sharing with the Mini-Vees and it did prove to be challenging.
 - It is recommended that next year the pre-novice practice together.
- The practices were structures using stations with the players divided up by ability. This worked very well. PMHA also emphasized pre-practice planning to aid in the head coaches' development.
- The Pre-Novice Tournament was a great success this year. Thanks to Brianne Canada and Cathy Carley for co-chairing the tournament. Great job on the raffle table.
- The teams had 42 ice sessions each this year as well as some reciprocated games with other local associations and a couple of fun days attended by both teams.

In closing I think the season was a great success, as it was amazing to see how far all the players developed. Hope to see you all at the rink in September and have a great summer. Don't forget about PMHA AGM on May 21st 7:00 pm at the Riverside Conference Centre at the Days Inn.

Randy Craig
Novice / Pre-Novice Director