

**ST.BONIFACE FEMALE
HOCKEY COMMITTEE**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

GENERAL INFORMATION

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ST.BONIFACE FEMALE HOCKEY COMMITTEE - GENERAL INFORMATION

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I. **ABBREVIATIONS**

AA	Area Association (e.g. St.Boniface, Transcona, St.Vital, etc.)
CC	Community Centre
HC	Hockey Canada
HM	Hockey Manitoba (also Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association)
SBFHC	St.Boniface Female Hockey Committee
SBMHA	St.Boniface Minor Hockey Association
WMHA	Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association

II. INTRODUCTION

- A. The purpose of this document is to inform interested persons in the community of the general scope of female minor ice hockey, and how it is organized and managed in St.Boniface.
- B. Over the past decade, the number of girls playing ice hockey has increased substantially. Growth has been fuelled in part by the success of the National Women's Hockey Team at the World Female Hockey Championships and the Winter Olympics. In addition, many universities in Canada and the United States host competitive women's university hockey teams with scholarship opportunities.

III. THE GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF FEMALE HOCKEY

- A. The St.Boniface Female Hockey Committee (SBFHC) is a voluntary body consisting of female hockey parents interested in the organization, promotion and advancement of female minor ice hockey in St.Boniface.
- B. SBFHC is responsible for organizing and administrating the female minor ice hockey program in St.Boniface each fall and throughout the hockey season. Other significant activities organized by this committee includes a female ice hockey camp in September and a female hockey tournament at the end of the hockey season.
- C. SBFHC consists of six elected officers and representatives of the female minor ice hockey teams registered in St.Boniface and Transcona (Transcona is amalgamated with St.Boniface for female ice hockey). Officers include a chairperson, vice-chairperson, past-chairperson, registrar, treasurer, and secretary.
- D. On average, SBFHC meets once a month during the hockey season.
- E. In early September following player registration, SBFHC organizes and supervises team tryouts.
- F. To date, St.Boniface is the only hockey area association in Winnipeg with a Female Hockey Committee. In other areas, female ice hockey is largely the responsibility of a single person, namely a female hockey convenor.
- G. SBFHC is a standing committee of the St.Boniface Minor Hockey Association (SBMHA). The Chairperson of the SBFHC is a voting member of the SBMHA Executive Board and represents the interests of female minor ice hockey in St.Boniface at the area association level.

- H. SBMHA is a member of the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) with voting rights by its president on the WMHA Board of Governors.
- I. An officer, usually the Chairperson, of the SBFHC represents the interests of St. Boniface on the WMHA Female Hockey Council. This council consists of female hockey representatives from all the area associations and a chairperson. The chairperson of this council represents the interests of female ice hockey on the Executive Board of WMHA. The Executive Board is the power base of WMHA and make the major decisions governing minor ice hockey in Winnipeg.
- J. WMHA Female Hockey Council is a voluntary body with representation from all hockey area associations in Winnipeg and surrounding associations participating in the WMHA league (e.g. Oakbank, St. Adolphe). The Chairperson of the Female Council is the WMHA Vice President of Female Hockey. This person is nominated at large and elected by the WMHA Executive Board. The Female Council meets monthly during the ice hockey season. Interests of the Female Council are represented at the WMHA Executive Board by the Vice President of Female Hockey.
- K. WMHA is a member of Hockey Manitoba (HM) along with other hockey associations in Manitoba.

IV. **FEMALE HOCKEY AGE DIVISIONS**

- A. New age divisions were adopted by HM for the 2002-2003 hockey season. These age divisions (based on calendar year) are:
 - 1. Midget 15, 16, and 17 years old
 - 2. Bantam 13 and 14 years old
 - 3. Peewee 11 and 12 years old
 - 4. Atom 9 and 10 years old
 - 5. Novice 7 and 8 years old

V. **SKILL LEVEL CATEGORIES**

- A. The current CHA system designates minor hockey skill levels and leagues as AAA, AA, and A. Currently in Manitoba, minor female hockey is designated as AA and A. The only division with a AA designation in Winnipeg is Midget. "A" hockey is further classified as A1 and A2. A1 is the higher skill level. There are usually tryouts for players interested in playing at the A1 level. The only level for Novice is A (no tryouts). If there are enough players

to register two teams at Novice level in St.Boniface, players would be organized into two equally competitive teams.

VI. **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- A. Registration for female minor hockey in St.Boniface occurs in early September. Parents register their daughter (s) at their area C.C or at a designated registration centre.
- B. There are two hockey leagues governed by WMHA, namely Regular and Female leagues. At registration time, a decision must be made by the parent and daughter as to which league to register in. Girls have a choice and can register to play ice hockey in the Regular League with boys or with girls only in the Female League. There are some notable differences between the Regular and Female leagues. There is no body checking at any age or skill level in Female Hockey including high school, college/ university. By peewee age, the majority of girls in Winnipeg opt to play hockey in the Female League. Only a few girls play in the Regular League at Peewee, Bantam, or Midget because of body checking (beginning at Peewee), and obvious differences in size and strength.
- C. Since the number of girls registered for Female Hockey is relatively low in comparison to registration in the Regular League at each CC, the Female League is organized at the AA level instead of the CC level. When registration dates are over, all the registrations from the six CC in St.Boniface are collected and sorted into age divisions.
- D. St.Boniface and Transcona are amalgamated for female minor hockey. The two hockey associations conduct their registrations independently. Registrations are then combined and sorted prior to A1 tryouts.
- E. Female hockey teams are classified at WMHA as Direct Entry. Direct entry teams must be associated with a CC in the AA. SBFHC and Transcona female hockey convenor meet and decide which teams are registered in St.Boniface and which ones are registered in Transcona. More teams are registered in St.Boniface since the majority of players are from this area. Team registration is reviewed and decided on a year to year basis by the SBFHC.
- F. Team registration in St.Boniface is decided on an annual basis by SBMHA following player registration.

VII. FEMALE MIDGET AA

- A. Female Midget AA is the highest competition and skill level for female Midget aged players.
- B. We currently do not host a Midget AA team. The SBFHC makes arrangements with another area association to accept interested players to participate in their evaluations and player selection.
- C. In the event we decide to host a Midget AA team, a subcommittee of SBFHC will be responsible for organizing the team.
- D. Responsibilities of the Midget AA subcommittee includes recruitment of coaches, scheduling of player evaluations, and general organization of the team prior to the start of the season. As is the norm for other teams, management of the Midget AA team is the responsibility of a volunteer parent.
- E. Eligible midget age players are notified at the time of registration of dates and times for Midget AA tryouts.
- F. Player selection for Midget AA is made by the coaching staff with or without assistance from other knowledgeable hockey evaluators.
- G. The average player cost to play at Midget AA is \$1,000.00 This amount may be reduced through individual and team fundraising activities.

VIII. A1 EVALUATIONS AND PLAYER SELECTION

- A. Player evaluation for A1 teams is the responsibility of SBFHC. All players registered in an age division can attend evaluation sessions however those who wish to play at the A2 level may choose not to. Generally, players who choose to play A2 will participate in the evaluation process to take advantage of the ice time since the cost for evaluations is shared by both A1 and A2 teams.
- B. Evaluations for all A1 teams except Midget is conducted by a team of independent evaluators (minimum of 3) using a standardized evaluation form and a series of drills and hockey scrimmages. The players with the highest evaluation ratings will be assigned to the A1 team. A1 coaching candidates will have no input in the selection of players except for the final two or three picks referred to as the coach's picks. The number of players selected for the A1 team will depend on registration numbers in the age division and will be determined by the SBFMC. Numbers will generally be divided equally

between the A1 and A2 teams; for example, if there are 28 registrants, each team will have 14 players. An uneven split may be applied depending on the skill and experience of the players. Players who register late or after tryouts will normally be assigned to the A2 team in their age division. Consideration will be given by SBFMC for a late registrant (e.g. moving in from another area) or a registrant who misses tryouts due to injury to join the A1 team on a case-by-case basis.

- C. A player may request an age advancement (e.g. Peewee to Bantam) at registration prior to tryouts. A \$20.00 fee will be assessed for the additional ice time.
- D. To make the A1 team in an older age division, an age advanced player must be rated by the evaluators as one of the top five players in the tryout group. An age advanced goaltender must be ranked the top candidate at that position. If an age advanced player fails to make the A1 team, she will return to her age division.
- E. Players may also be asked by SBFMC to consider age advancement to balance team rosters.

IX. SELECTION OF COACHES

- A. SBFHC is responsible for the recruitment and selection of coaches for the Female Hockey Program. Coaching candidates are usually interested parents with hockey knowledge and experience. Coaching candidates must have the proper coaching certification as required by Hockey Manitoba and WMHA.
- B. An A1 coaching candidate with a daughter(s) in the evaluation group will not be accepted to coach the A1 team until the evaluation process is completed and the player skill rankings are completed. If a coaching candidate is not a parent or close relative of anyone in the evaluation group, he/she may be one of the evaluators.
- C. An A1 coaching candidate whose daughter(s) is not selected by the evaluators may not participate in the final two picks. In this situation, the final two picks will be decided by the evaluators in consultation with the Chairperson of the SBFMC or other Officer.

X. ST.BONIFACE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

- A. SBMHA is responsible for organizing and administrating minor ice hockey in St.Boniface for interested boys and girls. It consists of an elected Executive Board and representatives from the six St.Boniface community centres (CC) - Southdale, Winakwa, Norwood, Champlain, Archwood, and Notre Dame.
- B. Some administrative responsibilities and policies of SBMHA include:
 - 1. establishing CC boundaries (determines who can play where within St.Boniface)
 - 2. organize tryouts
 - 3. providing indoor ice for tryouts and league games
 - 4. providing ice and hosting playoffs for a set number of divisions each year
 - 5. register teams with WMHA
 - 6. accurately register players and provide player registration to WMHA
 - 7. provide qualified game officials and timekeepers
 - 8. organize clinics for coaches, referees, and timekeepers

XI. WINNIPEG MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

- A. WMHA is a voluntary administrative body which organizes and oversees minor ice and minor in line roller hockey in Winnipeg. It sets up the various leagues, schedules, and establishes and implements policies, rules and regulations for Winnipeg.
- B. The WMHA Rules and Regulations booklet, updated yearly, may be obtained at the WMHA office (206 - 1555 St. James Street). Phone - 784-5454. Several copies of this manual are included with the coach's package for each team registered each fall with WMHA.
- C. WMHA. consists of an administrative Executive Board with representation from all Winnipeg AA and a paid staff of three employees . Some decisions and policies made by WMHA include:
 - 1. establishing area association boundaries (determines who can play where)
 - 2. establishing team roster size
 - 3. establishing tryout timetable (start and end dates)
 - 4. scheduling league and playoff games
 - 5. establishing schedules and rules for playoffs
 - 6. establish and implement rules and regulations for registering teams

7. rules and regulations for hosting and participating in sanctioned tournaments
 8. rules and regulations for playing league and exhibition games including the duration of each game, number of game officials, fees for game officials, and suspensions for major infractions.
- D. WMHA has an Appeal Committee empowered to accept various appeals by players, coaches, managers, etc. with regards to team and player registration, suspensions, and other hockey issues. If necessary, a person may appeal a ruling by the WMHA Appeal Committee to Hockey Manitoba pursuant to their appeal procedures.
- E. Web address - <http://www.wmha.mb.ca>

XII. HOCKEY MANITOBA

- A. The Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association was established in 1914. In 1995 the Association registered the business name "Hockey Manitoba", for Legal purposes the name shall be the Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association, but for all other purposes, this organization be known as Hockey Manitoba.
- B. HM is a voluntary association of members and individuals designed to promote and develop amateur hockey through fair play throughout the Province of Manitoba in affiliation with the Canadian Hockey Association.
- C. The stated objectives of HM are:
1. To develop a planned program of leadership in all areas related to the development of hockey in Manitoba.
 2. To promote, form and govern senior, junior, recreational and minor hockey for both males and females and such other categories which may be established within the province of Manitoba.
 3. To secure the enforcement of the rules of the game of hockey as adopted by HM and to decide and adjust all matters in disputes between various clubs affiliated with Hockey Manitoba.
 4. To conduct matches between member clubs to determine provincial champions and representatives to inter-provincial championships and CHA championships.
 5. To encourage, develop and foster amateur hockey in the province of Manitoba.

6. Some decisions and policies made and implemented by HM include:
 - a. area boundaries outside of Winnipeg (who can play where)
 - b. team roster size
 - c. start and end of hockey season including tryout timetable and playoffs
 - d. local rules governing league games including duration of each game, suspensions for major infractions,
- D. Web address - <http://www.hockeymanitoba.mb.ca>

XIII. HOCKEY CANADA

- A. HC is the sole governing body for amateur hockey in Canada following the merger in July 1994 of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and Hockey Canada.
- B. HC operates national programming in cooperation with 13 Branch Associations, the Canadian Hockey League and the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union.
- C. HC oversees the management of hockey programming in Canada from the entry level of the game to participation in international competition, including World Championships, the World Cup of Hockey and Olympic Games.
- D. HC operates regional Centres of Excellence in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Saint John that have improved the delivery system for hockey development programs throughout Canada.
- E. HC is a \$9.5 million a year business that links players, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators and others involved in local hockey associations across Canada to all other provincial, national and international hockey bodies.
- F. HC is an organization that is given direction from its board of directors representing every part of the country and hockey level up to the National Hockey League.
- G. Through the officers, branch presidents and council directors, they provide leadership to its members, by establishing the by-laws and regulations, rules of game, and direction of its development programs.
- H. Web address - - <http://www.canadianhockey.ca>

XIV. HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

- A. High school hockey for men and women is governed by the Manitoba High School Athletics Association. At this time, women are permitted to double roster and play on both community and high school teams. This policy is under review every three years since double rostering of players is normally not permitted by HM.
- B. Web address - <http://www.mhsaa.mb.ca>

XV. OTHER

The Women's Hockey Web - <http://www.whockey.com>

Women's University Hockey in Canada - <http://www.whockey.com/univ/canada>

University of Manitoba Women's Hockey Team -
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/phyped/athletics>

University of Winnipeg Women's Hockey Team -
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/athletics>
