



MEMORANDUM

July 10, 2011

TO: MHA Presidents & Female Development Coordinators

FROM: Jim Humphrey, VIAHA President

COPY: VIAHA Officers, Susie Sherman, Barb Norton

SUBJECT: Female Hockey Regional Team Preparation

As those who attended the VIAHA AGM in May will know the membership passed new resolutions dealing with female hockey and the setting up of “Regional Teams”. The District was divided into regions when VIAHA was formed back in 2007, those being:

- North Island;
- Mid Island; and
- South Island.

These regions will be the starting point of forming our regional female teams; our goal is to have one team in each region in each division. In saying this there is much to get organized over the next month so as that we will be prepared to have tryouts in each region organized and the date’s times etc. published so as that the girls no when and where to go. In order to do this however we need the assistance and support of all 17 member MHAs. Susie along with some of the Female Coordinators have done some work on trying to determine how many girls are interested in trying out for a female competitive team and have had some success but we know there are more girls out their that have not registered yet or have not been advised on the districts initiative in forming “Regional Competitive Teams”. There were pre-registration forms sent out to the MHAs last spring and as a result we have the following number of girls registered for tryouts in the different regions:

Division	North Island	Mid Island	South Island
Midget	12	35	17
Bantam	10	22	18
Pee Wee	5	12	10

If we as a district want to be successful we must all take the time to ensure that our player’s needs are taken care of and that there is a viable competitive program for them to participate in. We must ensure that we put into place a program that meets the needs for the development of female hockey we need to move forward in a positive direction, our female players deserve nothing less! We need to work together towards one goal and that goal needs to be to make available to our female players a steadfast and viable competitive program with a robust recreational program feeding into the competitive program.

We are well on our way in our plans but know it is time to put the plans into action and to do this we need the support of all of our member associations, we need to curve the pressures placed on some of us to try and have a competitive team made up of local MHA players and carded out of individual associations. History has proven that this does not work and in fact some would say this type of mindset has stifled the growth of female hockey. Our female players like their male counterparts need and want to play with players of similar caliber; when we put together teams that have both strong competitive players mixed in with recreational players both get frustrated and this in turn has caused many to leave our game or not wanting to join and undergo the commitment that competitive hockey brings.



We have recently appointed Barb Norton as the Head Commissioner for female hockey; she along with her commissioners will oversee the administration of the female leagues both competitive and recreational throughout the district. She will work under the guidance of the South Island VP Michael Hanson who will deal with any pending discipline situations that may occur. We are in the process of putting together a VIAHA Female Hockey Committee which Barb will chair and Susie Sherman will be Vice Chair. We will be adding up to four more members to this committee and they will administer female hockey bringing back to the Executive Committee suggestions etc. on the way ahead to maximize the growth of female hockey. Should any MHA President like to submit a name for us to consider appointing to this committee please do so by forwarding the name to me. We decided to try a smaller committee in hopes that they will be able to meet regularly and discuss the needs of the female program. Regular meetings of the Female Development Coordinators has proven to be problematic thus our objective that forming a smaller committee dedicated solely at dealing with female hockey issues will better represent this most important part of our game.

So moving forward below is what is required in preparation in forming a regional team in each of our three regions:

- MHAs need to maximize the registering of pending female players as well as ensure that those already registered are aware of the Districts initiatives;
- VIAHA along with our member MHAs to arrange ice times for female hockey tryouts for the weekend of August 27/28 and September 10/11;
- VIAHA to arrange independent evaluators for the tryouts;
- MHAs need to seek out names of those wishing to be a coach, assistant coach or manage one of our competitive teams and provide the names to the VIAHA DHO, Robin Edwards;
- VIAHA to put together a selection committee to select the team officials for each of the competitive teams;
- Tryout registrations to continue over the next five weeks with applications continued to be forwarded to Susie Sherman or the VIAHA office along with the \$60 tryout fee, with cheques made payable to VIAHA;

The above list is not all inclusive but it is a start which will allow for us to begin preparations to ensure that past issues with respect to our female hockey competitive programs are addressed and that Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association have competitive teams that will represent us throughout the year leading up to the BC Hockey Championships in March 2012.

Finally, there certainly will be questions asked as we move forwards, questions such as:

Q: What if there are enough competitive players in a particular region to have two teams?

A: *If the talent base is there to have more than one team carded in a particular region then the VIAHA Executive Committee will look at approving a second team.*

Q: What if there are not enough girls in a region wanting to play on a regional team?

A: *If there is not enough interest in a particular region then those girls wishing to tryout will be allowed to go to the adjacent region to tryout.*

Q: Where will the team be hosted from?

A: *The teams will be hosted out of VIAHA but will be carded out of one MHA, the expectation is that the team will practice/play in the home rinks to which the teams players are from.*

Q: Who will be the coaches of the teams?

A: *Those wishing to coach one of our competitive teams will apply to VIAHA and a committee will be setup to select the coaches/managers of each team.*



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Q: What will be the travel commitment of the players?

A: *VIAHA recognizes that cost plays a major factor in the success of the program; as such we will work very hard at minimizing travel costs.*

Q: How much will it cost to play on one of the competitive teams?

A: *Much of this will be decided by the parents of the team once it is formed, cost will depend on such things as how many tournaments that a team wishes to participate in.*

Q: Who and where will the competitive teams play during the season?

A: *The teams will play out of the home arena's of which their local MHA is located and play in leagues that will assist in minimizing travel while at the same time meeting the needs to develop as a team.*

Q: VIAHA has had limited success in the past why should this season be any different?

A: *MHAs along with the District have recognized past shortfalls and have expressed the desire to work together to strengthen the female program*

There will be more information coming out in the days/weeks ahead so please bear with us but also ensure that the maximum flow of information out to our female players and their parents as to be successful the girls themselves need to be part of the solution by signing up to attend the tryout sessions.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Jim Humphrey
VIAHA President