



FEMALE HOCKEY MODEL – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

CENTRAL REGISTRY AND REGISTRATION	3
What is the Central Registry/Why is BC Hockey implementing a Central Registry?	3
How will the Central Registry work?	3
Do all female players need to register through the Central Registry?	3
Does this apply to all age groups?	3
Why don't players in the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island need to register through the Central Registry?	3
Why don't players in the Yukon need to register through the Central Registry?	4
Why do players need to register through their Home MHA first?	4
Do we need to pay to sign up via the Central Registry?	4
FORMATION OF TEAMS	5
Our Minor Hockey Association already has enough female players for our own female team. Will these players be split up?	5
If the plan only affects Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget players, how will it affect MHAs who have mixed Atom/Pee Wee teams? Will Atom players be allowed to play Pee Wee if needed?	5
Do Female teams no longer exist within Minor Hockey Associations?	5
Are Females allowed to dual-card to Integrated teams?	5
What if there are not enough females in a Zone to create a team in a certain Division?	5
Can there be two (2) Female "A" teams at the same Division within the same Zone?	5
BC is much bigger than Nova Scotia, what is the maximum distance you anticipate players travelling?	5
Does this plan take the small MHAs that need female players on Integrated teams into account?	6
Will female "A" teams be zone based?	6
ROLE OF THE FEMALE HOCKEY COORDINATOR AND ZONE LEADS	7
In areas where there are already Female Hockey Associations, what role will the Zone Lead have?	7
Who controls the rosters – the Host MHA or the Zone Lead?	7



OTHER7

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Has there been discussion about ways to promote the goalie position for females?7

Is anything being done to address the overlap between Female and Integrated Championships, particularly at the Pee Wee level?.....7

Has there been discussion about including Female Initiation, Novice, and Atom players in the process for tracking and future planning purposes?7



CENTRAL REGISTRY AND REGISTRATION

What is the Central Registry/Why is BC Hockey implementing a Central Registry?

BC Hockey's Female Model will utilize a "Central Registry" The purpose of the Central Registry is to look at numbers at all levels of play and attempt to populate as many teams as possible in both the competitive ("A") and recreational ("C") levels of female hockey.

The use of "zones" as opposed to traditional MHA boundaries will allow more females to play together. The Central Registry will provide the Zone Leads the hands-on experience of administering female hockey with the ultimate objective of forming female hockey associations in each geographic zone of BC.

How will the Central Registry work?

The Central Registry aims to help improve the administration of the game in BC. The use of Zones expands traditional MHA boundaries and allows more females to play together.

All Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget-age players wishing to participate in recreational ("C") and carded ("A") female hockey will:

1. Register with their home Minor Hockey Association (MHA)
2. Register with the Central Registry
 - In MHAs where there are enough female players to roster a team in any particular division, the MHA will register those players and form a team, automatically becoming the Host MHA for that team.
 - In MHAs where there are not enough female players to roster a team in any particular division, the Zone Lead will look to neighboring MHAs to fill out rosters. The host MHA will be determined based on ice availability.

As an example of how the Central Registry will work:

If Community A has 12 Pee Wee "C" players and Community B has 5 Pee Wee "C" players, the two (2) groups would be combined to form one (1) team. In previous years, this may not have been allowed in certain areas due to District and/or MHA rules.

Do all female players need to register through the Central Registry?

All Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget female players wishing to play female hockey should register through the Central Registry. If a female player chooses to solely play Integrated hockey, she does not need to register through the Central Registry.

Does this apply to all age groups?

The Female Hockey Model currently applies to the Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget age groups. Minor Hockey Associations are encouraged to ice Initiation, Novice and Atom Female teams wherever possible.

Why don't players in the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island need to register through the Central Registry?

Female players in the Lower Mainland (Abbotsford, Langley, Meadow Ridge, North Shore, Richmond, Surrey, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver) and Southern Vancouver Island (Capital Region Female MHA Draw



Zone – Juan de Fuca MHA, Peninsula MHA, Saanich MHA, Sooke MHA, Victoria MHA, and Victoria Racquet Club MHA) have Female MHAs available to them for full-time registration in female hockey.

Why don't players in the Yukon need to register through the Central Registry?

Female players in the Yukon (Dawson City MHA, Faro MHA, Haines Junction MHA, Teslin MHA, Watson Lake MHA, and Whitehorse MHA) do not need to register through the Central Registry as Yukon AHA already rosters females wishing to play female hockey through Whitehorse MHA.

Why do players need to register through their Home MHA first?

Players will register with their Home MHA to allow MHAs to plan for the upcoming season. For example, if an MHA has 15 Pee Wee age females registered, they can expect to host a Female Pee Wee team.

Registering with their Home MHA also allows players to dual-card and play Integrated hockey if they choose.

Finally, in the event a female team cannot be formed due to low numbers in an area, these females will already be registered with their Home MHAs, allowing them to play integrated hockey with no obstacles.

Do we need to pay to sign up via the Central Registry?

There is no cost to register via the Central Registry. All team fees will be paid to the Host MHAs.



FORMATION OF TEAMS

Our Minor Hockey Association already has enough female players for our own female team. Will these players be split up?

The Female Hockey Model does not aim to split up players and existing teams, but rather to open up the traditional minor hockey boundaries to allow players from outlying areas to participate. If an MHA has enough players to ice a team in a Division, that team will stay with the MHA, with the possible addition of players from neighboring MHAs.

If the plan only affects Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget players, how will it affect MHAs who have mixed Atom/Pee Wee teams? Will Atom players be allowed to play Pee Wee if needed?

We will try to make teams within the same Division wherever possible, but the Zone Lead will work with the MHAs to determine what is best for each specific area.

Do Female teams no longer exist within Minor Hockey Associations?

MHAs who have traditionally hosted female teams will continue to do so. In areas where there have not traditionally been Female teams, the Zone Lead will collaborate with neighboring MHAs to fill out rosters wherever possible. The host MHA for the formed team(s) will be determined based on ice availability.

Are Females allowed to dual-card to Integrated teams?

Yes, where allowed under MHA and District rules.

Female players will still have the opportunity to play with an Integrated team, but their female team will be their first priority in the event of any scheduling conflicts.

What if there are not enough females in a Zone to create a team in a certain Division?

In the event there aren't enough female players in a Division within a zone, players will play on Integrated teams with their Home MHAs. Zone Leads will work with MHAs and Female Directors to explore options such as exhibition and tournament teams to allow females to play with other females whenever possible.

Can there be two (2) Female "A" teams at the same Division within the same Zone?

Yes, we are encouraging MHAs to form as many female teams per Division and per Zone as registration allows.

BC is much bigger than Nova Scotia, what is the maximum distance you anticipate players travelling?

The purpose of the Central Registry is to form as many Female teams within a Zone as possible. We do not expect travel to significantly increase. Each of the four (4) Zones utilizing the Registry (North, Okanagan, Kootenays, and Vancouver Island) has been further subdivided into geographic areas in an effort to keep players as close to home as possible.



Does this plan take the small MHAs that need female players to play on Integrated teams into account?

By having players register with their Home MHA as well as the Female Central Registry, we are still allowing female players to dual-card to both a Female and an Integrated team. In the event of a scheduling conflict we would expect the female team to have priority.

Will female “A” teams be zone based?

This will depend on the zone and the number of players registered. The plan is for these teams to be MHA-based where numbers allow. If there are not enough players from the Host MHA, a Zone-based team will come into effect, similar to what is already occurring in many parts of BC (i.e. North East Predators, North Island Impact, etc.)



ROLE OF THE FEMALE HOCKEY COORDINATOR AND ZONE LEADS

In areas where there are already Female Hockey Associations, what role will the Zone Lead have?

The Zone Lead will support these Female MHAs in hosting recruitment and retention initiatives such as The First Shift, Esso Fun Days, and Jamborees. They will also strengthen the connection between these Female Associations and BC Hockey.

Who controls the rosters – the Host MHA or the Zone Lead?

The Host MHA will roster teams in the HCR and control the addition and removal of players. Both the Host MHA and the Zone Lead will have access to the roster in the HCR.

OTHER

We've been basically doing this same thing for a few years now, where we are the host association and recruit girls from adjacent associations. It sounds like under this model we could continue with this, but with less rostering issues and less approvals required.

Exactly. The purpose of the Female Model and Female Central registry is to remove the boundaries, barriers, and exemptions needed to ice female teams.

Has there been discussion about ways to promote the goalie position for females?

We are currently looking at programming to offer goalie-specific recruitment and will be working with our Leads in the coming months. This is an issue not just in BC, but across Canada.

Is anything being done to address the overlap between Female and Integrated Championships, particularly at the Pee Wee level?

We are working with our Championship Coordinator to address this in future seasons.

Has there been discussion about including Female Initiation, Novice, and Atom players in the process for tracking and future planning purposes?

While the Central Registry only applies to Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget at this time, BC Hockey will continue to track registration numbers of females at the Initiation, Novice, and Atom Divisions and encourage MHAs to ice teams in these Divisions wherever possible.