

Saskatoon and District Female Hockey Association – Comet Zone Bantam AA & Midget AA Hockey Programs

August 20, 2007

General Program

The Saskatoon and District Female Hockey Association (S&DFHA) – Comets would like to inform the female membership of this years program change in the Female Bantam and Midget Divisions. The female hockey program is growing and the needs of our membership are becoming more diverse. The Comet Executive is aware of these changing needs and after much consideration and feedback from the membership we are proud to announce that the S&DFHA – Comets will have dedicated Bantam AA and Midget AA teams for the 2007- 2008 season.

This initiative is to recognize the many talent levels within the female program. Our membership ranges from girls who do not want a competitive program to those who strive for a higher level of competition. We feel this initiative is a step in developing the female program. In addition this step will provide the necessary support and player development to ensure the success of the Midget AAA program established in 2006-2007.

The Comets Bantam and Midget AA Hockey Teams will represent Saskatoon in Division I of the North Sask Female Hockey League (NSFHL). The teams will also be the Saskatoon Comets representatives in the Bantam AA and Midget AA Provincial Playoffs. The 2007-08 season will be the first year of operation for these teams.

Provincial Bantam A and Midget A teams will still be selected from the club teams.

North Sask Female Hockey League

The league was founded in 2002. In 2006-2007 the league was comprised of 4 Divisions and 23 teams. In 2004 a Division I or “AA” division was developed to allow Bantam/Midget age Female players that required more of a challenge, a place to play. In 2006/2007 Division I had six teams: Humboldt, Kindersley, North East Lakers (Canora), Prince Albert, Shellbrook and Tisdale. These teams are comprised of Bantam and Midget aged players. It is assumed that the NSFHL will operate in the 2007-2008 season with a similar number of teams.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Bantam and Midget AA Hockey Teams are:

- To provide S&DFHA players an opportunity to play with and against other elite female hockey players.
- To provide continued advanced skill development in a committed high performance environment for Bantam and Midget aged female players to better prepare them for the potential of a Midget AAA hockey opportunity.
- To provide exposure for the players to all teams in the Midget AAA program (SFMAAAHL).
- To develop players who will be exceptional role models and ambassadors for the S&DFHA Comets.

Coach Selection

The Head Coaches will be named (after a selection process has been completed) by the S&DFHA – Comet Executive for a one year term. The Head Coach must have a minimum of Development Level I Coaching certification. The Head Coach shall choose (after the teams have been selected) their own Assistant Coaches and Manager; however these positions will be required to be approved by the Comet Executive. Interested coaches must submit an application prior to August 1 of the upcoming season to S&DFHA.

Team Selection

The Bantam AA and Midget AA teams will be selected after a tryout process that will occur in September after the Midget AAA tryout process has been completed. There will be a minimal cost for the tryout. The Head Coach of both teams will be selected prior to the tryouts and they, as well as independent evaluators will make the team selections.

S&DFHA Comet club teams and Provincial A teams will be evaluated at a separate tryout process.

Eligibility/Player Roster

Each Team shall carry a minimum of fifteen (15) skaters and two (2) goalies. All club teams will be required to have at least one goalie before the AA teams can have two. For eligibility purposes, a S&DFHA player is any player who was registered (in the previous two seasons) as an SMHA player and resides in or within a 120 kilometre radius (Bantam) and within a 160 kilometre radius (Midget) of Saskatoon, provided there is no other Bantam or Midget AA team closer to their community. Players who do not meet both of the criteria above may be given consideration. Any female player that meets SMHA regulations is also eligible.

Eligibility to try out for the Bantam and Midget AA teams shall be open to any S&DFHA players and any eligible female SMHA players. Players on the Team shall not be eligible to play on any other Saskatoon Minor Hockey or SHA team (with the exception of the Sask First program or if they are affiliated).

Affiliations

Players will be affiliated from teams that are registered as S&DFHA club teams. Example: Bantam AA from Bantam Club Teams and Midget AA from Midget Club teams.

League Schedule, Exhibition Games, Tournaments and Provincials

The league schedule (likely 16-20 games) will begin at the end of October and finish at the end of January. League playoffs begin the middle of February and go to the middle of March. This will include home and away series that will require travel, primarily on the weekends throughout the regular season and playoffs.

Games will be 1 hour and 45 minutes of ice time; 2-20 minute stop-time periods and the 3rd period will be the remainder of the time allotted as close to 20 minutes of stop-time as possible.

Exhibition games and tournaments will be proposed by each team to create opportunities to compete against other elite female Bantam - Midget teams.

Provincials will be played in February/March, as scheduled by SHA.

Player/Parent Expectations/Commitments

Players/parents choosing the Bantam/Midget AA programs should be dedicated to the game of hockey. Expectations will include:

- One to two practices a week.
- Games or tournaments most weekends. League games will have priority over tournaments.
- Off ice training program.
- Players/Parents will be ambassadors for S&DFHA Comets and follow the Comets Code of Conduct.

Finances

The AAA/AA advisory committee and Comet Executive will receive and review the teams' budget at the beginning of the year and a financial statement must be submitted at years end.

The Bantam and Midget AA Hockey Teams shall operate their own bank accounts. Fees and contributions from each family shall cover disbursements in the given year, and any unused funds shall be reimbursed at year end. Fees will include home ice costs, game officials, designated practice times etc. The cost for this program will be higher than those of a traditional Club team but hopefully only marginally. S&DFHA Comets will be responsible to pay the NSFHL bond and league fees and this will be charged to the Bantam and Midget AA teams.

Governance

The Bantam and Midget AA Teams will have to follow all S&DFHA – Comets, SMHA, & SHA Bylaws, Regulations and Policies and Constitutions, as well as all Rules, Bylaws and the Constitution of the NSFHL.

SMHA and S&DFHA Comets Executive Responsibilities to the Bantam and Midget AA Teams

They shall provide administrative infrastructure and governance support.

They shall work cooperatively with the Bantam and Midget AA teams to help promote the Teams to all S&DFHA Players, to ensure they have the opportunity to earn a spot to play on the Team in the future.

The Teams are SHA sanctioned and shall be under the jurisdiction and subject to the regulations of the SHA.

S&DFHA Comets will complete the player registration.

SMHA will allow the Team to utilize the minor rate for ice rental from the City of Saskatoon whenever possible.

S&DFHA will provide home and away jerseys for the teams and no other jerseys can be used.

Bantam and Midget AA Teams Responsibilities

The Team will ensure that all players and team officials represent SMHA and the S&DFHA Comets in a positive manner at all times

The Team will positively promote SMHA and the S&DFHA Comet's programs.