

## **MRO Girls hockey 2010-2011 report**

The year had a very rough start for the Girls program as you all know. Following the August registration we only had 68 girls registered from Atom to Junior. This created a huge issue regarding how much ice time the girls program would be getting and how many teams we would be allowed to form. According to committee guidelines we should have only been allowed to form 5 teams and get 5 hours of ice time this season. Please remember that these rules are exactly the ones used for the boys hockey program. This scenario would have really hurt the girls program so after much discussion it was determined by the committee that the girls would be allowed to form 7 teams, however as per the ice time issue, only 5 hours would be provided by the MRO program. The remaining ice time required for the program would have to be obtained from partnering programs like HSL, Westmount, Verdun, etc. This compromise was very much appreciated and allowed us to form 2 atom A/B, 2 pee wee A/B, 1 Bantam A, 1 midget A and 1 junior A teams.

The reason we requested this compromise is because we knew many girls were in the habit of registering late so our numbers would dramatically increase come early September. They did in fact, we went from 68 to 96. The total number of girls was made up of 80% from MRO, 10% HSL and the rest were from Westmount with 1 from Cote St Luc and another from Verdun. Thus the need for us to go and get ice from partnering associations.

The lesson we learned from this experience is that all returning girls must register during the May online registration process so that we can determine the number of hours required for this program and the number of teams using the same process and guidelines as the boys.

We also hosted 31 regional championship games in MRO. It was a lot of work but everyone chipped in and help out making it a huge success. Special Thanks to Julie, Luc, Danielle, Jean Francois, Martin, Peter and my wife/son. Parent's from all over Lac St Louis region were impressed by our organization level and professionalism!

Here is a summary of the various team results by level;

**Atom B girls:** Had a good season, they played 20 season games, won 6, tied 2 and lost 12. Coaching staff did a great job developing girls and keeping them motivated. Many of the girls were used as call ups for the Atom A team too.

**Atom A girls:** Had an amazing season. Played 16 season games, won 8, lost 6 and tied 2. They did not play the required 20 game season because of the difficulty in rescheduling games that had to be postponed due to Tournaments. The reason was because of lack of ice time, but more specifically lack of ice time

during week days. It is very difficult to reschedule games on weekends in February as many teams are in Tournaments. However they did have a great season, lost first tournament in semi Finals, in Kanata, they won their second tournament, PEYO atom B boys category and lost their 3<sup>rd</sup> tournament in the Finals Coupe de Montreal. Finally they lost their league championship in the finals, but won the regional's. At the Dodge Cup they did very well but ended up in 3<sup>rd</sup> place over all.

**Pee Wee B:** Had a good season, played a total of 24 games, Won 7, Lost 15 and tied 2. They went to 3 tournaments Clarence in Ontario, Coupe Montreal and Coupe Best Buy. Players and coaches enjoyed their year and were very competitive in the second half of the season.

**Pee Wee A:** Had a good season, played a total of 24 games, Won 7, Lost 13 and tied 4. Parents were very satisfied with the work of the coaches and managers. This team has a non parent coach and assistant coach. Pearl and Mark which live in Outremont. We are very fortunate to have them in our program. Girls fought hard in the regional's but did not make it. Second half of the season they showed a lot of improvement. Parents and manager worked together to buy ice time in other arenas to practice and this helped them very much.

**Bantam A girls:** Had a full team, they were 16 girls. They had a great season, played a total of 24 games, Won 10, Lost 7 and tied 7. They went to the finals in an Ontario Tournament and the semi finals in the Coupe de Montreal tournament. They also made it to the semi finals of the regional's. Players and coaches did a great job! The key at this level is to get 8 to 10 more girls and form an A team and B team. There was too large a gap in the caliber of certain girls on the team.

**Midget A girls:** W5-L13- T6 = 24 games

They played in two tournaments Coupe Montreal and Gloucester Cumberland (which we won in shootouts)! In the regional's they won their first game beating the eventual champions and then lost their next two and were eliminated. Players, coaches and managers did a great job and had a great season.

**Junior A girls:** Only had 6 girls registered in late august, but ended up with a full team 16 girls thanks to the hard work that coach Marco and assistant coach Alex Shackman generously provided. They had a good season playing 24 season games, winning 9, losing 12 and tying 3. No tournaments but were very competitive in regional's.

All in all it was a fantastic season, The HSL association helped us out with over 15 hours of additional ice time, Westmount also have us 6 hours. Versant Ouest help by switching a weekly hour time slot of ice with us for 10 1.5 hour time slots that enabled us to schedule the JR A girl's home games.

I would like to thank all MRO committee members for their constant support. Veronique and Eric also did a great job supporting the girls program. A special Thanks to Luc Rivard and team for a great job with the girls development. Last but not least Peter Favretto also did all of the girls practice scheduling and equipment tasks, not to mention organizing the end of year banquet. He also guided me on many issues we encountered.