



I would like to thank all the parents, coaches and managers for their support and help throughout the year. I heard a few complaints from other committee members about how hard it is to find volunteers but that was definitely not my experience. Every time I asked for help I always had more volunteers than I could use. Thankfully we had more coaches & managers then positions available which made the hardest part of the job easier. Volunteer coaches and managers are the backbone of the hockey program. The success of the hockey program wouldn't be possible without them willingly giving their time to benefit the kids. They all deserve our support and a big pat on the back. Thank you Coaches & Managers.

This year MRO had 102 players registered in Novice. Following Hockey Quebec rules this meant making 7 novice teams: 2 Novice A, 3 Novice B, 2 Novice C. This increase in players was led by a large number of novice aged girls who registered for hockey this year. Very encouraging for the continued success of the girls program.

This year the Novice schedule was entirely played at Outremont. This was a tradeoff that was made to end the impasse on the ice schedule and complete a more balanced schedule with morning and afternoon time slots instead of early morning only. Unfortunately I was not aware of the annual Stanislas Tournament that takes place in Outremont the same weekend as the Novice league's start. Losing that one weekend on the schedule meant a reduction of 30% in practice times. Novice was able to get back the lost practice time but it came in the form of 7am slots and short notice ice time freed by other levels. Some teams refused to use the 7am slots, which was the difference in the number of practices between different teams. I do understand the parents' frustration on short notice practices, but I passed on the information as soon as I received it.

I believe Novice would benefit greatly from more development time. This would allow Luc more time to work on the kids' technical skills, especially power skating. Ice time is our biggest constraint but I do have an idea.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

- We need to be a coordinator's handbook. I made a lot of mistakes because I basically learnt on the fly. Some instructions would have helped.
- More training for our coaches. It should be mandatory for all coaches to attend the coaching clinics. MRO should host several clinics. I know about the lack of ice time, but it is only a few hours of ice to ensure our coaches are properly trained and will make better use of our precious ice time.
- Reducing the number of games in the Novice season to 14 games.
  - o Currently Novice plays 18 games in 12 weeks plus tournaments, this only leaves time for 6 practices.
  - o By comparison Atom does 18 games in 15 weeks, those of you going up to atom next year will notice a big difference.
  - o Each practice gained is the equivalent of 13 games.
  - o This reduction would mean a 60% increase in practices time that could also be used for extra development
- More development for Novice & Atom
  - o As a parent I'd be willing to pay a little bit more to have more development
  - o We need more power skating



- Reform the ice schedule to allow at least 1 practice every 2 weeks while respecting the 1 hour per team per week policy.
  - o The current ice schedule system assigns specific blocks of hours to a level. This system is very inefficient and inflexible.
  - o A computer program to generate the ice schedule and track the hours used would be helpful
  - o Try and work more closely with VO & STL to promote the efficient use of ice by having at least 2 teams on the ice when possible.
- I've been approached numerous times throughout the season by parents asking about the possibility of a house league. We should try and put something together for people who are interested in playing less hockey. Maybe 1 practice per week and some games every couple of weeks.
  - o Maybe try and set something up with STL?
  - o I think this would help some of our attendance issues, especially among skiers.
  - o At the very least the amount of real interest should be gauged
- MRO would benefit from a web based attendance tool
  - o It will help managers and reduce their workload while tracking attendance
- Need to use the website to organize the volunteers. We have a lot of people who are willing to help a few hours here and there. If tasks that need to be done are posted on the website that would give volunteers a chance to choose tasks in their area of expertise.
- Individual calendars per team on the website so that they can be imported into Blackberries or iPhones. While making the schedule easier to follow.

## **SPRING HOCKEY**

- There is a huge interest for Spring Hockey in MRO
  - o MRO has a large amount of unused ice time at the end of the hockey season.
  - o TMR also has ice available that could be used
  - o Mini hockey season in the spring starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May
  - o A 4on4 league would be very interesting for the kids
  - o Would give a chance for some kids who might not be able to play in winter, to play some hockey
- Organize spring development sessions for the kids.
- Provide parents with an option of spring hockey close to home instead of having to go far away.

## **REFRIGERATED OUTDOOR ICE RINK**

- This is basically an arena outside that would allow the ice to be used from November to March. I believe this project would bring a lot of benefits to Hockey MRO and the community as a whole.
- If we could convince the city of TMR of the benefits the roller rink could be converted into a refrigerated outdoor rink for a price much lower than building another arena.