

**Chilliwack Minor Hockey Association**

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**Bantam Report**

With each new season comes good aspects and some not so good aspects. This season was no different.

The good aspects came from us moving forward with improving the Bantam C division evaluation and drafting process, as outlined below.

## Forward Momentum

Evaluations:

  Evaluations were done exactly as we had done with Bantam in the past year.  Games were evaluated by the opposing coach, no coach evaluated their own players (which included their saves) so numbers provided held better accuracy. We also had several parent evaluators that would also evaluate opposing team players to help provide another point of view. We ended up with at minimal 7 individual evaluations per player which helped produce an accurate average for each, once this was done, players were ordered based on their evaluation numbers.

Draft Process:

 The Bantam Draft followed a new draft process which allowed us to better accommodate special requests, allow coach input, all while ensuring there was still a double blind draft happening.

The number of saves per coach was dropped from 3 to 2, however through the new process this did not seem to affect the outcome.

Based on the number of teams that were required, blocks of players were brought forth, and based on the position of each coach for picking, that coach had at minimal 3 players to choose from regardless of where they were in the order of picking. Once each coach picked, the players that carried over would be joined by another set of players. Siblings were automatically placed together on the same team.

When all was said and done, if there were special considerations to be made, coaches discussed and adjusted as needed.

Balancing:

 Each team had 5 more balancing games in order for us to see whether there would be stronger and weaker teams. Once the results were in we went forth with the start of the season. When the PCHA balancing meeting was over, they had determined that although the teams looked quite even, they felt there was one slightly weaker team. Once we collaborated again with the coaches, a decision was made to have a few players move to help even up the teams. This number is up from the previous year however still a fairly low number.

The finalization of balancing was performed prior to our deadline however due to a number of injuries at the rep level, this resulted in a player being brought up to play full time.

With this last move, it left one team under manned, and lead to attempts to bring a player over from one of the others teams to no avail.

Although our balancing and draft process has increased in efficiency, this last move did prove to exploit some errors that will be addressed in the upcoming year towards house players and rep affiliation.

## Momentum killer

When it comes to the teams in general, there will always be one that tends to stand out from the rest. The majority of the time this has nothing to do with the players themselves, but more so a combination of those players and the coaches behind the bench, coupled with which coaching style those players react positively and negatively to. This year, along with one team becoming stronger than the others, we faced a threat that has been looming around the league for a number of years.

Bullying and racial slurs became a huge issue this year between a couple of Chilliwakc teams and others from other associations, to the point where it became so bad, not only for players in our own association, but players from others as well.

This season saw a player in another association quit because of it, and a couple in ours come very close to suiting as well.

I’m including this in my report to help raise awareness of this issue, and even though CMHA is committed to provide a safe and accepting, fun environment for all our members, we cannot do this alone. We will continue to work with the other associations to find a solution to this as this issue has become so large that we all need to work together to combat it. We ask that all parents of our association take the time to speak with their player(s) about this, as we will only be able to stomp this issue out if we work together.

## Conclusion

I believe that we as an association are getting back on track starting to move in the right direction with bring fun back into hockey as a whole. I trust that the new Bantam director will continue to improve and build upon the groundwork laid forth.

I urge all members to continue to volunteer, provide constructive criticism, feedback and suggestions for improvement. If we shift out focus to the positive solutions required, rather than the negative issues, we can make this association thrive.