

Richmond Jets Minor Hockey Atom Parent Meeting

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June 2019



Expectations

- 2009 and 2010 age groups are fairly large
 - Potentially 110 returning players from 2009 group and Intro to Hockey
 - Potentially 100 players entering Atom from 2010 group (Novice Division)
- Last year there were 5 Rep Teams in Atom and 7 Recreational Teams
 - **Rep Teams:** Flight 1, Flight 2 (A2 and A3), Flight 4 (A4 and A5)
 - **Recreational Teams:** Blue Group (4 Teams), Gold Group (3 Teams), Green Group (0 Teams)
- Majority of first year Atom players should expect to challenge for a spot on the A3 to A5 teams; not A1 and A2 teams
- Exceptional first year players should challenge for spots on the A2 team
- 2nd year players in Atom usually move up 1-2 levels in their second year
 - If you played A2 or A3 last year, you should challenge for a spot on A2 or A1
 - If you played A4 or A5 last year, you should challenge for a spot on A4 to A2
- Atom is all about **DEVELOPMENT**
 - Playing on a lower rep team might be a better opportunity for development for your child, both on and off the ice.



BC Hockey – New Atom Pathway

- 3 Main Points of Focus:

- ❖ Teaching Curriculum of Learn to Play that transitions Novice Pathway into Peewee Pathway
- ❖ Introduces/Develops/Refines skills of skating, passing, puck control and shooting through progression learning.
- ❖ Goal is to ensure that the kids are continuing to have FUN while playing the game.

- 2 Streams: Recreational and Developmental (competitive)

- Three Phases for each - Development Phase/Regular Season Phase/Playoff and Tournament Phase

- Recreational:

- Development Phase: 4 weeks, 8 practices, 2 exhibition games
- Regular Season: 22 weeks, 22 practices, 16 games
- Playoff Phase: up to 4 weeks
- Tournaments: Up to 3 (12 games)

- Competitive:

- Development Phase: 4 weeks, 12 practices, 2 exhibition games
- Regular Season: 24 weeks, 44 practices, 20 games
- Playoff Phase: up to 4 weeks
- Tournaments: (up to 4 (16 games)



Atom Pathway - Changes

- No tryouts/evaluations prior to or during 1st week of school
- 3 tryout sessions must have a skill component, small area game and formal game
- Tournament style playoffs – no elimination rounds
- Full Time Goalies but rotate in as player for games not playing
- Positional Rotation – no set positions
- Small area game practices and skill/station based practices
- Fair/equal ice time
- Must provide a minimum of 4 skates prior to formal tryouts
 - ie. September 9th week (2 or three practices)
 - September 16 week (1 or 2 practices)
 - Tryouts start Friday September 20th onward



Recommendations

- Two seasonal breaks – not including Christmas or long weekends
- Must have 5 consecutive days without a practice or game
- 60 minute length of games
- No tryouts for positions – take best skilled players/goalies
- Fair/equal ice time – goalies must rotate for equal number of games and players should rotate through on special teams/end of period and game situations
- 15% practice time spent on team play and strategy
- 85% practice time spent on skills and tactics
- 1st half of season rotate through positions and then more consistent positions in 2nd half of season



Misconceptions

- Coaches have not already picked their teams – they have an idea of what they would like but they have not already picked players.
- No player is guaranteed a spot on any team. In some years, returning players will play at the same or even lower level.
- There is no backdoor route to make it on a higher team (e.g. missing tryouts, declaring for A1, moving between working groups)
- Declaring for A1 and going through the A1 tryouts will be beneficial just for the experience and extra ice times?
- Where you played spring hockey doesn't guarantee you a spot on any Rep team.
- You must play spring hockey to make a rep team – No!
- Players must register in summer camps to be ready for tryouts?
- I played on the A3 team last year so I am guaranteed A2 or higher.



Metrics

- Forecasting 5 Atom Rep teams; 8 Atom House teams for 2019/2020 season
- Potentially 110 returning players from 2009 age group
- Potentially 100 players entering Atom from 2010 age group
- 33 players from 2009 age group played Rep last season (*Subject to change due to transfers in and out)
 - AA1 – 2
 - AA2 – 4
 - AA3 – 5
 - AA4 – 10
 - AA5 – 12
- Each Rep team will likely play in its own flight
 - AA1 – GVC Flight 1 (Super League)
 - AA2 – GVC Flight 2
 - AA3 – GVC Flight 2 or Flight 3
 - AA4 – GVC Flight 4
 - AA5 – GVC Flight 5
 - Teams usually start Placement round (10 games) in the flight they finished in last year. Based on results, teams could be moved up or down.
 - Last year AA2 started Placement in same flight as AA3; AA4 and AA5 were also in same Flight 4



General Timeline of Suggested Activities

| Date | Activity |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 24-28 | A1 Tryouts and formation of A1 Working Group |
| Aug 26-30 | AA2/3/4/5 Tryouts and formation of Working Groups |
| Aug 30 | Players not in a working group released to House |
| Sept 3 – Sept 22 | Working groups train and play exhibition games; players guaranteed 3 ices times with working group |
| Sep 22 | Final releases for all Rep teams ** TBC |



How we can help each other

- Communication! Communication! Communication!
 - Talk directly to your division managers (or Atom Ambassadors) if you have questions/issues – please avoid hallway conversations as emotions are high
 - If you didn't hear it from the atom managers or atom ambassadors directly, then the information is probably not 100% accurate.
- Transparency and honesty is key – goes both ways.
- Remember, dealing with adversity is always tougher on the parents than the child
- Respect the process and the people here to help administer it. Improvements have been made from the previous years, but it will never be perfect.
- Please provide the necessary space for the evaluators and coaches as they both have lots to complete during the tryout phase.



Coaches for Atom

Atom Rep Coaches

- A1 Coach is Shawn McQuistin
- A2 Coach is Jim Seto
- A3-A5 Coaches – not announced yet as some may be parent coaches

Atom House Coaches

- 8 head coaches needed

