



Date: September 27, 2018

To: Board of Directors, Hockey Manitoba
Regional Directors of Minor, Hockey Manitoba
Area Association Presidents, Hockey Winnipeg
Officers, Hockey Winnipeg
Ian McArton, Executive Director Hockey Winnipeg

From: Peter Woods, Executive Director

CC: Tom Renney, CEO Hockey Canada
Scott Smith, President and COO Hockey Canada
Glen McCurdie, Vice President Membership Services Hockey Canada
Hockey Manitoba Staff and Regional Registrars
Jeff Hnatiuk, President/CEO Sport Manitoba

Subject: **NOVICE UNSANCTIONED HOCKEY**

I am writing to confirm Hockey Manitoba's position in regards to the operation of unsanctioned hockey leagues. It is Hockey Manitoba's understanding that some entrepreneurs are considering offering **full ice games** novice hockey leagues which is in contradiction to the current structure and development philosophy of both Hockey Canada and Hockey Manitoba.

It is important that you understand that Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba does not support any unauthorized program that chooses to operate outside the parameters of our structure during the sanctioning period of September 1st – April 30th each year. In the event that any individual, minor hockey association and/or region should choose to implement any unauthorized program, that program would not be recognized by Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba.

Please be aware Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba has invested significant resources into the development of officials, coaches, administrators and players and we are committed to a strategy that works towards a cohesive and detailed long term athlete development (LTAD) model. Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba does not believe the model that allows full ice novice games aligns itself appropriately with our (LTAD) strategy and is inconsistent with the structure and overall vision of both Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba.

As you should also be aware Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba is responsible for the training and education of all coaches and game officials and it is incumbent for us to advise that any coach, player or official that chooses to participate in unsanctioned hockey will be subject to the appropriate sanctions.

The current Hockey Canada policy pertaining to the operation of unsanctioned hockey is as follows,

“Any individual who participates (knowingly or otherwise) in “outlaw/unsanctioned” programs after **September 30th of the season in question** (“the Cut-Off Date”) will lose all membership privileges with Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba for the remainder of the season and may only reapply for membership with Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba after the end of the season.”

In addition Hockey Manitoba may decertify any participating coach, manager or game official who voluntarily chooses to participate in an outlaw program and will consider them members “not in good standing.”

Furthermore, Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba and its member associations will make every effort to ensure that all local minor hockey and associations will not support this concept in any manner whatsoever. For clarity “supporting” includes but is not limited to, assisting an “unsanctioned” hockey directly or indirectly through advertisement, promotion, ticket sales, volunteer activities, assigning Officials, sharing resources or enabling a league to participate in Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba sanctioned activities. Hockey Manitoba will withhold tournament sanctions and will preclude such associations from benefitting from any Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba sanctioned event by whatever means necessary, including the withdrawal of any such event from any community within the geographic boundaries of that association that could include, but not limited to, Provincials, Director’s Cup, Future Stars, Program of Excellence, Face-Off Festivals, Royal Bank Cup, Western Shield, Keystone Cup etc.

It is very unfortunate that some groups do not have faith in the present minor hockey system and that they feel the need to explore alternative options as a replacement to the current programs offered by our membership. It is important to be aware that Hockey Canada and Hockey Manitoba have been in existence for over 100 years and in order to achieve this major milestone unmistakably demonstrates a considerable level of experience, knowledge and commitment to our membership. Both of our organizations have always valued the significant contribution of volunteers and appreciate our member’s guidance, leadership and unstinting support, however our commitment and responsibility is limited and steadfast to members only.

Anyone that chooses to proceed with an unsanctioned league it is essential they are extremely aware that they will be forced to advance with the operation of such a program in isolation, without any support, protection or cooperation from Hockey Canada/Hockey Manitoba or our member associations.

Finally, as a responsible measure of transparency, I hope that you choose to take the time to educate those individuals on your distribution list in regards to the possible outcomes of joining a proposed unsanctioned program. It should be made very clear to all interested parties that should a participant decide to join an unsanctioned program, they must understand fully the ramifications of that choice and that the sanctions described above will remain in effect should the league and/or team fold, or the participating individual is released, suspended or terminated.

I hope that this correspondence is very clear and that you comprehend Hockey Manitoba’s position in regard to this issue and the consequences for those involved and advise any participant accordingly.

Thank you.