



Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association, Inc.

GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE REPORT AUGUST 1, 2020

The Grass Roots Committee successfully launched the creation of the association Director of Hockey position during the 2019-20 season. In partnering with our USAH regional manager Guy Gosselin and WAHA Coach in Chief Paul Caufield, we presented the roles and responsibilities of the DoH during the WAHA Annual Workshop and followed up with a series of Zoom webinars in September to help associations get started. In addition, we offered two additional Zoom calls for hockey directors during the season and covered a variety of topics including ice utilization, age appropriate skill development, practice planning and others. In February, with the lead from the Office of the President, we conducted the second WAHA Symposium with strong attendance from association hockey directors. Feedback was very positive and the line of communication that has been established with the creation of the hockey director position has been outstanding. 98% of associations have identified a Director of Hockey in the WAHA Directory as of April 16, 2020.

With restrictions in place during the covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to provide resources via email to hockey directors to help coaches grow and develop. USA Hockey and the NHL Coaches' Association have both put together excellent remote learning opportunities for youth coaches to take full advantage free of charge.

The committee's goal is to continue to utilize the association hockey directors to improve communication and support efforts to grow the game and provide a quality experience for youth around the state. We hope to provide a number of sessions at the WAHA workshop specifically geared toward coaches and hockey directors, and offering ongoing coaching development via Zoom regularly during the 2020-21 season.

Respectfully,

Andy Bradford – Grassroots Chair

Members

Dick Berthiaume

Don Bradford

Mike Connor

Jeremy Gesicki

Tim Pickart

Ryan Sarazin



GRASS ROOTS 8U ADDENDUM REPORT APRIL 25, 2020

8U to 10U Play Up Policy Summary

During the 2019-20 season we implemented the new 8U to 10U play up policy:

Article 1 Section M. (Page 53) 8U aged players wishing to move up and participate at the 10U level must complete the 8U Move-up Request Form found on the WAHA website. The form must be submitted to the WAHA 8U Section Director by November 15 of the current playing season.

A total of 144 8U skaters were approved to move from 8U to 10U for the 2019-20 season.

8U Play Up								
Category	1	3	Female Total	1	2	3	Male Total	Grand Total
Region 1	8	6	14	10	1	2	13	27
Region 2	2	0	2	21	1	4	26	28
Region 3	8	6	14	2	1	3	6	20
Region 4	2	7	9	10	2	10	22	31
Region 5		8	8	3	1	4	8	16
Region 6	3	7	10	10	1	1	12	22
Grand Total	23	34	57	56	7	24	87	144

Category 1 Fill a roster up to 14 2 Goalie need 3 Other i.e. Top third or girl play ups

Overall, the process for regional directors and 10U section director to review the requests and approvals was well received, with relatively few issues. More consistent communication with region registrars to review rosters and be aware of approvals is a priority moving forward. We also are adding a few additional fields to the form that are needed for directors to make an informed decision on approval.

Current Status of 8U Jamborees and Tournaments

The Grassroots Committee is concerned about the current landscape of 8U jamborees and tournaments throughout the state.

Article 3 – Invitational Tournaments Section C, D and E. (Page 76)

C. WAHA will not sanction full-ice tournaments, jamborees or full-ice games for 8 and Under players (Mites) between the dates of September 1 and April 1 of the current playing season. WAHA will sanction cross ice 8/U (Mites) tournaments as Grow-the Game events and charge no sanction fee for these tournaments anytime during the current playing season.

D. Any WAHA association that allows a registered 8 and Under (Mites) team to participate in a full-ice tournament, jamboree or game, shall be penalized by the loss of the right to host a sanctioned invitational tournament for the period of one playing season, and a WAHA State Tournament for the period of three playing seasons.

E. Any coaches who are in violation of this rule for 8 and Under (Mites) shall be suspended from coaching for one year and must appear before a three-member Disciplinary Committee before being allowed to return to coaching

Although these events are utilizing cross ice or half ice, they are often not being used as “grow the game” events but as multi-day revenue generating tournaments. Many of the events charge an entry fee, keep score, follow a tournament bracket, and award trophies. At one count, there were 30 plus 8U tournaments listed on the WAHA invitational tournament page. This reincarnation of travel mite hockey is not aligned with the principles of ADM or WAHA Grassroots. Our committee intends to study this issue and bring some recommendations forward to the Board for review later this year, with a goal for some reforms beginning in the 2021-22 season.