CENTRAL YORK PANTHERS NOVICE PROGRAM 2019-2020

The CYGHA is committed to providing the best possible hockey experience for all of our female athletes and ensuring a positive and fun initial hockey experience with the Panthers. If a beginner has fun, develops basic skills and builds confidence, there is a better chance that player will go on to enjoy hockey for a lifetime. However, if a young player has an unhappy, unrewarding experience, they may quit at an early age and never discover the real joy of Canada's game. Every young player should have the opportunity to enjoy hockey for life!

Hockey Canada wants every Canadian youngster to have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from a program designed for their specific needs. The program should ensure progressive skill development through effective practice sessions and game play in an environment suitable for their skill level.

In this period of transition away from the traditional model of Novice hockey, there will be some growing pains while individual associations interpret and implement the rules set forth by the Governing bodies (Hockey Canada, OWHA).

Although there is straightforward documentation for the basic configuration of Novice hockey, we have not received any information describing how a competitive division will operate.

What we know so far:

- The LLFHL will not be running a competitive division for Novice.
- The OWHA has decided that there will no longer be a “DS” program for Novice.
- We are free to create competitive/development Novice team(s) to satisfy the need for a higher level of competitive play for our membership. The OWHA will still recognize the Novice A and Novice B levels when rostering Novice teams.
- All Novice programs (Competitive or HL) must abide by the same Hockey Canada rules, which includes playing half-ice games with the option of transitioning to full-ice games in January. This program can include 7-year-old and 8-year-old players.
- The OWHA will be working with the leagues to create a competitive loop for game play. All games end up being considered exhibition games since there are no playoffs or championships.
- There will not be an OWHA Provincial Championship for the Novice division.
- We are free to work with other associations to arrange games on our own.
- Tournaments will be called “Jamborees” and will require that all teams play an equal number of games and that there are no elimination games/championships.

CYGHA NOVICE STRATEGY

With these things in mind, the CYGHA is presenting its Novice strategy for 2019-2020 and beyond. The primary goals of our program are to:

- Ensure a positive and fun initial hockey experience for all players.
- Provide age-appropriate programming, as defined by Hockey Canada and the OWHA, as a way to encourage the growth of fundamental skills.
- Provide a higher level of development and competition for the players showing advanced skills, so they can pursue opportunities with Panther rep teams in future seasons.

Novice Program Structure:

- The CYGHA Novice program will continue to focus on a combination of 7-year-old and 8-year-old players.
- There will be two divisions to the Novice program. Novice Competitive and Novice House League.
- Each season, the CYGHA will offer one or two Competitive teams (Novice A and/or Novice B) as well as a number of Novice House League teams.
- The number of teams at each level will be determined based on overall Novice registration count. If there are enough players for at least **four** House League teams, the CYGHA will consider running a second competitive team.

Novice Team Formation:

- All Novice players are required to register for CYGHA House League and pay the required fees.
- In early September, the CYGHA will run introductory evaluation sessions for all registered Novice players.
- Following initial evaluations, tryouts will be held for the Novice A and/or Novice B team(s) for all players interested in the Competitive program.
- The top 18 players will be determined by a panel of CYGHA evaluators and placed on the Novice A team. If we run a second competitive team, the next 18 players will be placed on the Novice B team.
- House League teams will be formed from all remaining players. House League teams will be balanced based on evaluation sessions.
- The Hockey Canada recommendation is that all players have the opportunity to play goalie if they desire. Goalie equipment will be supplied by the CYGHA for all Competitive and House League teams.

Coach Application/Selection:

- Anyone wishing to coach a Novice team (Competitive or House League) must apply using the House League coach application found on the CYGHA web site.
- Candidates should indicate on their application if they are interested in coaching a Competitive team.
- The CYGHA will review all applications and interview selected applicants.
- A short-list of selected coaches will be invited to form part of the panel that will evaluate Novice players.
- Once players are selected for the Novice A team (and Novice B team if applicable), as described above, the CYGHA will select a head coach and assistant coaches for the competitive team(s) from the short-list of applicants.
- The remaining coach applicants will be considered to coach House League teams.

Novice Season Structure:

- The CYGHA Novice Competitive teams will follow the season structure from the Hockey Canada resource guide.

    - The *Development Phase* will consist of a 3:1 practice to game ratio. The Hockey Canada Novice Skills Manual provides coaches with a series of well-crafted practice plans (ice sessions) that focus on developing fundamental movement skills like striding, turning and stopping, manipulation skills like shooting, passing, puck control and the very important motor skills of agility, balance, coordination.

    - The *Regular Season Phase* will consist of a 2:1 practice to game ratio. It is important that coaches continue to focus on skill development during practice sessions. Once again, the Hockey Canada Novice Skills Manual provides a wide variety of resources in the form of practice sessions as well as drills that will assist in the delivery of practices that will meet the skills development needs of young players.

    - The *Transition Phase* will consist of a 1:1 Practice to Game ratio. Transition to full-ice play - for Competitive team(s) - will occur on or after January 15th. This will provide coaches with the opportunity to continue to reinforce individual skill development elements in practices in addition to introducing players to concepts attached to the full-ice game. The CYGHA VP of House League reserves the right to determine if Novice House League will transition to full-ice games in January or not.

CENTRAL YORK GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
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Weeks	Up to 6 weeks *prior to the start of the Regular Season Phase*	Up to 12 Weeks *after the completion of the Development Phase*	Up to 8 Weeks *at the conclusion of the Regular Season Phase*
PHASE	Development Phase	Regular Season Phase	❖ Transition Phase
ICE SET-UP	Half ice games	Half Ice games	May progress to full ice
BALANCE	25% of the season	50% of the season	25% of the season
VOLUME 26 weeks	6 Weeks	12 Weeks	8 Weeks
42 practices	12 Practices	24 Practices	6-8 Practices
24-30 games	4 Games	12 - 18 Games	8 Games
3 jamboree/tournaments	1 Jamboree	1 Jamboree	1 Jamboree

❖ ***Transition to full ice game play cannot occur before January 15th***

- Rink dividers must be used for all Novice games.
- Novice House League teams would typically have two ice times per weekend, one Saturday and one Sunday. Times and locations are TBD.
- Novice Competitive team(s) will be assigned regular week-day and weekend practices as well as home/away games.
- In the event that there are two Novice competitive teams, some of the practices will be shared in order to provide additional opportunity for development.
- The Novice Competitive team(s) will receive skill development sessions through the CYGHA Coach Mentor on a regular basis.
- All Novice Coaches will be supervised by the CYGHA Coach Mentor to ensure that the program follows the Hockey Canada guidelines and that practices focus on development to prepare players for success in the following seasons.

<u>Budget for Competitive Team(s):</u>

- A flat-rate fee for the Competitive team(s) will be determined each season. This will include ice costs, team jerseys and socks, OWHA fees, CYGHA development fees, and other league administration fees. Each player will be billed directly by the association, above and beyond what has already been paid in House League fees. The expectation that this additional cost would not exceed $1000 per player.
- Novice A and/or Novice B teams will also manage their own funds for things that are above and beyond. (attending jamborees, team events, parties, team meals, etc.)