



MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2018

TO: Minor Hockey Associations
District Associations
Major Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Aged Players

FROM: Barry Petrachenko
Chief Executive Officer

COPY: Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Zone Program Classification

As you may recall, an outline of the Zone Program Concept was distributed on January 6, 2018 by BC Hockey. The purpose of this document was to serve as a starting point for discussions on the direction such programming will take in the future.

Since the original distribution of this document, discussion on the concept has taken place at the BC Hockey Member Engagement meetings held with every member Minor Hockey Association (MHA) in BC throughout January and February. These discussions have led to an endorsement by the membership for the operation of a Minor Midget AAA league for the 2018-2019 season. We are excited to provide this opportunity to 15 year-old players next season and have already begun the preparations for spring evaluation camps and the appointment of team personnel.

It has also come to light that the evolution of the Zone Concept requires further clarification as to the terminologies to be utilized to identify teams within the ongoing pilot project for Zone hockey that has been operational over the past two (2) seasons. This clarification will provide a clearer picture as to what is possible, what is being considered, and will aid in future discussions around this topic to be held with our member associations at our Annual Congress in June.

Most notably, the following items may be of interest to you in considering the next steps in your minor hockey experience, and to enhance dialogue as we work with our member minor hockey associations to develop this concept:

- The launch of a Zone Program website with information to date on the Program for the 2018-2019 season, <http://www.bchockey.net/Content.aspx?id=281>
- Terminology has been developed to further clarify the levels of categorization for Zone programming. Moving forward within the pilot project, the following will apply to the categorization of teams:



- **AAA Zone Programs:** For Divisions where 11 Zones (or less) are used to create teams (this is based on the BC Major Midget League Draw Zones).
- **AA Programs:** For Divisions where 12 or more Zones are used to create teams
- **A-Select:** An “A-Select” program can be offered to players within the A Program structure, combining players to form teams for the purpose of attending tournaments and participating in exhibition games. The A-Select Program will be operated by local MHAs to create competitive opportunities for teams of the same skill level.
- **A Programs:** These will be operated by local MHAs, providing enhanced house league (recreational) opportunities that emphasize fun for the players and enhance participation while promoting healthy living and active-for-life concepts.

Currently the following Districts are participating in the Zone Program Pilot project: East Kootenay, North Central (Cariboo), North West, Okanagan, West Kootenay and the Yukon. A list of their teams and categories for the upcoming season are contained in Appendix A of this document.

Teams within Districts that are not taking part in the Zone Program pilot will not be affected by the terminologies utilized within the pilot project.

I hope this information is helpful to you and suggest that you contact Sean Orr (sorr@bchockey.net), our Senior Manager of Leagues and Events, or our office if you require clarification on the information presented above.

