

Tier III 2015 Season End Report

This year there were 6 teams. Although down two teams from 2014 (Sun Devils & Wranglers) the Olds Mavericks were thought to be playing in the tier II division, however, after much back and forth with the division and the executive board the team ended up in tier III.

I have reviewed the number of graduating midgets with Christine and we see no opportunity for division growth until this years pee-wee aged players reach juniors.

Each year the number of players per team fluctuates. A team with healthy scratches one season is relying on affiliate players the next and vice versa.

Despite low registration numbers the Ravens continue each season to field a team. The club was not able to have a midget team this season so those players were approved to move up to juniors. Several Cranbrook players requested to be released from their home club, however, only one or two participated. For personal reasons their goalie (from Cranbrook) was not able to play beyond the first couple of games. A runner stepped into play. He showed significant improvement from the start of the season until the end of the season. Hats off to the coaches and players for continuing to participate in each game with heart and positivity.

This division had minimal penalty minutes, both in individual player and team. The season was half over before a discipline letter was sent out to a team. Of the two players who held the most penalty minutes last season one did not register this year and the other met the guidelines of his probation. Watching provincials I felt that there were a few instances when players from the opposing team baited him in an attempt to illicit a negative reaction.

Summer conversations/discussions occurred regarding whether the need for the tier III division still existed. It was decided that it was indeed and the division would remain until the minimum number of teams (four) was reached.

A secondary discussion regarding the provincial format is still taking place. Even though at the end of the season it was apparent that there was no longer a feeling of 'all teams' the teams still seem to be wavering and unable to make a decision. The other idea is to mimic the tier II division with playoffs ending in a three game series for the top two teams.

The High River Heat hosted a successful, fun-filled provincial weekend.

This is my last year as commissioner for this division. It has been a pleasure working with, and getting to know, the coaches, players and parents.