

December 28, 2009

Mike Depratto, President
Ottawa District Minor Hockey Association
1247 Kilborn Place Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9

RE: AAA Hockey

Dear President Depratto:

I am writing to you as a parent, a sponsor and an interested party in the AAA pilot project that has been underway in the ODMHA for the past 3 years.

As a parent, my oldest son (Dillan 1989 birth year) played his final 2 years in minor hockey as a Major Midget in the then AA league. There was no AAA league at that time. The next 2 years my youngest son (Tyler 1991 birth year) played 2 years of Major Midget AAA under the pilot project. I can tell you that the level of play was much improved, there were fewer fights and fewer injuries and the players were generally focused on playing hockey and improving their skills versus the AA league that my elder son played in. This is not a scientific view but just an observation as a parent that I would have preferred both of my sons to have had the opportunity to play in the AAA league.

As a sponsor of the Ottawa Senators AAA organization we are proud to associate ourselves with the AAA hockey association and would continue to do so if the pilot project is extended. It is unlikely that we would make any meaningful sponsorship in a AA league if the pilot project is dropped. The main reason for this is we can make an exception for the top level of hockey played in the province and do so for both the girls program (Ottawa Senators Women's teams) and the AAA pilot program.

As an interested observer I believe the AAA pilot program has been a success. It can always be tweaked and improved and I am sure you will do so. I want to take this opportunity to encourage the ODMHA to not only continue the pilot project, but to also add additional age groups so that eventually all Atom, PeeWee, Bantam and Midget teams have representation at the AAA level. I would be happy to answer any questions you or of any of your committee would have on this subject and wish you much success in your consideration of this important initiative.

Yours in Hockey,



Cyril M. Leeder, FCA
President
Ottawa Senators Hockey Club



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