



Tier 1 Committee Report
January 23, 2016

The first year of Tier 1 (boys and girls) although a challenge was in the committee's opinion a success. The committee was thrust into the job of providing a Tier 1 offering much later in the year than would be ideal but the product that was eventually on Display in late October and early November was competitive. Throughout the course of the summer/fall the tier 1 committee held (2) in-person meetings along with a ½ dozen conference call which all members attended. As a committee the pre/post was only route considered for MN to compete in the Tier 1 tournaments. Tier 1 presented different challenges for the boys and girls.

Girls Tier 1:

The girls Tier 1 aspirations, as indicated by the representatives on the committee, are not at the same level as the boys. Many of the girls that compete in the Elite League/Shattuck are already committed to play college hockey by their junior year and use the fall season to prepare for their final HS seasons. The allure of playing a National Tournament for recruitment purposes is not there. However, hosting the 2016 National Tournament in MN allowed us to place (2) teams automatically in the tournament at minimal cost. It was agreed that if our Elite/Premier Prep teams were to qualify ahead of Shattuck and didn't want to participate, Shattuck would fill one spot. This agreement will stay in place should a Girls' team not want to participate in a year that MN does not host. Our Tier 1 playoff consisted of a (6) team U16 play down and a (4) team U19 playoff. The U16 bracket consisted of Elite Sky, Elite Royal, Elite Grey, Premier Prep White, Premier Prep Red and Shattuck. The committee held a conference call the Sunday prior to the playoffs to seed the (6) teams. A representative from Premier Prep, Elite League, Shattuck and Ryan Coole held the call. Shattuck and Elite Grey were given the #1 and #2 seeds. The committee held the semi-final games at the Schwan Super Rink on October 20, 2015 featuring Elite Sky beating Premier Prep White (10-1) and Elite Royal besting Premier Prep Red (2-1 in OT). The winners advanced to the finals on October 21, 2015 at the Schwan Super Rink. The winners of both finals were to be automatically granted a spot in the National Tournament. Shattuck beat Elite Royal 4-1 in game 1, while Elite Grey beat Elite Sky 3-2 in the night cap. Both teams will be represented in the Spring.

The U 19 playoffs consisted of (4) teams: Elite White, Elite Red, Elite Black and Shattuck. The committee seeded the teams 1-4 and held the playoff on October 20, 2015 in the Schwan Super Rink. Shattuck beat Elite Red (4-1) while Elite Black bested Elite White (3-2). Both teams will be represented in the Spring National Tournament.

Boys Tier 1:

The boys playoffs were looked at very differently than that of the girls. The boy's National Tournament is in San Jose for 2016. The playoffs were to pit the Elite Developmental League Champion (U16) against Shattuck with the winner advancing to San Jose. Prior to the championship game on 11/4/15, the representatives from the Developmental League received verification that if the D-league champion beat Shattuck they would uphold their commitment to attend Nationals. If they decided to not go,

Shattuck as referenced above would fill their spot in San Jose. It turned out to be a moot point as Shattuck defeated the Metro Southeast Team 4-0 in the final advancing to the National Championship.

The U18 team Elite League voted prior to its league playoffs to not attend the National Tournament should they defeat Shattuck. The cost was too prohibitive for the parents involved within the league to commit. The Elite League did however to agree to a championship game against Shattuck to provide legitimacy to the event. Unfortunately, the Northern Elite Team was the Champion of the league and forfeited their right to play Shattuck. Shattuck advanced to the National Tournament.

Publicity:

The committee agreed to publicize the event minimally as to make sure the first year went off without any major hiccups. Despite the minimal advertising, 6 of the 8 Women's WCHA coaches attended the (2) day girls' playoff. The coaches unanimously agreed that holding the playoff mid-week allowed them the time to see the athletes play. The committee will keep this feedback in mind when planning for 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Coole
Tier 1 Committee Chair