

## **Mahtomedi Girls Hockey Co-op Proposal**

This document contains details on the current proposal to co-op the MYHA girls program. The MYHA Board is currently exploring a co-op for the MYHA girls and will vote soon to approve, deny, or delay the proposal. If approved, the co-op could happen as early as next season (2019-2020). The MYHA Board has not expressed an opinion for or against the proposal as of yet. The MYHA Board is merely exploring it and looking for member feedback.

There was a town hall meeting to discuss the co-op proposal held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This document captures the information presented at that meeting as well as answers to some of the questions that were raised.

There will be a question on the upcoming year-end survey providing MYHA members an opportunity to indicate whether they support the co-op and provide comments. Please also reach out to a MYHA Board member if you have any further thoughts. MYHA Board members most involved are: Peter Moosbrugger (Girls Director), Aaron Pederson (U6/U8 & Recruitment Director), Joe Curran (Treasurer), and Alex Rogosheske (President). Their contact info is below.

## **Background**

Last year Tartan approached the MYHA Board inquiring into whether MYHA would be interested in co-opping their girls program with the Tartan girls program. Tartan indicated that their numbers in the girls program are decreasing to the point that they can no longer continue alone. Subsequent to the initial discussion, the Tartan Board voted to merge their boys program with the Johnson, Como, North St. Paul (JCNSP) association due to declining numbers on the boys side. The Tartan Board has not yet officially voted to merge the girls program with JCNSP, but they are likely to do so. If MYHA turns down Tartan's offer, the Tartan girls will likely try to find another association to co-op with in addition to their likely merger with JCNSP.

A "merger" is when two associations combine to form a new joint board that manages the new post-merger association. A merger is what Tartan and JCNSP have done with their boys program. A "co-op" is when two associations remain separate but intermix players to form a combined team. In a co-op each association maintains their own board and governance. A co-op is what this proposal contemplates doing between Mahtomedi girls and Tartan/JCNSP girls.

## **MYHA Levels involved**

MYHA would co-op all girls levels from U15 down to U6 mini.

## **Associations involved**

MYHA girls would co-op with Tartan, Johnson, Como, & North St. Paul girls. Tartan, Johnson, Como & NSP would likely be merged into a single association at that time, so the co-op would be between Mahtomedi and the Tartan/JCNSP association.

## **Governance**

Mahtomedi, Tartan, and JCNSP girls would register with their home association.

After registration, MYHA Board would run all aspects of the combined teams, subject to any agreements on how things will be run made in the co-op agreement process.

Current agreement is for combined tryouts in which all girls from Mahtomedi, Tartan, and JCNSP are evaluated together in a single group. Tryouts would be open (i.e., parents are allowed to watch) and three outside evaluators make the teams.

There would NOT be allocation of spots on teams per association (e.g., 6 A players from Mahtomedi and 6 A players from Tartan). Instead, the players will be placed on teams in accordance with their evaluated position regardless of their home association.

## **Team Name**

There is no agreement on what the combined teams would be named, i.e., whether it would be called Mahtomedi-Tartan, Mahtomedi-Tartan-Johnson-Como-NSP, just Mahtomedi, or a non-community name like North East Stars.

## **Ice Sheets**

The co-op teams would have access to both MYHA ice time and Tartan ice time. Tartan has primary control of ice at both sheets of Tartan arena. There is no specific guarantees of how much Tartan ice would be available to the co-op or when the ice would be available (e.g., during the week or on the weekends). MYHA (regardless of co-op) may have additional ice next year at Polar and White Bear County.

## **Number of Players**

Below is a graph indicating the projected number of players that would be at each level after the co-op for the 2019-2020 season. The numbers are based on the players registered for the 2018-2019 season.

The low numbers for Mahtomedi U15s compared to 12s and below is due to a trend of increasing registration numbers for MYHA over the last several years and due to the High School team taking some 8<sup>th</sup> graders and all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders into the high school program. As a result, the 6 U15s in the below chart are the remaining 8<sup>th</sup> graders after those taken by the High School team.

**Mahtomedi**

<u>U6</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U15</u>
40	31	25	30	6

**Tartan**

<u>U6</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U15</u>
10	15	11	14	13

**JCNSP**

<u>U6</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U15</u>
0	0	5	13	6

**CO-OP Total**

<u>U6</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U15</u>
50	46	41	57	25
		39 skaters	54 skaters	23 Skaters
		2 goals	3 Goal	2 goalies
		<b>3 teams (13 skaters)</b>	<b>4 teams (13-14 skaters)</b>	<b>2 Teams (11-12 skaters)</b>

**Comparison to Other Associations**

Below are the number of teams from other D2 associations for comparison. "Mahtomedi" refers to MYHA next season if we do NOT co-op. "Proposed Co-op" refers to the teams that would result from this proposal.

Association	<b>U6 Teams</b>	<b>U8 Teams</b>	<b>U10 Teams</b>	<b>U12 Teams</b>	<b>U15 Teams</b>
Mahtomedi	2	2	2	2	0.5
Proposed Co-op	2	4	3	4	2
Stillwater	2	2	3	4	1
WBL	2	2	3	2	0
Forest Lake	1	2	2	2	1
Mounds View	0	2	2	2	0
Roseville/St. Paul (co-op)	0	2	3	3	1

## **Pros and Cons**

Below is a list of potential pros and cons to the co-op, many of which were discussed at the town hall meeting. Many of these are subjective, so please use your own judgement on what you think the advantages or disadvantages may be.

### Pros

Guarantees A team at every level (i.e., U15s)

Larger numbers reduces difficulty of finding partner to co-op for specific levels each year (i.e., U15s)

Larger numbers allow players to be divided more accurately according to skill – potentially increasing skill development and player confidence

More skilled teams overall

This may be our only chance to do this, as saying no may result in Tartan co-oping with someone else

Increased ice availability

### Cons

Loss of (solely) Mahtomedi girls community hockey

Mahtomedi has sufficient numbers outside of U15 to remain independent

Mahtomedi players co-mingled with other players

Mahtomedi and Tartan/NSP High School teams remain separate, splitting up co-oped groups at High School

Fewer opportunities for Mahtomedi players to be on an A team

More rinks to go to for practices

Cost & hassle of change-over for any name change (jerseys, etc.)

Change of identity may hinder player recruiting & retention

Some details have not yet been worked out. For example:

- Tartan girls have not formally decided whether they are going to merge with JCNSP
- This proposed co-op with Mahtomedi has not been discussed with JCNSP
- There is no agreement as to what the team name would be
- It is unclear how much additional ice at desirable times we would receive

## **Other Options**

Change High School Practice of taking all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders – Currently, the Mahtomedi School Board has a rule that if the Girls High School Hockey Coach wants to select any 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the High School team, the coach must also take all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders into the high school program. We could try to work with the High School to change this rule, leaving more 9<sup>th</sup> and possibly 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the U15 program. The MYHA Board is actively looking into this and could do this with or without the co-op. If successful, this alone would likely ensure we have enough for at least one team at U15 each season.

Postpone - We could postpone this proposal for the 2019-2020 season and reconsider for the 2020-2021 season if Tartan does not co-op with another association by then.

Co-op just the U15s – We could also co-op just the U15s, with Tartan or another association, which we have done in the past. As you can see by the numbers of other D2 associations, co-oping at the U15 level is common.

## **Steps to Go Forward**

1. Creation of co-op formation committee (members of both MYHA Board and Tartan Board). This has been completed and a meeting has occurred.
2. Town Hall Meeting for all MYHA members (Held on 4/10/19 at Chataqua)
3. End of the Year Survey (includes a question and comment section re: potential girls co-op). This will be published shortly.
4. Ongoing member input
5. Board Meeting to take action or no-action on the co-op (April or May Board meeting)

## **Board Member Contact Info**

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