

Agenda Additon

1. All junior tournaments of 7-20 teams should have gold and silver division playoffs.

Rationale: Currently organizations are running 8 team tournaments (or more) with a single playoff bracket. In an 8-team tournament with only a gold playoff bracket an inexperienced team that got killed in all their pool play matches gets rewarded by playing a team in the first round that won their pool. They will probably never play a team in that tournament they can even have a chance to win one game against. The goal of silver and gold brackets is to get teams of like ability to play against each other in the playoffs. By making this format mandatory you not only shorten tournaments (9 maximum matches per court for an 8 team tournament with gold and silver brackets as compared to 10 matches per court for a single 8-team bracket), you also give the weaker teams a much better chance to end the day on a positive note.

2. Minimum awards for junior tournaments - For tournaments of 7-20 teams there should be three sets of individual awards given out: 1st place, 2nd place and silver champion. The awards for 0-6 and over 20 teams would remain the same as in the current tournament director's handbook. There should also be a cap on playoff divisions of 8 teams for tournaments with over 20 teams. Currently there are clubs and organizations running tournaments that give out only 2 sets of medals, for first and second place. They do this by having only a single playoff bracket or by having a silver bracket but no silver awards. If you look through the results section for junior girls you can see which clubs run single playoff brackets.

Rationale: These are kids we are talking about and we should err on the side of too many medals given out, not too few. We have given 3 sets of medals even down to 5 teams per division in our tournaments before and still made a profit. Institution of the above rules would help ensure that organizations/individuals are providing the appropriate number of medals.

3. Raise the cap on entry fees to \$115 for junior tournaments without provided first officials while keeping the rate for tournaments with first officials at \$175 per team.

Rationale: People who run tournaments with first officials can charge \$175 per team. It is my understanding that the going rate per match is \$25 for these officials. In an 8 team tournament teams with 18 matches (6 in each pool and 6 playoff matches, assuming gold/silver playoffs) officials would be paid a total of \$450 (\$25 x 18 matches). This means that teams are paying \$56.25 each for officials. If you subtract that out from the \$175, these teams are paying almost \$120 for just the tournament. All organizations should be able to charge the same base price for tournaments which is why \$115 per team for a tournament that does not provide first officials makes more sense IF teams are allowed to charge \$175 for tournaments with first officials.

4. The number of tournament slots sanctioned per age group over a two consecutive weekend period should be capped at 120% of the full-time teams registered in that age group the previous year. Full-time would be defined as playing at least 32 games (i.e., 4 tournaments) in that age group the previous year. After those tournaments are filled new tournaments could be sanctioned, one at a time, to fulfill the needs of the teams.

Rationale: Currently there are too many tournaments sanctioned. These sanctions are based on registrations but in the previous year. Looking at the regional rankings last year there were a lot of teams that played in only a few tournaments. For example, in girls 16s last year there were 72 teams registered, but 25% of those did not play in the equivalent of 4 tournaments in their own age group meaning that there were only 54 full-time 16s teams. This year on consecutive weekends (March 7/8, March 14/15) there were 100 slots sanctioned for girls 16s tournaments. This would mean that on consecutive weekends every full-time girls 16s team would have to play both weekends to fill all these tournaments. That is not a reasonable expectation. While you could argue that some of those slots could be filled with 15s teams you could also argue that an equal number of 16s teams could be playing 17s tournaments meaning the

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overall number of available teams would remain the same. Using the above criteria of 120% of full-time teams the previous year, only the first 65 slots could be sanctioned over two weekends (32 per weekend or the equivalent of 4 tournaments per weekend). Thus only 20% of the full-time teams registered would have to play both weekends to fill all the tournaments, which is a much more reasonable expectation.

5. If an entry fee is charged that includes cost of first officials and that tournament does not fill, teams should be entitled to a refund for the cost for first officials that was not actually incurred.

Rationale: In a 6-team tournament with a single playoff bracket there are 11 matches. In an 8 team tournament with Gold/Silver brackets you have 18 matches. The 6 teams in the tournament are paying the equivalent of \$41 a match (\$75 above the standard \$100 entry fee for 6 teams playing 11 matches) vs \$33 a match (\$75 per team for 8 teams playing a total of 16 matches) for an 8-team event. Thus a tournament director that does not provide first officials is hurt worse financially than a tournament director that does provide those officials, assuming everything else is equal, when the tournament does not fill. That does not seem fair!