



Brisbane Hockey Association Inc

AFFILIATED WITH HOCKEY QUEENSLAND INC

ABN 43 857 681 225

Under 7 & Under 9 Hockey – 2010 into 2011

The Under 7 and Under 9 program for 2010 can generally be considered a success and certainly an improvement on recent years. However, a review is necessary in order to ascertain those aspects of the program that worked well, those that perhaps didn't, where there may be the need for some fine tuning and what new directions, if any, we should consider.

In 2010 there were Friday night Under 7 and Under 9 programs in operation at Shaw Park for School Term 2 (ST2), Finsbury Park for School Term 3 (ST3), and at Carina for both School Terms 2 and 3. BWA also ran its usual Saturday morning Under 7 and Under 9 program at Rasey Park.

Days & Times

It became clear once the 2010 Season got under way that the overwhelming majority of parents were happy with Friday nights at 6:00pm for Under 7 and 7:00pm for Under 9. However, there were some for whom Friday nights were not suitable (nor convenient) and so several of those families opted to have their children play in the BWA Under 7 and Under 9 program at Rasey Park on Saturday mornings. The earlier 5:00pm starting time for both Under 7 and Under 9 on Friday nights at Carina was also criticised by some.

The end of term carnivals were by necessity held on Saturday mornings at Shaw Park (ST2 and ST3). These carnivals are designed to have the players from other programs come along and participate. However a small number of players were unable to attend due to the Saturday morning timing. Despite this and some interference from the weather, they were generally received well by both players and parents.

Season Duration

Using the School Terms has proven to be popular. Players and their parents were able to then plan for involvement in more than one activity or sport throughout the year, knowing at least what their commitment to Hockey was. The previous system of playing the same season length as the other Junior divisions made it far too long and drawn out for most.

In 2011 the School Terms contain the following numbers of Fridays:

- Term 1 = 12 Fridays
- Term 2 = 9 Fridays
- Term 3 = 10 Fridays
- Term 4 = 10 Fridays

However, the last (or second last) Friday of each Term is not usually used and a carnival is run on the Saturday morning instead. This sometimes causes difficulty for some players and parents because in some cases that particular Saturday will also be the first day of School Holidays. In 2010 a relatively small number of players simply couldn't make the Saturday morning Carnival, but generally they were very well supported.

BHA Inc LOCATION ADDRESS

State Hockey Centre
400 – 420 Lytton Road
COLMSLIE Q 4170

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 503
MORNINGSIDE Q 4170

TELEPHONE

+61 7 3899 4399

EMAIL

secretary@bha.org.au

FACSIMILE

+61 7 3399 9825

WEBSITE

www.bha.org.au

In 2011 School Term 2 is shorter than the others. Should the programs for the other Term/s be reduced accordingly as well?

Fees & Costs

The costs to the Association, both direct and indirect, with respect to the Under 7 and Under 9 program need to be taken into consideration when setting the fees. Included in the costs to the Association are the “free hockey stick” program for new players, playing t-shirts (and maybe hats, water bottle, bag – see Sporting Packs attachment), sundry equipment, flyers and newspaper advertising, First Aid, and the end of Term carnivals.

Unless the Association chooses to subsidise the Under 7 and Under 9 programs the fees that are collected from the Under 7 and Under 9 programs must at least match recovery of the above costs. This also needs to be balanced out to some extent against the costs of playing other sports. Anecdotal evidence does however suggest that Under 7 and Under 9 Hockey is competitively priced for the most part and in many cases cheaper. Often when comparing sports, vital costs are omitted, such as “ground fees” and “referee fees” that are paid on the day rather than up front as is the case with Hockey.

Consideration should also be given to players playing more than one Term in the year with respect to fees. Would this be the case in other sports or activities? For example, if the BHA fee for a Term was set at \$50, should a player who comes back for a second Term be charged \$40 or even only \$30 for that second Term?

Locations

In 2010 there were programs in operation at Shaw Park, Kalinga for School Term 2, Finsbury Park, Newmarket for School Term 3, and at Carina for both School Terms 2 and 3. If the BWA program at Rasey Park is factored in, this meant that there were two Northside venues and one Southside venue operating at any one time in 2010.

Ideally 2011 should see an expansion of the BHA programs with additional venues. This could be achieved with the concurrent operation of programs at Finsbury and Shaw Parks on Friday nights. The Carnival Days would still be conducted for both groups of players at a single venue.

In addition, a BHA sponsored Under 7 and Under 9 Friday night program should operate at SHC, Colmslie, 6pm for U7 and 7pm for U9. The lighting on the SHC grass fields is excellent. There would also be Junior (J1) Boy's and Girl's competitions on the artificial surfaces at the same time, adding to the atmosphere and assisting with some parents' travelling arrangements.

It is anticipated that the Carina Under 7 and Under 9 competition will continue.

In Conclusion

The Under 7 and Under 9 programs are a key component to the future of our sport. Most Clubs reported increases in Under 7 and Under 9 numbers in 2010, some more than others. BHA and its Clubs need to continue to build on this in order to grow the game in Brisbane.

BHA Inc LOCATION ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
State Hockey Centre 400 – 420 Lytton Road COLMSLIE Q 4170	PO Box 503 MORNINGSIDE Q 4170	+61 7 3899 4399 EMAIL secretary@bha.org.au	+61 7 3399 9825 WEBSITE www.bha.org.au