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Fun; Play and Skill Mastery

George Kingston

QUESTION????

AS A VOLUNTEER; AS A LEADER IN
MINOR HOCKEY; WHAT IS YOUR
OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE FOR
BEING INVOLVED WITH THE GAME
AT THE L.M.H.A.?

Hockey Participation - Numbers

- “29 Year” Per Capita Decline!
- “200,000” Drop From Top
- Children / Youth – Males Down! Females Up!
- Ages 5-19: Less than 10%
- Fewer Canadians in the NHL!...52%(going down):
USA ...24%(going up): Europeans ...24% ...
(Global Competitors Have Embraced.....
.....“OUR GAME”!)

Stated Child – Parent Concerns

- Not Fun!
- High Costs!
- Extensive Time Commitment!
- Travel / Extras Commitment!
- Safety Concerns – Injury, Brain Injury, Violent Behaviour!
- Need for Better Coaching!
- We Need to Listen to Children – the Major Stakeholders!

Participation – Disconnect of Focus / Objectives

Child

Play / Fun /

Enjoyment /

“In the Moment” /

Doing / Being /

Love the Experience /

Play With Friends

“Ends” Outcome

Adult / Parent

Development / Training /

Work / Conditioning /

Preparation / Evaluation /

Advancement /

Purpose / Business /

Becoming NHL Player

“Means” Outcome



Playing Time /
Getting Better /
Success / Winning

Pond Hockey / Play /
Shinny

...Win at What Cost?

...Build Coach / Team /

...Organization Resume'

...Structure / Organization / Facility /

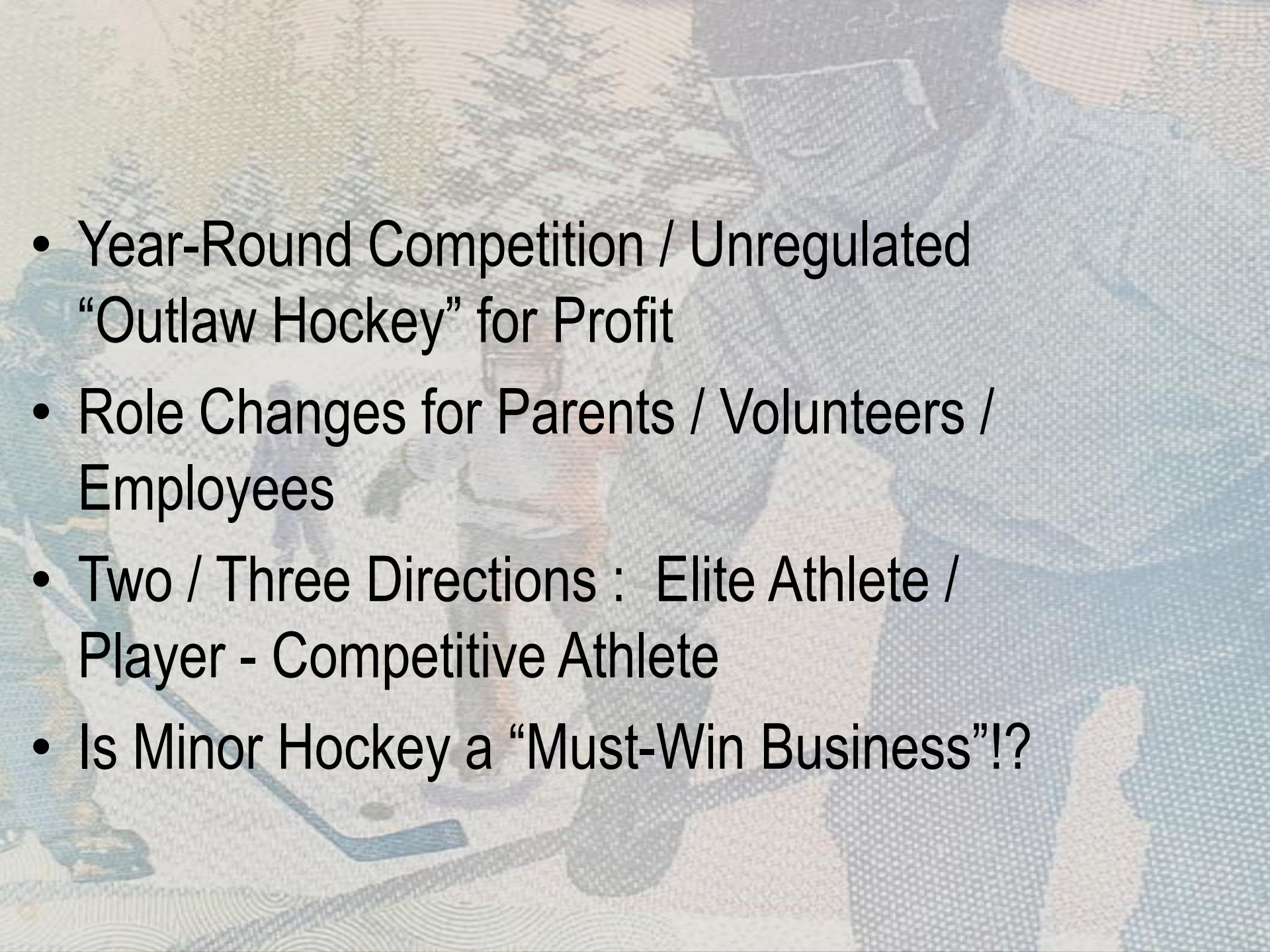
...Scheduling for Games & Practices

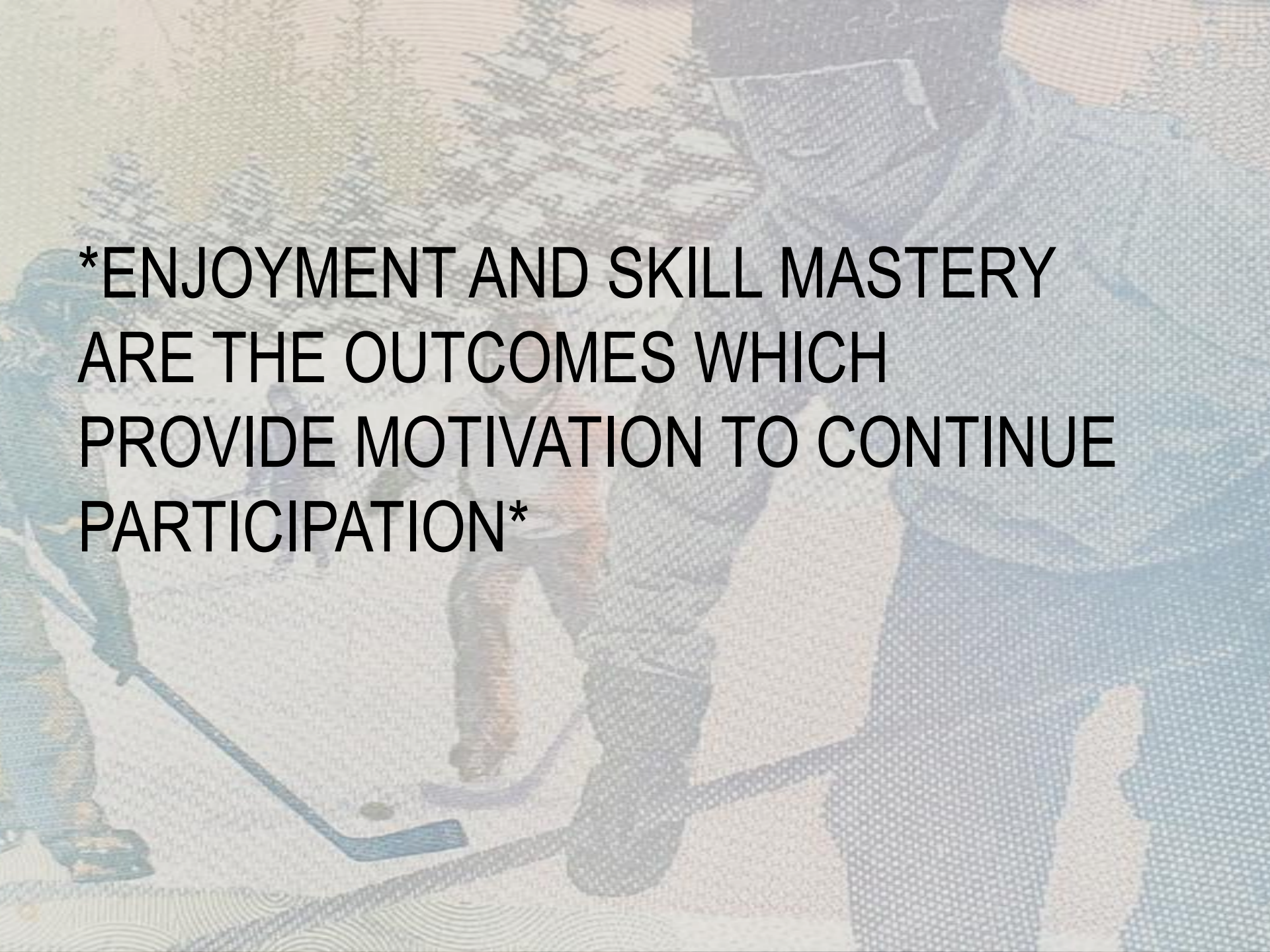
Participation - (Structural) Barriers

- Hockey Organizations – “Must WIN!”
- Participation Drop-Off – “Age 14”
- Bantam Draft (Midget Draft)
- “Pressure Cooker”/ “The Grind” / “Rat Race”
- Natural Selection / “Survival of the Fittest”
- Other Sport Choices

Directions / Trends in Minor Hockey

- Professionalization / Stakeholders
- Professional Teams Entering Minor Hockey / Sport Entertainment Business
- Sport Schools / Summer Skills Camps
- Year- Round Specialization / Elite Hockey
- Paid Coaches /Mentors / Private Coaches & Consultants / Agents

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- Year-Round Competition / Unregulated “Outlaw Hockey” for Profit
 - Role Changes for Parents / Volunteers / Employees
 - Two / Three Directions : Elite Athlete / Player - Competitive Athlete
 - Is Minor Hockey a “Must-Win Business”!?

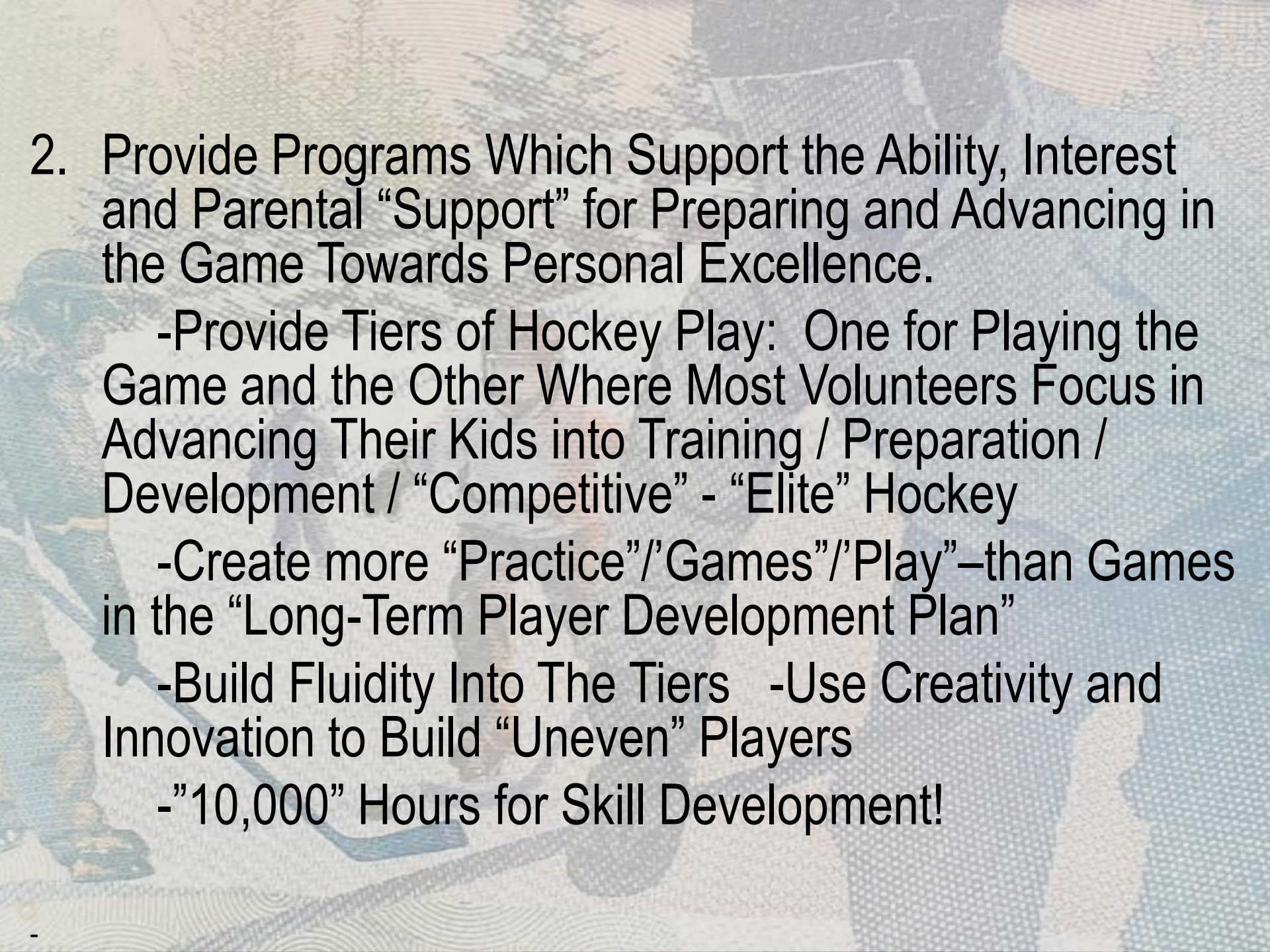


***ENJOYMENT AND SKILL MASTERY
ARE THE OUTCOMES WHICH
PROVIDE MOTIVATION TO CONTINUE
PARTICIPATION***

Leadership by Your L.M.H.A.!!

Your Roles!!

1. Access or Build Programs for “Recreational Hockey”
Which Focus on the Objective:
 - To Have Kids Play & Enjoy Hockey!!
 - Main Skill to Develop: “I Love Playing Hockey!”
 - FUNdamentals Through Games, Challenges, Competitions to Master Skills
 - MAXIMUM – Game-like Skill Use – Time in Activity - Contact With Puck – Number Playing – Use of Ice
 - (Simple Practice Evaluation – Everyone Active!)



2. Provide Programs Which Support the Ability, Interest and Parental “Support” for Preparing and Advancing in the Game Towards Personal Excellence.

- Provide Tiers of Hockey Play: One for Playing the Game and the Other Where Most Volunteers Focus in Advancing Their Kids into Training / Preparation / Development / “Competitive” - “Elite” Hockey

- Create more “Practice”/“Games”/“Play”–than Games in the “Long-Term Player Development Plan”

- Build Fluidity Into The Tiers -Use Creativity and Innovation to Build “Uneven” Players

- “10,000” Hours for Skill Development!

H.C. Long-Term Player Development Plan

	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Practices</u>	<u>Games</u>
Initiation	5-6 F/M	35-40	15-20
Novice	7-8 F/M	40-45	30-35
Atom	8-9 F	45-50	40-45
	9-10 M	“Learn to Play”	
PeeWee	10-11 F	50-55	45-50
	11-12 M	“Learn to Train”	
Bantam	11-15 F	55-60	50-55
	12-16 M	“Train to Train”	
Midget		“Train to Train”	
Train to Compete	16-18 F	16-17 M	
Train to Win	18-22 F	18-20 M	

Puck Possession: Skill Use Research

Calgary Studies: 1971-76 (Under 6 – Pro)

- “47” Seconds Average Overall
- 15.3 – 20.7 (→ 8 years) so more than 180 Games are needed for 60 Minutes of Puck Possession!
- No One Over 102 Seconds in IIHF / NHL!
- Briar Hill/Hounsfeld Heights Study with Play Model

Salt Lake Studies : 2002 Olympics (Selected Top Offensive Players)

- 38.4 Seconds Average in PeeWee (under 12)
- 67.1 Seconds Average in SLC Olympics
- 79 Seconds: Joe Sakic in Gold Game (**2 Goals, 2 Assists)
- 85 Seconds Max for Top Skill Players
- 62 Seconds Max for Hayley Wickenheiser
- 60 Seconds Max for Cammi Granato
- Other Skills Comment



- “Shrink the Game” to Kids’ Scale:

- Small Area Play (1/3 – 1/2 - “Six” Goalnets - Etc.)
- Ensure Immediacy To Puck for More Puck Control / Possession / Skill Repetition
- More Goals / Assists / Joy!
- Small Area Games / Challenges / Competitions
- Keepaway / Shinny / Just Play
- (Top Level Hockey is 1 vs 1 “Table-Top” Hockey!)

Small Area Games Are Great to Develop Hockey Sense For /Through Principles of Play and Game Situations.

TOP-LEVEL HOCKEY: NHL / KHL / EUROPE / IIHF

- Skill – Speed – Agility – Acceleration – Contact Game
- “Table-Top” Hockey: The Game is 1 vs 1 Battles!
- Top Level Practices Feature:
 - Small Area Games 1-1 / 2-1 / 2-2 / 3-2 / 3-3 / 4-4
 - Focused Skill Work / Challenges / Competition
- Top Players Have Multi-Sport Participation
- Many Top Players Were Late – Maturers
- Hard Work, Speed Have Limits; whereas Skill (Physical, Mental) Does Not!
- Role of Fun / Enjoyment ...vs “Work ... “Burn-Out!”

Canada

- Vast Resources – “5000” – Cutting Edge – Projects – Studies – Influence – “Remarkable & Committed Army of Volunteers”
- Diminished Numbers and Less Focus on Broad Base of Participation Alongside Increasing Support for Genetically Capable and Competent Athletes to Excel.
- The Long-Term Solution for Sustaining Our Game Requires Renewed Effort to Increase the Broad Base of Participation.
- Local Minor Hockey Associations are the Critical Agents for Recruiting Players into Participation. Here lies a real need!

- “Hot-Housing” Focus Only on Elite Has Worked in “The War Without Weapons” of International Competition and For Emerging Countries
- For Canada to Continue to Compete Successfully and to Meet Increasingly Unrealistic Expectations: Canada must Attract and Retain the Best Athletes from the 5-19-Year Age Group. We MUST Provide World-Class Skill Mastery to Accompany Our Core Values and Gamesmanship. This Will Require a Significant Shift / Change From Our Traditional Assumptions and Beliefs Regarding “Our Game”.

CHANGE!

- The Only Constant is Change ...But Canada Has a Glacial Resistance to Change in Hockey!
...“Canadian Obsession”...”Arrogance”...
- Getting the Message Out! Using our Resources!
(All the World Uses Canada’s Resources!
Why?.... Why Don’t We?) (...Frustration!!)
- The Hockey World / Opponents / Kids are Changing but we tend to resist Changing!
- We Must Surrender Our Ego to Embrace Change
.....And Move On To Use the Best Resources!



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