



## **GTHL Adjusts Programming of Midget “AA” and “A” Divisions for the 2013-14 Season** *Changes Aimed At Improving Midget “AA” and “A” Hockey in the GTHL*

Toronto (Wednesday, February 27, 2013) ó Today, the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) announced programming changes that it will be making in the Midget öAAö and öAö Divisions for the 2013-14 season.

The changes are the result of a joint working group that was established by the GTHL Board of Directors in November. The joint working group consisted of GTHL Directors, GTHL Club Representatives and GTHL Staff members.

The changes in programming include:

- The Midget öAAö and öAö Regular Season will commence on October 1 each year.
- The League will not schedule games during the 4-5 week days of high school exams.
- The League will not schedule Playoff games during the March Break.
- The League will hold two League-wide Midget öAAö and öAö Showcase weekends ó the first being the weekend prior to the December schedule break and the other being the second weekend in February. Each team will play 4 games over each weekend.
- The League will operate Midget All-Star games at the öAö and öAAö in conjunction with the Midget öAAAö All-Star game each season.

The working group will reconvene in January of 2014 to evaluate the progress of these recommendations and to consider other changes that may be necessary, or beneficial, to improving the Midget öAAö and öAö divisions for future years.

öThese changes should help alleviate many of the pressures that are put on players in this age groupö President John Gardner said. öWe have to continue to find ways of keeping players in the game longer and we believe these changes will allow players the opportunity to focus on school and their personal lives while still being able to participate in hockey at a competitive levelö.

The Greater Toronto Hockey League is the largest amateur hockey league in the world, with over 40,000 participants. In its competitive divisions alone, the GTHL conducts more than 10,000 games each season. The GTHL celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2011-12 season and is a proud member of the Ontario Hockey Federation, Hockey Development Centre of Ontario and Hockey Canada.

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