



BALANCING IN "C" DIVISIONS

Most parents don't pay a lot of attention to this process until their child is one of the players that must make a move so this below outlines what balancing is, why it is required, and how you can help to make the process easier on the kids.

What is "Balancing"?

Balancing is a term used by PCAHA to describe a process by which teams within a division are evaluated and, through player movements, start the season at even strength.

Why does BMHA balance teams?

As a member of PCAHA (Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association) we are mandated to have balanced teams. This is a **mandatory requirement** of being a minor hockey association in the Pacific Coast region. We are not able to opt out of the process, and the final declaration of whether or not teams are balanced is the prerogative of PCAHA, not BMHA. We simply facilitate the process and do our best to bring the teams into alignment before PCAHA makes any final moves.

How is balancing done?

Your child is temporarily assigned to a group of skaters at the start of the season. The first few weeks are primarily used for warm-up. Then these groupings begin to play games against each other to determine if they are of equal strength. During the next month or so, groups are evaluated, and decisions are made by BMHA staff as to how to redistribute players with the intention that no single group is stronger or weaker than the others. If we discover that groups are unbalanced, we are required to redistribute players to make them more even. This continues until our groups are balanced and PCAHA gives our newly formed teams official status. PCAHA has the right to unilaterally declare these groups not balanced and, in some cases, decide which players will be moved.

How can we make the process easier on the players?

1. Coaches & managers are informed at the beginning of every season the Executive's wish that they refer to the pre-balanced groups as exactly that - groupings, not teams - and asked that they make it clear that initial allocations are temporary. We also want them to make parents aware that players can be moved anytime up to January 10th according to PCAHA rules.
2. It's imperative that parents also do their part to make any moves less stressful on their children. Please have a discussion with them at the beginning of each season regarding balancing and let them know that these groupings are temporary. If your child does have to be moved, your reaction will dictate your child's feeling on the matter. Being positive will go a long way to minimizing the temporary disruption of such a move.

Thank you for your understanding and support regarding balancing. If you have any further questions, please contact communications@burnabyminor.com