



## August, 2018 AMHA Newsletter

Welcome to the 2018/2019 AMHA Hockey Season! We hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. With it now being the beginning of August the hockey season is around the corner and time for everyone to start thinking about hockey again. The Board of Directors, Staff, and all our Appointed Positions have been working hard over the summer to prepare for this coming season and some of the highlights and things you need to know include:

### Association Operations

**Registration Payment Reminder** - Just a reminder that the balance of your registration fee is due August 1st.

**Monthly Newsletters** - The AMHA will be producing a monthly newsletter to highlight our Association's successes and inform the membership of key Association activities.

**Centre Ice Changing Names** - Centre ice has informed the AMHA that the facility will now be known as "The Rinks at Summit Centre".

**Volunteerism** - As we all know, the AMHA is a volunteer driven organization and cannot sustain itself without our volunteers. For the 2018/19 season volunteerism is a focus of the organization and inline with our strategic plan. If you are a member of the organization **it is an expectation you volunteer at some level within the organization.** Over the past number of years volunteerism within the organization has been declining. The AMHA's **new focus on volunteerism will focus on recruitment, training and retention of volunteers** as our long term sustainability of our Association is dependent upon our volunteers. We have spent the summer developing resources for our volunteers. Please look through our website for and/or contact key people within the organization for new and/or updated volunteer resources. Please review the [Volunteerism](#) section of our website for further information.

At the Association level the AMHA is still currently looking for key volunteers in the following positions:

- Risk Manager
- Bauer 1st Shift Coordinator

**Fundraising** - You spoke, we listened. We again thank those who participated in the member survey in regards to fundraising. Out of this survey a fundraising committee has been struck with members of the organization involved which will be meeting in August to further determine the



Association's fundraising initiatives for the upcoming season. Just a reminder that Association fundraising is mandatory according to the AMHA Bylaws and is an expectation of all teams and families to participate.

**Safety** - In an effort to increase the emphasis on safety within the AMHA and ensure hockey is a safe sport on and off the ice and in conjunction with the HCSP program, the AMHA has made two additional programs available for the 2018/19 season.

- **EPact** - an online emergency network to better support Team Officials . Using "Banking" level security EPact connects our coaches, managers, and HCSP to player's families through a highly secure, online network allowing us to access critical player information and communicate in the case of emergency. The Board of Directors has voted and the use of EPact is mandatory for the upcoming season. As a member throughout August you will be sent an email inviting you to join Epact and this is a replacement for the hard copy forms we used in the past. For more information about EPact please visit our Risk Management Page.
- **Complete Concussion Management Inc.** - For the 2018/19 season the AMHA has partnered with Complete Concussion Management Inc. for concussion awareness. The purpose of supporting this program is to educate parents on the latest on concussions and concussion management so parents/guardians can make informed decisions about the care of their child in the event a concussion occurs. For more information about Complete Concussion Management Inc.'s program please visit our [concussion awareness page](#).



## Hockey Operations

**Hockey Operations Staffing Update** - After listening to membership, staff, and board feedback as well as a thorough review of all our programming the AMHA has decided to make some changes in respect to our Hockey Operations staffing. Our Hockey Director, Mike Gerrits will be shifting priorities with his position to focus more on coach development, and player development will be done separately. The reason for the shift is to align with the original intent of the position when it was created a few years ago and focus on helping our volunteer coaches be the best they can be. The job title will now be Director, Coach Development and the duties will see a strong component of coach mentorship at all levels of the AMHA. The role will also see the position carry on with overseeing the Rep tryout process and assisting Directors with Recreational balancing where needed through the month of September. The AMHA will be communicating its new player development strategy to the membership in the near future.

**Divisional Name Change** - In May 2018, PCAHA member organizations at PCAHA's AGM voted to change the name of H1-4 to align with national naming convention standards. H1-4 now is known as:

H1 = Initiation Minor  
H2 = Initiation Major  
H3 = Novice Minor  
H4 = Novice Major

### Save the Dates - 2018/19 AMHA Hosted Tournament Dates

Please take notice of all the AMHA hosted tournaments and mark these dates on your calendars:

- Midget Memorial - November 10-12, 2018
- Bantam Western Classic - November 23-25, 2018
- Pee Wee Rep (A1/A2/A3) - December 7-9, 2018
- Atom Rep (A1/A2/A3) - December 21-23, 2018
- Bantam Recreational - December 27-29, 2018
- Initiation/Novice - December 29-31, 2018



- Pee Wee Recreational - January 4-6, 2019
- Midget Recreational - January 4-6, 2019
- Dallas Saunders - February 16-18, 2019
- Atom Recreational - March 16-18, 2019

**Bauer First Shift Program** - The AMHA is excited to announce that it has been selected as a host to the Bauer First Shift Program. The program is intended to introduce new players to the game of hockey and we encourage all our members to help the AMHA grow the game by introducing new families to this great game. The program will run in the fall session beginning in October. The Bauer 1st Shift program [information can be found on our website.](#)

**Canucks Learn to Play Program** - The AMHA will be hosting the Canucks Learn to Play program again in the 2018/19 season with a bit of a change to the program. Due to a delay in the equipment the program will be run in early 2019. The Canucks Learn to Play [information can be found on our website.](#)

**Team Officials Certification Requirements** - Similar to years before, those volunteers that are planning on volunteering to be a Team Official (Coaches, Managers, HCSP) must complete a number of certification requirements for these positions. We encourage you to take a few minutes of your summer and ensure your certifications are up to date. Please click on the link below for the appropriate Team Official Certification:

- [Criminal Record Check](#) - All Team Officials must complete a Criminal Record Check.
  - Please note you MUST use the online CRC application, not go to detachment directly.
- [Respect in Sport](#) - All Team Officials must complete the Respect in Sport Certification.
- [CATT](#) - Concussion Awareness Training Tool. All Team Officials must complete the CATT.
- [Coaching Certification \(NCCP\)](#) - All coaches must have appropriate coach certification. Please visit the AMHA Coaches Page on our website for more information on the coaching program.
- [HCSP](#) - All HCSP officials must have current certification of the HCSP Program. This program expires every 3 years in August.



**Player Development Programs** - The AMHA through feedback from our membership, Board and Staff has restructured our development programs for our players for the upcoming season. Each portfolio will continue to have its own development page ([Rep](#), [Recreational](#) and [Initiation](#) hockey). Please check out these pages on our website as they will be updated regularly with program information as it becomes available. More information on the new player development programs will be communicated to the membership in the near future.

**Coaching** - The AMHA has developed a list of resources for our coaches. If you are a coach within the AMHA please take a look at the following pages for access to resources:

- 1) [AMHA Player Development Philosophy](#)
- 2) [Hockey Canada Player Development Definitions - Including the Skills Pyramid](#)
- 3) [Long Term Athlete Development Plan \(LTADP\)](#)
- 4) [Coaching Resource Page](#)

For any further information and/or coach development resources, please contact our Director, Coach Development Mike Gerrits at [hockeyops@abbotsfordminorhockey.ca](mailto:hockeyops@abbotsfordminorhockey.ca)

**Rep Tryouts** - Rep tryouts can be a stressful time of year. Please remember to abide by the 24 hour rule throughout each phase of the tryouts, and refer to the Rep Tryout Guidelines posted online on August 10, 2018 for the tryout process. For the upcoming season **“Rep Parent” meetings will be mandatory for a minimum of one (1) parent per player**. If a parent does not attend the Rep Parent Meeting, their child will not be allowed on the ice for Day 2 of Rep Tryouts, and it will be deemed as immediate placement in the Recreational Hockey Pool. Rep Parent Meetings will take place during the WHL Combine portion of tryouts. The parent’s meeting you attend will be the same time as your child’s Combine session (Thursday or Friday). More information will be posted online as it becomes available.

The AMHA is looking for volunteers to assist with Rep Tryouts. Volunteer roles include Registration Table, HCSP, and Bench Coaches. Please see the Rep Tryouts Volunteer Signup Sheet that will be posted on the homepage on August 10, 2018.

**Recreational Hockey Start up** - Week of September 4th. More information will be posted online as it becomes available.

**Initiation/Novice Hockey Start up** - Beginning September 15th. More information will be posted online as it becomes available.

We look forward to seeing you around the Rinks this fall.