



August, 2017 AMHA Newsletter

Welcome to the 2017/18 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 the 2017/18 season and some of the highlights and things you need to know include:

The New AMHA

The AMHA has had a number of significant organizational changes since the end of last season. Some of these changes include:

- **Hiring** of our Executive Director and a restructuring of Staff responsibilities.
- **New Organizational Structure** (new board positions, shifting and eliminating of positions) to make the Board smaller and more nimble as is the case with the current trend in nonprofit governance. This allows the AMHA to have more volunteers and subject matter experts participate in key appointed positions and committees.
- **Society Act Transition.** In November 2016 a new Societies Act came into effect in BC. All non-profit societies had 18 months to update their organization and file their Transition plan. The AMHA filed and was completely up to date in May 2017.
- **[New Constitution and Bylaws.](#)** At our May AGM the membership voted in a new set of bylaws. These bylaws are a significant change to our old bylaws and are in line with the new organizational structure.
- **[New Policy Manual.](#)** The Board of Directors has updated and voted in a new Policy Manual with some significant changes, again that are in line with our new organizational structure. The highlights include new and **updated Codes of Conduct**, a **new discipline policy** with the ability to enact a strong progressive discipline measures for the benefit of the membership and the good of the game, and a **conflict of interest policy** to help with objective decision making at the Board.
- **[Strategic Plan.](#)** The Board has been working on a new 5-year Strategic plan with a focus on the first three years. This plan is fundamental and is the driving force of the future direction of our organization. You can find the strategic plan on our website.
- **[Monthly Newsletters.](#)** The AMHA will be producing a monthly newsletter to highlight our Association's successes and inform the membership of key Association activities.



New Communication Model

Website - In June 2017 the AMHA launched a new website. The new website is meant to be content rich and be the **main source of information** for the Association. We strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the navigation of the website as moving forward any information pushed out to the membership from the Board/Staff will be posted on the website. Our objective with this website is to **provide the membership the ability to have “self service” with regards to information pertaining to the operations of the Association** and reduce the large number of email communications generally all with the same questions our Board/Staff and Appointed Positions receive. We encourage you to go to the website first before reaching out to key volunteers or staff and bogging down everyone’s email.

Other highlights of our new website include:

- **Division Homepage.** Each Division now has its own main page. Please visit these pages regularly for information about your division, especially during season start up.
- **Team Homepages.** Every Team in the Association will have their own website under the AMHA’s main website. Access to these sites will be provided to Team Managers as teams are formed.
- **Tournament Websites.** Each of the Tournaments the AMHA hosts now has its own website which will host key tournament information, schedules, and much more.
- **Association Calendar.** The AMHA will list any and all important dates on the Association Calendar on the home page.

Information is being updated daily on our website, but our Directors and Coordinators have committed to having all season start up information posted on Divisional pages by end of day on August 13th.

Email - Upon registration you provided the AMHA with a main email address for your child, and/or a “Mother’s” and “Father’s” email. The AMHA will be communicating regularly throughout the month of August via email so please continue to check these email addresses regularly.



Volunteers

As we all know, the AMHA is a volunteer driven organization and cannot sustain itself without our volunteers. For the 2017/18 season volunteerism is a focus of the organization. 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:

- Fundraising Coordinator
- Community Engagement Coordinator

Fundraising

It came to our attention throughout our organizational analysis that an organization of our size should have some significant fundraising efforts. At this time the AMHA has very little in the way of fundraising efforts that assist and/or build the organization as a whole. For the 2017/18 season the AMHA has partnered with Athletix Fundraising Canada on a "Hockey Pool" fundraiser. The benefit of this to the AMHA could be up to \$50,000 which has significant impact on the the AMHA Budget and our desire to keep registration fees at a reasonable level. More information on Athletix will be made available through your teams in late September, early October.



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 2017/18 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 2017/18 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](#).
- **HCSP Continuing Education** - Using google classroom (an online learning tool) our HCSP volunteers will be able to receive ongoing information about the latest trends in player and team safety.



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.
- [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.

Hockey Operations

Player Development Programs

The AMHA through the direction of our Hockey Director, Mike Gerrits, and feedback from our membership has restructured our development programs for our players for the upcoming season. Now each of our portfolios ([Rep](#), [Recreational](#) and [Initiation](#) hockey) have their own development pages, and age/skill appropriate programming. Please check out these pages on our website as they will be updated regularly with program information as it becomes available.

Atom Transition

In an effort to assist H4 players transitioning to full ice hockey in Atom, BC Hockey has developed a curriculum for Atom Transition. The AMHA has taken this curriculum and developed a program for the AMHA that includes on-ice teaching about full ice hockey, as well as an online learning module through Google Classroom that includes videos, diagrams, and much more. The Atom transition program is open to all first year Atom Players (Recreational & Rep) in the AMHA and the on-ice will be delivered our Atom A1 Head Coach.

The Atom Transition on-ice portion of the program is scheduled for August 28 & 29th. More information & times will be available soon and will be available on our website and communicated to registered 1st year players.



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](#)

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 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).

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 on will be posted on the homepage on August 13, 2017.

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