



September 2017 AMHA Newsletter

Now that hockey has begun we wanted to reach out with our September newsletter. A big thank you goes out to all our Board and Appointed Positions who have spent countless hours getting our Rep Tryouts, and Recreational teams set up to date, and the work they will continue to do throughout the season.

Website

Just a reminder to check out our new website frequently. We are constantly updating the website with new information daily about the AMHA, and all of our Divisions and Teams. Most of the information for hockey this season you will find on the website so please check back regularly. A few pages to keep in mind 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 Web Pages.** 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.

Volunteerism

We are still looking for volunteers throughout the organization. Please remember that the AMHA is a volunteer driven organization and volunteering is an expectation and a requirement of the AMHA. Please check out our [volunteerism](#) page for more details on how you can get involved.

We are still searching for two key positions:

- Fundraising Coordinator
- Community Engagement Coordinator

If you are interested in assisting for either of these please contact our Director, Volunteers Rick Barwell at volunteers@abbotsfordminorhockey.ca



Fundraising

As noted in our August Newsletter after our off season organizational analysis fundraising was identified as an area of concern for the AMHA. As such we have partnered with Athletix Fundraising Canada on a “Hockey Pool” fundraiser for this season. The benefit to the AMHA could be up to \$50,000. This has significant impact on the AMHA Budget and our desire to continue to try and keep registration fees at a reasonable level.

In order to operate this program, each and every AMHA team will be required to have a designated “Fundraising Coordinator” at the time your team is rostered.

Safety and Risk Management

The Association has conducted 12 Parent meetings throughout Rep Tryouts in regards to our “Parent Education” mandate. In total over 250 families have participated in these meetings. More parent meeting dates for our Recreational and Initiation parents will be coming soon.

Just a reminder if you haven’t signed your child up for EPact yet, please do so asap. Over 80% of our members have completed and fulfilled their obligation to this sign up. If you cannot find the invitation please contact our Registrar, Rhonda Bencze asap.

- **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](#).

A second safety reminder is to familiarize yourself with the CCMI Program in case your child gets a concussion.

- **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](#).



Team Officials Certification Requirements

For those that are going to be volunteering to help at the Team Level, just a reminder about all the various Team Official Certification Requirements. 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

Atom Transition Program Recap

Forty two (42) first year Atom players transitioning from Cross ice hockey to Full ice hockey participated in a our Atom Transition Program as well as participated in an online education program on full ice hockey through google classroom.

Checking and Contact Confidence Clinic Recap

Thirty eight (38) Bantam aged players participated in our checking and contact confidence clinics prior to Rep tryouts. The purpose of the clinic is to focus on the core checking skills of hockey that have been taught since Initiation hockey and introduce the body checking component.

Rep Tryout Recap

Over the Labour Day weekend the AMHA delivered two of the three phases of the Rep Tryout process. Players went through the WHL Combine and Scrimmage games, and now have moved onto practices and the Round Robin phase of tryouts. Teams will be taking shape within the next 10-14 days. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with various jobs throughout tryouts at registration tables, benches, and HCSP staff.



Recreational Balancing and Team Selection

Recreational hockey starts this weekend and teams will begin their balancing games over the next couple weeks. Just a reminder that until teams are balanced these are still just working groups and players may move groups in order for us to fulfill our balancing obligations to our league.

Initiation (H1-4) Start up

Similar to Recreational hockey our H1-4 players will be starting up very soon as well. We are again this year excited to partner with the Vancouver Canucks on the Learn To Play Program. The program is designed to introduce kids into the game of hockey and ensure their initial experience in hockey is a great one. If you are eligible for this program and haven't signed up for your free hockey gear, please visit the [learn to play program page](#) on our website asap.

Our expected start dates for H3 and 4 are September 16th.

Our expected start dates for H1 and 2 are September 23rd.

Please continue to check back to the website and watch for further information to be sent out.

Player Development Programs

As teams start to take shape, please ensure you are on the lookout for our yearly player development and skill based programs. All our programming can be found under the "Development" tab of our website or you can look specifically on the following pages:

[Goaltender Development Page](#)

[Initiation Skills Programs Page](#)

[Recreational Skills Programs Page](#)

[Rep Skills Programs Page](#)

Specific dates, times and locations will be announced throughout September and you can count on all programs starting at the end of September and beginning of October.



New Player Development Programs

Based upon the feedback from the membership in order to increase our program offerings, the AMHA is going to try a few “user pay” programs geared towards the Pee Wee and Bantam aged players. Programs will be position and division specific and we are excited to have Travis Oddy our Pee Wee A1 Coach commit to running all the Pee Wee Programs, while Peter Hay from the Fraser Valley MML team will be running our Bantam Division programs. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Coaches

At this time of year the AMHA always works with our coaches to ensure they have the proper certifications. Two things for coaches to note:

- 1) We have applied for our certification clinics and dates will be announced soon.
- 2) In order to foster an environment for our coaches to learn, development and build a community within our association we have launched three (3) new online learning tools for coaches in each portfolio through google classroom. For coaches to get access please contact our Hockey Director for more details.

We look forward to seeing you around the rink.

Regards,

AMHA Board, Staff and Appointed Positions