



Presidents Message

Beginning of the Year

Devon Minor Hockey Association (DMHA) Members,

Hello Everyone and Welcome Back!

It is my pleasure to be writing this to each of you players, parents, guardians, volunteers and hockey super-fans because this means that the DMHA 2017/18 hockey season is starting very soon. Over the next seven months, all of us will be involved in many games, practices and activities, while making so many great memories along the way. What I've learned during my tenure with minor hockey is that these years we spend participating in this great sport may be some of the best years we will ever experience together with our family and friends. Be sure and enjoy each moment, because I can assure you that the time will pass by very quickly. Believe it or not, there is a day coming when we (parents and players alike) will miss the weekend games, the weekday practices and YES, even those early morning games and practices. At some point down the road, the wins and losses become completely irrelevant and forgotten, but the memories and the friends you will make during these years will remain with you for the rest of your lives. *Please do remember to enjoy this time to the fullest!

2017 EVALUATIONS

As many of you know, DMHA works hard year after year carefully considering improvements where possible, based on your feedback, as part of providing the best experience for all youth playing hockey in our region. As part of this, this season DMHA is pleased to pilot and retain outside evaluators in an effort to complement and better support our Association, its Evaluations Committee and its formal evaluation processes over the coming weeks.

For the complete evaluations process details, please refer to the **Evaluations Update** link available on our homepage (www.devonminorhockey.com). Here you will find additional information regarding processes, teams, scheduling and other important updates. I encourage everyone to visit this page for regular updates as they occur. Although I anticipate that all teams will be decided by late September, I recognize that player movement at the AA and AAA levels sometimes makes the final placement of players a slower process for many levels. To this extent, I expect you to continually check the website for updates as important updates occur (e.g. important changes to player evaluation skate dates and times). As you can appreciate, there are a lot of players to get placed on teams and time is limited - so your ongoing patience throughout this process is very much appreciated.

Overall, our current player registration numbers are very strong, and we thank ALL of you for registering this season. Please note that the team numbers may change as registration numbers change. Also, once the pre-season "tiering-games" are completed this may alter where teams are placed under the league. Again, I ask and thank-you for your patience during this very busy time.



Presidents Message

Beginning of the Year

COACH SELECTION

Potential coaches participated in an interview, which was conducted by the Coach Selection Committee, prior to the upcoming evaluations. Coaches will be chosen based on the results of the interviews, evaluations and player placements. The Coach Selection Committee will strive to choose the best coach for each of the levels based on the information from the interviews. DMHA will make every effort to ensure that each and every level is provided a suitable coach prior to the season commencing.

ICE AVAILABILITY

As is the case every year in DMHA, we are struggling with ice availability due to only having one sheet to work with. The Executive is actively seeking ice in other communities including Thorsby and Calmar. It is our hope that these two community arenas will once again be utilized by our teams this season.

GENERAL UPDATES

Coach Manager Meeting:

- A coach/manager meeting will be held September 25th at the Lions Campground Chalet to provide information and answer any questions that coaches and managers may have for the upcoming season. Please watch the DMHA website for a confirmed start time - *TBA.

Referee Clinic:

- Clinic will be held on October 28th @ John Maland High School – time TBA
- A registration code will be required to attend this clinic. *To receive the registration code, please send an email expressing interest in attending the clinic to Cole Matwichuk: ref_in_chief@devonminorhockey.com
- Please include full name, mailing address and also home organization.
- 30 maximum registrants and a ***minimum age of 13 is required to attend.**
- For more information, please contact Cole Matwichuk: ref_in_chief@devonminorhockey.com

Checking Clinic:

- Groups TBD (please watch the website for updates).
- Group 1 - September 23rd 6:15 – 7:15 pm
- Group 2 - September 24th 4:00 – 5:00 pm



Presidents Message

Beginning of the Year

- All first-year Bantams and second-year Peewee's are recommended to take the course.

Players – I wish the absolute best of luck to all of you heading into evaluations and onto your respective teams. I hope that each player makes the very best of whichever team they end up on. Have some fun, learn some life lessons, work together as a team, respect your coaches and officials and meet some lifelong friends. I hope you finish the season strong, happy and healthy, with your hearts FULL.

Parents – As in every season, let's also make the best of this season. This is a time when patience is required from all of you. Please remember that no one in minor hockey is involved to cause discomfort to any referee, coach, player or parent, and we all want to make your experience as enjoyable and stress free as possible. I know that we are all very passionate about our hockey, and even more passionate about our own kid's in-hockey. In saying this, I must ask you to please be patient with the players, parents, coaches, officials and last but certainly not least - the Executive members. We need our many volunteer's, and we want them all to keep their passion for volunteering their valuable time. Vice versa, you also have earned the right to an enjoyable season and without you we would have no DMHA. From all of the DMHA Executive Committee, we "thank you".

Coaches – Simply put... *without you - we don't play Hockey. We understand that most of you have jobs, families and other life commitments which compete for your time. Thank-you for volunteering, we appreciate this commitment you are making to develop our players. Always remember to respect your players, and keep your parents informed. The time you spend working hard with your team now will pay off as the season goes along.

Executive/Volunteers – past and present, thank you for your countless hours and dedication to DMHA and its members. I look forward to working with all of you this season.

Don't forget to check out our social media sites for lots of important information and announcements throughout the season.

In closing and on behalf of the DMHA Executive, Steven Kuchirka (Vice-President), Chris Higdon (Past-President) and I, we wish you a fantastic 2017/2018 Season. *See you at the Rink.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Morton', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Morton

President, Devon Minor Hockey Association