

FMHA

FALL NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...



On behalf of the FMHA Board of directors I welcome everyone to the 2017-18 hockey season! We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and were able to warm up and enjoy your time away from the rinks with

your friends and family. I know for our family there is always an adjustment period come March when we no longer have the weekly hockey practices and games with our hockey family. Even though there are many benefits to the sport of hockey, one of the greatest gifts we get from this community is the lifelong friendships that both the kids and the parents make over the years. Having said that we would love to welcome to our association the new members in all divisions who recently moved to High River, moved from Rec Hockey, and are trying the sport we love for the winter months. To those families joining Initiation this year we also welcome you and hope you love this crazy sport as much as we do! Trust us - your player will be skating circles around you by Christmas.

FMHA membership numbers have remained steady over the past year. 2017 sees us icing (3) Initiation, (3) Novice, (3) Atom, (2) PeeWee, (2) Bantam, (2) Midget and (3) AA teams. Tiering rounds begin this coming weekend for our travel teams and regular league play begins for our non-travel teams. I want to thank all those who volunteered during conditioning camp and evaluations including the evaluators, on ice volunteers and pinnie distributors. The level directors all greatly appreciated the extra hands.

This year has seen some exciting growth in our non-travel teams with the addition of a second team at Novice level after demand warranted it. This year at Novice we have one Travel Team and two non-travel

teams. Atom level also has a non-travel team along with two travel teams. There has been enough interest in the program that we will likely add a non-travel team to PeeWee next year. These teams compete with teams from our adjoining associations. We are lucky to have a league like Okotoks so close. The greatest misconception about non-travel play is that it is not competitive hockey. It is actually quite competitive; the main difference lies in the amount travel in comparison to CAHL league play. This is an option that associations across the province are seeing significant growth in and we expect to see continued growth for FMHA as well.

Please take time to check out our updated website and Facebook page and check it regularly for Association news and updates. It is continually being updated and is the go to place for everything FMHA. It is now very mobile friendly!

Good luck to all our teams and remember to always have fun! And make sure you take the time to thank all the volunteers that make it possible for our kids to play hockey!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tournament Date submission (CAHL only) - Nov 3
Qualifications - Nov 15
Intent for Provincials - Dec 1
Affiliations - Dec 15
Fees to be paid in full (excluding Bisons) - Nov 15
Fees to be paid in full (Bisons only) - Dec 15
Christmas break - Dec 25 - 31 (CAHL will not play from Dec 22)
Last day of the season - Mar 25

2017-18 Board of Directors

President – Jennifer Woods

Vice President – Brad Parker

Treasurer – Kellie Beal

Secretary – Sarah Radmanovich

Operations Manager – Pavel Savin

Initiation Director – Terri Bass

Novice Director – Brianne Fredell

Atom Director – Tyler Hutton

Peewee Director – Toby Redfern

Bantam Director – Kevin MacIntyre

Midget Director – Chris Alexander

AA Director – James Bakken

CAHL Director – Jacki Swanson

Director of Development – Miles Kiemele

Equipment Director – Adam Rommens

PICTURE DAY – OCT 26

Please be ready, fully dressed except for helmets at least 15 minutes before your team's scheduled picture time!!



EARLY BIRD DRAW WINNER

Congratulations to Brody Hofer, who was the winner of this year's early bird draw!



E-TRANSFER PAYMENTS

A reminder from our treasurer, that if you're paying your fees in installments by e-transfer to please schedule them so they don't get forgotten!!

A WORD ON CONCUSSIONS...

As we learn more about concussions and the long term effects that these serious injuries can have, it's up to all of us to help our kids play hockey in a way that is fun and safe. While no sport is without risk, there is a lot we all can do to help.

[Hockey Canada](#) has developed an excellent program that includes information about prevention, assessment, and return to play. It even includes a great app – you can find it [HERE](#).

CLINICS

We will be holding clinics on Fridays again this year. Please sign up ahead of time under the clinics tab at

<http://www.foothillsminorhockey.com/>

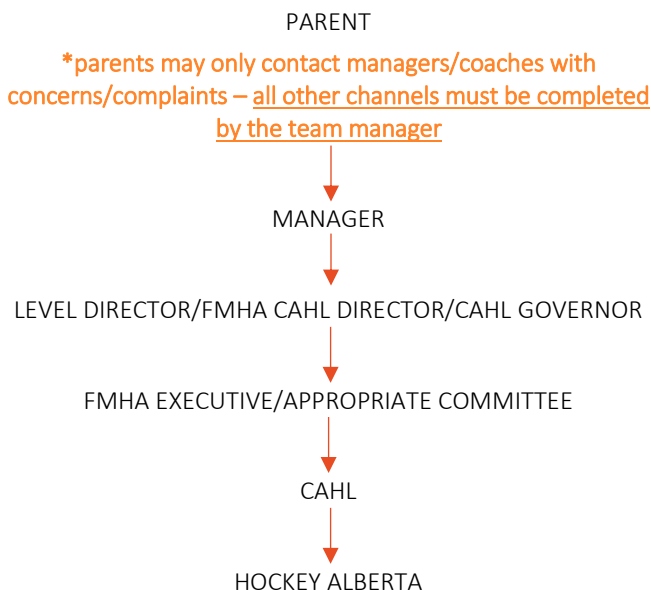




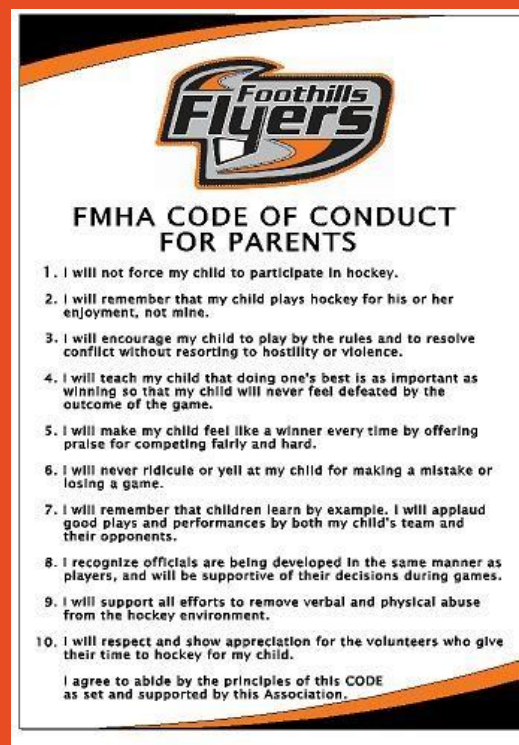
JR FLYER OF THE GAME

The FMHA and High River Flyers are continuing the Jr Flyer of the Game program. Details will be sent to team managers about how the Jr Flyer will be chosen for each home game. A junior game experience will include being part of the pre-game talk, a skate in warm-up with the players, gathering the pucks after warm-up, being part of the starting line-up while they sing O' Canada and your own bio (favorite player, favorite team, team you play for, position you play, pre-game meal) will be read to the crowd. Go Flyers!!

LINES OF COMMUNICATION



Be on the lookout for new signs in our arenas:



Officials corner

A reminder...

another new hockey season is underway and with that there will be a number of new first year officials starting to officiate. As with any new skill, it takes time to learn so please realize and be respectful of that. Hockey should be fun for all participants including the on-ice officials. Our referees should want to return to the rink to officiate and not to feel intimidated or endure abusive comments that discourage or prevent their wanting to participate. On-ice officials are there to enforce the rules of hockey and keep the game as safe as possible for all players. FMHA / ORA (Okotoks Referee Association) takes a zero tolerance stance against any referee abuse. I would ask that you treat all on ice officials with respect and as if it was one of your family members out there on the ice. Please think twice before you make any abusive comments. There are officials that will not be returning this year because of abusive comments.

General information...

Some general information regarding officiating: you must be minimum of 13 years of age before Dec.31 for that hockey season before you can start officiating. The FMHA would encourage both girls and boys to get involved with being an on-ice official. You have to attend a referee clinic each year. If you live within the FMHA boundaries and want to be a referee, you would be a member of the Okotoks Referee Association - they do all the assigning of games and are responsible for mentorship and supervisions of referees. Also, if you live within the FMHA boundaries, FMHA will help cover the costs (\$100 to help cover clinic fee and related equipment required to officiate) for first year officials. (note: there is a minimum requirement to officiate at least 3 games to qualify for the \$100 reimbursement from FMHA). Being an on-ice official is a great way to make some money, learn the rules of hockey, learn new skills and have some fun. If you have any inquiries regarding officiating within the FMHA boundaries please contact [Dave Skitch](#) (FMHA Referee Committee liaison) or any executive member of the ORA..

