

October 25, 2022

U13 Parent Questions

Parents started off by saying they felt there was a lack of transparency from CMHA and they felt their questions were not being answered so they decided to come to a meeting. They stated it was hard to find information about the meeting. We directed them to our FB page where meeting date, time and location is always posted. They had emailed their division head a list of questions, so we went through them.

Why are the regional communities not supporting the regional teams with rotating ice time contributions? This would help alleviate some stress on Cranbrook.

A) CMHA agreed to host the regional program so we are responsible for allocating ice. EK would likely not approve other associations hosting ice - we are the host association so it's our responsibility

Why does CMHA continue to try and collaborate with the City of Kimberley when they have not upheld their end of the bargain in terms of providing ice times?

A) Collaboration was done to help keep kids playing at appropriate levels. CMHA is trying to provide us ice but did not make any promises as ice allotment is ultimately up to the City of Kimberley. After we asked, they did combine an ice time to open up more space for us and we now have 2 ice times a week there. We continue to work with them to try to get more.

Would having the Marysville Arena open totally solve the ice shortage? Or would there still be a shortage due to increased numbers of regional teams and larger enrollment numbers?

A) Yes, this would solve the problem entirely. City of Kimberley has said that they are making permanent fixes to the arena so it might take some time but once it is ready it is good for long term

Is it true that Cranbrook taxpayer dollars subsidize CMHA ice time? Are Cranbrook taxpayers now subsidizing ice for kids from outlying towns at the expense of its own kids?

A) No, this is not true. Ice is paid for by the users, including CMHA

Is U15 house playing in EK league?

A) Yes

Will EK games for U13 count towards the 2 ice times that we are supposed to get?

A) Yes. We make sure it works out that so each team gets their 2.25 hours per week between practice and games. When added up at the end of the season, most teams actually get more than their 2.25 hours per week, with games in the mix, etc.

Is being part of the EK League mandatory if we have enough team in town to have league?

A) Yes, we agreed to be a part of the EK again this year, so our teams will play there. Even if we have enough house teams to have a city league, our neighboring associations likely do not and we are being supportive of them as well. The goal is to support development throughout the EK, not just in Cranbrook.

Do U15 house have 2 ice times scheduled per week? If so, will they have one of those taken away when they are scheduled for EK games?

- A) Yes, they do have 2 ice times per week, for their 2.25 hours. Yes, on weeks in which they have EK games, these games will count toward their 2.25 hours of ice, in the same way that they do for U13.**

If not, will U13 parents be offered a partial refund given we pay the same fees, but will be getting less ice or sharing ice costs?

- A) First, it's important to note that the U13 teams are not getting less ice time, as this question suggests. Since the answer above was yes, this question is otherwise not applicable.**

Would U13 teams be allowed more away tournaments to reflect less ice time opportunities within town? If so, would there be any offset to those registration fees?

- A) Again, it's important to note that the U13 teams are not getting less ice time, as this question suggests. If they want more away tournaments, they can apply to the board for approval. There will not be any offset of registration fees, though.**

Why is U13 house the only ones who haven't been given 2 ice times per week in Nov? The U13 parent email mentioned some sacrifices of other teams, but none seem as significant as U13 house in Nov.

- A) They will get their 2.25 hours of ice every week. The second ice time is just not on the master schedule yet, as the EK scheduling meeting is this weekend. Once that scheduling meeting is complete, Lyndsay will add the second ice time.**

Can U18 Teams not trade their 7 pm ice next week for Halloween ice time to accommodate younger players instead of having ice sit unused on Halloween? Seems a reasonable solution given that U18 players are not likely to go trick or treating

- A) CMHA reached out to other teams booked that day and no responses yet. Most other teams scheduled that night are keeping their ice times and making them optional for those players that want to join.**

Can younger age groups use WFP ice, combining up to 4 teams and U13 house have practices in Kinsmen? Has been done in past during time of ice shortage.

- A) U9 already combining 2 teams on the Kinsmen. Younger groups have teams of 15-18, so putting any more than two teams on the ice isn't really an option. We cannot justify asking them to have four teams at WFP so U13 can have all solo ice, especially since the U13 practices are not shared ice for the whole practice.**
- A) We also discussed in more detail the overlapping ice or 'speed ice' as it's called by some. Other places have been using it for years and if the coaches work together it can be extremely well done and in most cases turns in to even better ice experiences for the kids.**

We understand it's new and change is not easy but shared ice is extremely common in other centres and will likely become more common here, as our program grows.

Do we have to pay for ice on Pro D days, etc. even if we aren't being scheduled for 2.25 hours of ice?

- A) First, U13 is and will continue to get it's 2.25 hours. Yes, anything over the 2.25 hours needs to be paid for as extra ice.**

How many kids from outside of Cranbrook are enrolled in Cranbrook Minor Hockey? Has that increased this year?

- A) Not including KMHA kids rough guess would be about 15
Total kids registered in CMHA is approx. 530 this year**

What is the percentage of kids leaving town for other hockey opportunities? Is it for reasons such as academies that cannot be offered in Cranbrook regardless of what CMHA offers?

- A) Would be difficult to estimate this number. It's likely around 15, similar to the number of non-Cranbrook/Kimberley kids now enrolled in CMHA. Yes, many are leaving for academies, which we may not be able to avoid. However, if we create opportunities here for higher level hockey, with making Bucks regional, the hope is that some will stay home and continue to play here. Overall, our goal is to keep kids playing an appropriate level of hockey, which may keep kids home.**

What is the development model being used to make decisions in Cranbrook minor hockey? Can this be shared with parents to better understand the philosophy of the organization?

- A) Keeping kids playing at the right level, so that all players continue to develop in the appropriate ways. We also use our AP process to allow players at lower levels to spend time and the higher level to develop.**

Follow up question, where does the development model come from - CMHA or BC Hockey/Hockey Canada?

- A) Each association follows its own model to some degree, though our model does reflect the overall concepts encouraged by BC Hockey & Hockey Canada. CMHA has had countless conversations, planning to create a hockey atmosphere that nurtures all players and promotes their confidence and growth in the game. We adhere to policies set out by BC Hockey/Hockey Canada as well while making these decisions. We feel a responsibility to not only develop Cranbrook kids, but assist all players in the EK with development, hoping to keep those kids in hockey as well. This will grow the game in general.**

Parent stated that is not what she meant but more how do we decide how many teams, etc.?

- A) We have a rep team, a development or B team and then house teams. This is a model being used by most other associations for years that CMHA has adapted as well. Our first priority every year is to start with the house teams and to make sure that those teams have sufficient numbers and opportunity to play and develop. That generally guides whether or not a B or development team will be allowed in each age group. If house numbers are strong, we proceed with B or development teams, in addition to our Bucks teams.**

Follow up question: where can they find our policies/bylaws/meeting minutes?

A) All available on our website.

Follow up remark/question: Parent stated she felt like the board was very biased towards rep teams and was made up of mostly rep parents, so that house teams do not get the representation that they need or deserve.

A) The Board is made up of parents with children in all divisions of hockey and they are all being recognized fairly. Any decision made is made with the best interests of the entire association- Growing a rep program at the U13 level with regional kids also helps to grow a stronger house program as those players not making rep teams will play in house which makes those numbers higher and potentially stronger teams and better development for all. As well, kids are more involved in games and touch the puck more, etc., as they are again playing at an appropriate level of hockey.

The Board is open to all. Board members are voted on at the AGM every year, so all parents, house parents included, are encouraged to attend and put their names forward.

How can we best support the mental health, sense of community, growth and development of the children in Cranbrook through hockey? We have 60 kids in U13 alone that could be positively impacted

A) This is a broad question with no easy or simple answer. We plan to keep doing what we are doing as we are trying to keep kids playing hockey and playing at an appropriate level, so they feel confident and enjoy the game. We promote sportsmanship among teams and players.

A) The shared ice is actually a great way to do this as well, as it puts more kids on the ice at the same time promoting sportsmanship and that sense of community

There was also a concern raised that two of the U13 house teams are a bit weaker and may not be competitive in current EK league. The EK is exploring a C division, which may be appropriate for these two teams. Agreement from board to explore this further – Dave will continue discussions with Frank from the EK.

Need to fine tune the process of evaluations and team selection to try to ensure teams are more even in the future.