



To All Innisfail Minor Hockey Association Families,

I hope that everyone has managed to stay safe and healthy through this difficult time. It is nice to see some of the restrictions being lifted. Perhaps we will be able to return to some sort of "normal" in the next couple of months.

Hopefully, part of that normal will be a return to the ice in September. Although things are still very much unknown at this time, we are preparing for the upcoming season as we usually would.

Due to the postponement of the Annual General Meeting, there are some items that we will pass along now so that everyone is aware of some changes that we will see this season.

Most people are aware of the age group name changes for this season. The age groups will now be called U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15 and U-18. Our Eaglets will remain unchanged.

Hockey Alberta has mandated that all associations must follow the new U-11 Pathway for this upcoming season. This mandate will be for the U-11 (formerly Atom) age group only. For more details, please see the Hockey Alberta Bulletin posted on our website.

Hockey Alberta also recently sent out notice that in the U-15 division (formerly Bantam) will now offer body checking and non-body checking options for this season. What this will mean for our association depends on the number of teams we have at that level. We have a section where you can indicate your preference for the upcoming season. This will hopefully give us a better idea of what level our teams play at next season. We will not know anything further until final registrations are completed. For more details, please see the Hockey Alberta Bulletin posted on our website.

For our graduating U-18 players, we have added a section where you can pre-order a jersey for the end of the season. There is a choice of black, orange or you may choose both. We encourage you to make your choice at registration to ensure it is ready for the end of the year.

IMHA understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many people and families both emotionally and financially. As such, when registration opens on June 1st the Early Bird Rate will stay in effect until July 31st. Families will also be given the option to pay the full amount right away or pay their fees through 5 monthly installments instead of the usual 3 payments. These payments may be made by credit card or off-line (cash or cheque). Final payments will have to be made by October 31st.

We have also posted links on our website to several different organizations that may be able to provide financial assistance to families that will help with registration fees. We encourage those that may need financial assistance to apply as soon as possible.

Any questions regarding the upcoming season can be sent to innisfailminorhockey@gmail.com

We are looking forward to getting back on the ice in September and hope to see you all there.

Stephen Bates

IMHA President