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Ponoka Minor Hockey News



Evaluations

Evaluations have either been completed or are in progress at this time. We want to thank everyone that stepped up to complete evaluations for our players. Evaluators completely donate time, fuel and skills to ensure that they place players in the correct spots according to the Hockey Alberta criteria. These evaluators were players themselves as well as fans of the game and understand the pressure that players may feel to “make the cut”.

We appreciate your patience and welcome any questions that you may have. You can also refer to the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada websites for more information on evaluations and criteria.

Masks

Masks are a requirement in our arena. This is nothing new as we've been in this unfortunate state for over a year and a half. **Please** understand that no one wants to wear it, and no one is enjoying these rules we're forced to follow - I hate the mask too. However, **if we don't follow the rules, we could cause 200 kids to lose the sport they love.** There are people in our community that are more than happy to call the authorities and tattle on those not wearing the mask - please, don't give them fuel. Truly, this isn't about being fearful, or even having one ounce of trust in this PPE, this is about the government mandates and making sure we aren't caught not following their rules, as we'll lose even more rights and freedoms.

Our kids need this outlet. We've definitely learned that over the last year and a half. They need a sport (whether it's hockey or something else); to socialize, learn skills, build friendships, be around positive role models, etc, to grow and develop. Their mental health even more than their physical health requires these group activities. And, I don't know about you, but I **LOVE** watching my kids play.

If you can't afford masks, please contact AHS and they will gladly provide you with some. If you are just flat out refusing to make a point - please don't bother coming into the arena. Let a member of the association know that you are refusing to enter the arena with a mask, and we will arrange to take care of your player for you. Just drop them off and we'll go from there (of course with prior arrangements).

We in Ponoka are far more fortunate than some communities where they are requiring proof of vaccination to enter the building. Ponoka Minor Hockey is pleading with all of it's members today, **PLEASE WEAR THE MASK AND KEEP OUR SPORT GOING???**

If you do have a mask exemption from your doctor, please carry with you at all times in case you're asked - this may be a requirement at some arenas.

PMHA Board Meetings

In the next couple of weeks, the Ponoka Minor Hockey [Meeting Minutes](#) will be added to the website - please check back periodically.



Officials

At our monthly meeting last night, during the Referee Director's report, it was revealed that our roster of Junior and Senior Officials used to average at 40. 20 Junior, and 20 Senior. This year, we are averaging 8. This led to a discussion as to what is the cause in the decline of interest in reffing the game. Unfortunately, the discussion centered around how badly the young people, or seasoned, are treated by both coaches and parents. This isn't a new discussion, but a reminder to our members that we actually do need refs on the ice to play the game. And, as such it is up to us to (even when we don't agree) stand behind the referee's decision. We can respectfully question decisions, but respect is the key word here. When our referees feel threatened, unsafe, unwanted on the ice, why would they bother putting in their time to keep our games going? As we head into this season, please remember to respect the refs at all times. And, while you're at it, encourage your player to learn how to ref. They can earn money and improve on their skills on the ice. Lets as an association shift our culture and welcome officials back on to the ice.

Fundraising

Please don't forget to get your raffle tickets sold. We do have incentives this year. Once you're done selling, please contact Erin or Mikki to get the stubs and funds picked up.

Erin - inform.pmha@gmail.com

Mikki - pmhatreasurer2019@gmail.com

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