

Ponoka Minor Hockey News



Welcome to the very first addition of the Ponoka Minor Hockey News! Our goal is to increase communications throughout the organization and ensure you and your child have a fantastic year!

At our Annual General Meeting in the spring, we said goodbye to some longstanding board members and welcomed some new ones. Since the AGM, we've had some great brainstorming sessions and are very excited about the changes and new opportunities for our association.

Watch for new and exciting initiatives, team building opportunities, and chances to come together as a community in conjunction with other associations. We are looking forward to building on old relationships and starting new ones!

We look forward to your feedback and encourage you to speak with our board members regarding any questions or concerns you may have.



Follow us on Facebook and check our website for updates!

www.ponokaminorhockey.com



Tournament Dates:

Nov. 15th to 17th – Midgets

December 13th to 15th – Atom

January 24th to 26th – Pee wee

February 7th to 9th – Novice

March 1st – Initiation

Please consider volunteering to lead your level on the Tournament committee, or mentoring someone else who is interested in coordinating tournaments.

Team Apparel Nights

Wednesdays will be at the arena on October 16th & 17th from 5PM to 8:30PM to take orders for Ponoka Minor Hockey apparel. Please note that parents will need to purchase their own socks this year so please decide as a team which socks your team will be wearing before apparel night.

Message from the President

First I just want to thank you all for being part of our association! With so many options of activities out there, we on the PMHA executive believe you have made the best choice! Our focus is for your child to have fun, learn and experience the wonderful life lessons that hockey can only give you!

Whether you are a player, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or just a fan of one of our players. Together we share the same interests, which is to hope for the best possible season for our players and teams! Sometimes the best isn't about winning the league championship, but improving to be the best possible hockey player that one can be. Ultimately it is about having a fun experience with old friends and new friends! The friendships that your son or daughter forms here in minor hockey can last a lifetime!

I am looking forward to the upcoming season to see all the smiles on the kids' faces but also for the some of the great initiatives that the board has started. First Shift coming to town is an exciting venture that I'm very much looking forward to. This will give Ponoka and surrounding area kids a chance to experience hockey for the first time! Which is sure to be a memorable experience!

Another new initiative is combining with another association (Lacombe this year). Our bantam numbers weren't as high as we were hoping and the best chance to keep them playing in Ponoka was to combine with another association that is close by. For those of you that have been around a few years in minor hockey, you will have seen many associations doing the same thing. This ensures their kids get to keep playing in their home building and this is ultimately why we did this.

I am also looking forward to the implementation of the "Intro to Hockey" model. At first I wasn't so sure about this half ice hockey thing myself, but as I see how it is developing and kids playing with "like skill" (similar skill levels), I think it is going to be great for their confidence and skill development! I also believe the parents at this level are going to make it work and make it work great!

We are also going to try to be clearer from the board standpoint with communication to the membership. One way we are going to do this is have an initial meeting for all of our coaches, managers, tournament directors and treasurers. Without these people our teams don't run, so we want to make the transition as easy as possible with good advice from people who have done it in the past.

I also want to thank all of the board members with how much work they have put in so far to make this season as successful as possible so far. Without their behind the scenes work this season wouldn't be able to get off the ground. Its a tough job, but they should proud of how much they have helped so far! We are always looking for help and if you have a great idea please share it with one of us or make sure you join the board next year!

I hope to see you all around the rink this year and may you have the best year yet!

Mark

*Coming together is a
beginning.
Keeping together is
progress.*

*Working together is
success*



FIRST SHIFT IS COMING TO PONOKA!

This is a great new program we've had the honor being chosen to participate in. Do you know a 6 to 10 year old who is new to hockey?

The First Shift's mission is to change the way hockey is offered, to inspire new families to join our community and enroll their kids in our sport. Because we believe in all that hockey has to offer kids, their families and our communities, we designed The First Shift to break down barriers to entry by offering a program that is accessible, affordable, and most importantly, fun!

To register, [click here!](#)

The First Shift program will include a Welcome/Kick-Off evening when participants will receive their equipment on January 25th at the Stagecoach Saloon. The following week, the children will begin the 6 session program where it is anticipated they will learn to love the sport and all organized sports have to offer.

There are limited spots available so register soon!



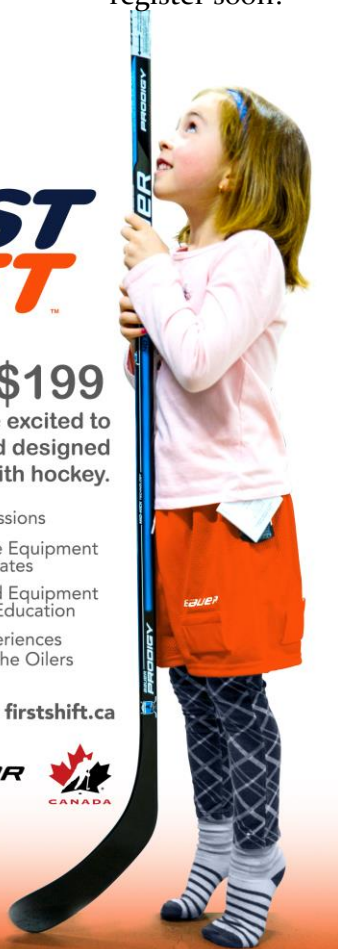
For only **\$199**
the **EDMONTON OILERS** are excited to offer a program focused on fun and designed to help your child fall in love with hockey.

- ✓ 6 On-Ice Sessions
- ✓ Head-to-Toe Equipment Including Skates
- ✓ Personalized Equipment Fitting and Education
- ✓ Special Experiences Offered by the Oilers

Register now at firstshift.ca



BAUER



Some of Our Valued Sponsors:





Taken from the Hockey Alberta Website:

Respect in Sport

The Respect in Sport program is an online certification program designed to protect our youth as well as enhance Hockey Alberta's mandate of providing a safe and fun environment for all of our participants. Respect in Sport is Canada's leading online bullying, abuse, harassment, and negligence prevention program for parents, coaches, and community leaders.

Before a child steps onto the ice, Hockey Alberta requires at least one parent complete the RIS program. After completing the program, the parent will receive an RIS number. The parent must provide this RIS number to the team coach or manager before the first practice date. If a parent registers more than one child for hockey, all children must be registered with that RIS number. Hockey Alberta also requires Parents and Coaches/Team Officials to recertify their Respect in Sport every four seasons.

Fair Play = Safety for All

Hockey is an emotional sport. Whether it is the behaviour of our kids on the ice, our parenting comments in the car, or the remarks and actions of spectators in the arena, we all share a responsibility to conduct ourselves in a way that creates a positive culture around the sport we love.

Hockey Alberta stands against bullying, harassment, and abuse on the ice and off the ice, and we ask parents to do the same. We are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone in our sport. Any form of bullying, harassment, or abuse is unacceptable, whether physical, emotional, or sexual.

Hockey Alberta expects each association, team, parent, volunteer, and staff member to take all reasonable steps to safeguard participants against bullying, harassment, and abuse - especially young participants - and protect them from any form of violence. There is a shared responsibility with parents and guardians to nurture the physical and emotional well-being of our players.

Please check out the Hockey Alberta website for full articles and information.

