



# RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

February 27, 2025

Dear City League Teams,

As we approach the City League playoffs, we would like to remind all teams and coaches of a few important guidelines regarding affiliated players, sportsmanship, and the use of Emergency/Backup goalies during games.

**Affiliated Players for Playoffs:** Please note that only **City League players from the level immediately below** your team are eligible to be used for affiliation in the playoffs. **At no time are Tiered players permitted to participate in City League playoff games.** All affiliated players must be approved by either the Age Group Director or the General Manager **prior to contacting the coach and player.** This is to ensure proper authorization and maintain the integrity of the league. We appreciate your adherence to these guidelines.

**Backup and Emergency Goalies:** If a team does not have a backup goalie available, we may assign a backup goalie to the team for the game they are playing starting in Round 2 of the City League Playoffs. These **backup goalies may only play** if there is an injury to the starting goalie, or if the goalie is ejected from the game.

To ensure fairness, available goalies will be placed into a **randomizer** that selects the goalie for the team. **Coaches will not have a say in which goalie is selected for backup.** This process is in place to maintain the fairness, integrity, and spirit of the game.

**Respect in Sport:** As always, respect and sportsmanship are core values of RDMH, and we expect all coaches, players, and teams to uphold these principles. It is essential that we continue to teach our athletes how to win and lose with class and dignity. Recently, we have had concerns raised regarding **excessive celebrations** during games, and we want to remind coaches that such behavior is not acceptable. Coaches play a crucial role in setting the tone for their teams, and it is your responsibility to ensure that all players are demonstrating respect for their opponents and the game.

**Playing Time:** Our City League is designed to provide players of all skill levels with the opportunity to play and contribute to their team's success. We ask that coaches give every player a fair chance during the playoffs. **Excluding a player from playing time based solely on their skill level is unacceptable.**

If there are concerns regarding discipline or effort, coaches do have discretion, but we encourage you to avoid using this as an excuse to adopt a "win at all costs" mentality. Our primary goal is to help players develop their skills and foster a love for the game.

We value the spirit of competition but emphasize that winning and losing gracefully should always come first. Please take this opportunity to reinforce these important lessons with your teams.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to an exciting and respectful playoff season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stephens".

Jason Stephens  
GM - RDMH