



SAANICH MINOR HOCKEY NEWS

December 2011 Volume 1, Issue 3

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President's Message

Season's Greetings everyone. Welcome to another edition of Saanich Minor Hockey News. The response to the newsletter has been overwhelming and I thank everyone who's provided suggestions and comments over the last few months. I'd like to thank all the contributors and a special thanks to Brian Barber, SMHA's VP Administration, for taking a leadership role in putting together the newsletter.

The last few months have been a great experience for me, and big eye-opener on the amount of work and energy required by everyone to administer a minor hockey association. I've had some time to reflect on how we can make improvements to the overall structure of our association, communications, responding to member's needs, and policies that reflect the values of our membership.

To address the latter need, I have formed a committee of executive members to draft a document outlining the philosophies and guiding principles which we will use for establishing SMHA policies and processes for next year and, hopefully, years to come. I intend to share this draft with the membership and review in an open forum, possibly in the form of a town hall meeting. This is an opportunity for you, the parents, to have input on how SMHA will operate. These philosophies and guiding principles will be put to vote at the Annual General Meeting in April. I will have more on this topic in future communications.

The executive team is also setting their sights on year-end activities and planning for the next season. We've started planning for the year-end banquet to be held in March and we hope to have participation by all teams. In January, a letter will go out informing you about the fees and process for next year's registration. Saanich will be hosting the Midget Tier 2 Provincial in March as well. In early April, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting as we have done for many years. There's a lot happening. The executive and I wish everyone happy and safe Christmas holidays. Enjoy the upcoming tournaments during the Christmas break. Play hard and have fun!

Sincerely,

Sylvain Fradette

Changes on SMHA Executive

Christian Stewart stepped down as SMHA's webmaster and newsletter editor. Chris continues to coach the Midget B2 team and is photographer and webmaster for Saanich Jr Braves club. Our new webmaster is **Ron St Pierre**, a Pee Wee parent. **Kimberley Morrison**, bantam divisional director, also tendered her resignation. Kim's duties have been absorbed by **Donna Punt** and team managers. **Carol Jessa**, former Secretary, has taken on a new role as ice allocator (see next article). Many thanks to our past and present volunteers!

SMHA members rally to help local family

In November, SMHA members rallied to support one of our long-time families under the leadership of **Ila McKillop**, Pee Wee A mom. More than \$3,100 was raised through individual generosity, team donations and a hugely successful bottle drive for the Chey's Hope Fund, founded to help another Pee Wee A mom, **Chey Kellett**, in her ongoing battle with cancer.



"On behalf of Chey's Hope Fund Committee, I want to say 'Thank you!'" Ila says. "The response to our bottle drive was overwhelming and it was so wonderful to see how many people came out to support such a special family." Many teams also collected funds on their own while others donated their 50/50 proceeds.

For those who would still like to help, an account has been opened at all three locations of the *Bottle Depot* under "Chey Kellett." In addition, a special bank account with CIBC is available. Visit any CIBC branch and make an anonymous deposit into account # 00930/ 86-88230.

Jennifer Blyth
Pee Wee AA Manager

Ice Allocations – New Roles

"..the hours and effort required to manage SMHA's complex ice scheduling exceeds what is reasonable for one 'volunteer' position."

Ice allocation was a hot topic in the SMHA survey conducted in May 2011. A few ice scheduling issues also arose earlier this season. A review conducted in November determined that ice allocation procedures need to be clarified and better communicated to members, and that the hours and effort required to manage SMHA's complex ice scheduling exceeds what is reasonable for one 'volunteer' position.

Furthermore, the hard work and expertise that **Trevor Livelton** provides SMHA as Ice Coordinator largely goes unnoticed by members.

After consulting with Trevor and SMHA Executive, I decided to create an Ice Allocator position. This new position is responsible for managing and distributing the pool of available ice to SMHA teams.

Carol Jessa, former SMHA secretary, has agreed to take on this role. Trevor retains his role as Ice Coordinator focusing on ice planning, establishing league and practice ice schedules, and negotiating and managing contracts with Pearkes and Puck Masters etc.

Splitting the duties of acquiring and allocating extra ice should resolve the workload issue and address some of the concerns raised.

Furthermore, it will also eliminate the risks associated with having only one knowledgeable person being responsible for managing the association's ice.

We will continue look for ways to improve how we manage the Association's ice. For now, however, the only change that teams should notice is that the 'extra ice' lists will come from Carol at: carol@jessa.ca

For all other ice-related issues, such as league and practice schedules, please continue to contact Trevor at: livelton@telus.net

Please join me in thanking and supporting Trevor and Carol in their new assignments.

Sylvain Fradette

Hockey Night in Saanich

Pee Wee C1 team will be featured on Hockey Night in Canada on January 14, 2012! The team entered and won a spot in the [Scotia Bank Hockey Tonight Kids](#) contest.

Our Saanich team was one of 12 teams selected from over 3400 entries submitted from across Canada.

The HNIC crew will be coming to Pearkes Arena on Tuesday, January 3rd to film the team during their 7 pm practice.

The HNIC crew will arrive earlier for setup and all the fun stuff that TV people have to do.

The segment will be aired between 3:30- 4:00 pm (PST) on Saturday Jan 14
Set your PVR !.

Kimberly Bell
Team Manager
Pee Wee C1



SMHA Volunteers help at Road Hockey Championships

On October 27-29, the [PlayOn! National Road Hockey Championships](#) were held in Victoria's inner harbour. This is the third year this event has been held in our capital with SMHA providing several volunteers.

Over 60 elite teams from across the nation competed for the Redwood Cup and \$25,000 in cash prizes. The competition was fast and furious.

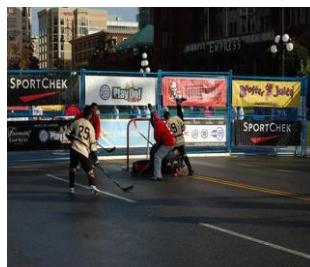
SMHA's Atom B also had opportunity to play in front of the Legislature. No cars interrupted their friendly black and white match.

SMHA helpers assisted with set-up, score keeping and running after flying hockey balls.

Volunteers included:
Brian Barber, the Moniz family (Nancy, Jorge, Matthew and Olivia), Mike Potter, Danielle Wilhelm and Katie Schoor.

Mike, Danielle and Katie obtained high school volunteer credit hours for their efforts.

PlayOn! will return to Victoria in Sept 2012



Atom Remembrance Day Tournament



A huge success for all who participated – parents, grandparents, players, coaches, and officials. There was no shortage of entertainment, excitement and enthusiasm provided by 9 & 10 year-old boys and girls in our weekend hockey tournament.

A great way to celebrate the 'freedom to play' that we enjoy because of those who gave of themselves for our country's freedom.

Congratulations to ALL players for their hard work and effort! Special mention to the home teams that proudly played out every minute and to the teams that took home the silver and gold medals.

A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered hours of their time and to our dedicated coaches for making every play complete!

Without the hands of many, opportunities like this would not be possible for our children. Thank you!

Until next year, we wish all participating teams and players the most success in the remainder of their seasons.

Kelly Derrick and Mena Westhaver
Tournament Organizers

Greater Victoria Midget Hockey Classic Tournament

The [GVMHC](#) represents a partnership between the alumni of the Victoria Racquet Club MHA and the minor hockey associations of Peninsula, Saanich, and Juan de Fuca.

The 9th Annual Midget Classic took place at various arenas around the Victoria area from Nov. 10th – 13th involving 12 teams from the Island, the lower mainland and Calgary.

The Midget AA Braves went 2 wins and a tie placing 1st in their pool and into a very close gold medal semi-final with Burnaby.

The 4-3 loss resulted in the Braves finishing 4th overall in the 12 team tournament. Semiahmoo took home the 2001 GVMC trophy with a 6-1 win over Burnaby.

The Classic also featured a skills competition at the Westhills arena with the Braves showing very well, including 1st place finishes for Fastest Forward Skater: **Indra Barber** and 3-Man Puck Control Relay: **Arjin Dosanjh, Andrew Bushby & Indra Barber**

Thanks to the GVMHC organizing committee including SMHA representatives **Rov Dosanjh** and **Trevor Livelton** and the Midget AA parents for their help in making this a successful event.

Rob Bushby
Midget AA Manager

*Saanich will host the
2012 Bantam/Midget
Recreation Christmas
Tournament
at Pearkes
Dec 30 - Jan 1
Contact: Sheena
Goode-Jensen*



Criminal Record Checks

All SMHA volunteers (coaches, managers, safety, treasurers and executive) are required to submit a completed Criminal Record Check (CRC) on an annual basis. Volunteers who have not yet completed a CRC are requested to:

- 1) Fill out a CRC form;
- 2) Obtain a volunteer letter signed by the SMHA President. Fill out and place letter in President's mailbox at Pearkes with a

note indicating team mailbox where signed letter can be returned;

3) submit CRC and letter along with a photocopy of 2 pieces of ID in person to Saanich Police Department;

4) pick up the completed CRC from the SPD approx. 2 weeks later; and

5) deposit the completed CRC in the SHMA's Risk Manager's Mailbox at Pearkes.

Persons who do not submit a completed CRC will not be permitted to volunteer with SMHA.

Please visit [SMHA's website](#) (Home page, Sept 08, 2011) for further information and to download the CRC and SMHA volunteer letter.

Questions to ges@islandnet.com

Sheena Goode-Jensen.
Risk Manager

All volunteers are required to complete Criminal Record Checks!

New Noggin Rules

When you see referees place the palm of the hand against the ear, they are signaling a Head Contact penalty. This [Hockey Canada rule 6.5](#) was changed this season.

Last year it was called Checking to the Head (CTH) and is still noted as such on the VIAHA Game Sheets. The penalty name change is significant. Keep in mind the NHL has received lots of press on concussions and "head shots", especially those that have sidelined Sidney Crosby.

CTH last year resulted in a minimum Minor Penalty plus a ten minute Misconduct. Many accidental sticks to the

head went un-called while others were classified as High Sticking Minors.

The Head Contact rule now takes into account accidental contact to the head with a high stick by assessment of a Minor Penalty only. Intentional head contact is a Double Minor penalty (4 min). This includes elbows, forearms, punches, face washes and high sticks which are deliberately delivered.

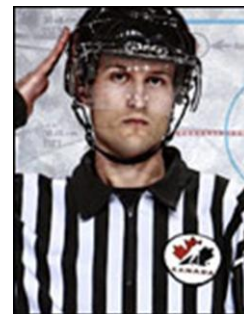
Officials like the clarity of these new rules. Head Contact is now called one way or the other. Also players serving minor head contact penalties no longer sit for twelve minutes, nor receive a Misconduct. Irrespective

of reason, two Misconducts result in a Game Misconduct. If the second one is received in the last ten minutes of playing time, suspensions kick in.

It's work-in-progress to get players in body-checking divisions not to react to contact by bringing up their arms and sticks.

With appropriate penalizing and coaching, head contact can be drastically reduced, if not eliminated from the game and hopefully concussions will be a thing of the past

Steve Marsh
Senior Referee



SMHA Contacts

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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at:

www.saanichminorhockey.com



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Small Area Games

Small area games (SAG) are just that... games played in small confined space. Last year, SMHA introduced SAG to its coaches, stressing the importance of implementing their use during practice.

Like pond hockey, SAG create a fun environment to develop essential hockey skills. SAG force players into tight competitive quarters and encourage them to battle hard for the puck. They simulate game shifts helping players/goalies make quick decisions and provide excellent fitness conditioning.

A key feature of SGA is all players on the ice are involved which increases

the time players/goalies are in play and handling the puck. Studies show that in regular games, total player contact with the puck is measured in seconds, whereas in SAG it is in minutes! SAG, therefore, can develop hockey skills more rapidly than scrimmage and league games.

SGAs may be played in any area of the rink, including corners, inside face-off circles, below and between the blue lines. Two to four nets may be used with multiple or no goalies. Varied use of pucks, balls, and stick work (forehand, backhand, wrong-hand and no-stick) improves hand-foot-eye coordination and speed.

Nets may also be set at creative locations and angles, but not to create an unsafe environment. For example, back-to-back nets with one goalie protecting both encourages quick movement of the puck, 'one-timers', and a great goalie work-out with lots of sliding pad saves.

Each SMHA coach is expected to incorporate the use of SAGs into their practices. This will serve to further develop our players/goalies game-sense and creative skills.

Dick Crowder
Director, Hockey
Operations

Junior Hockey in Victoria

There are several junior teams in Victoria, and on the Island, with which SMHA players can continue to pursue their hockey dreams.

[Saanich Junior Braves](#) (not officially affiliated with SMHA) is a Junior B team playing in the [Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League](#) competing with division rivals Peninsula, Victoria and Kerry Park. [Victoria Grizzlies](#) is a Junior A team playing in the [BC Hockey League](#). This season the Victoria Royals, a major-junior team in the [Western Hockey League](#) (which in turn is governed by the [Canadian Hockey League](#)) relocated to our city. All 3 junior leagues consist of players 16-20 years old, but each team may only carry two 16-year olds. This roster restriction, in part, led to the formation of the [BC Major Midget Hockey League](#) a few years ago for minor players 15-18 yrs.

Junior players may advance to higher leagues through hard work and discipline. Players in Junior A and B may also be recruited by [NCAA Division I and III](#) schools in the USA. A player who signs with the WHL is, however, ineligible to play in the NCAA.

A number of former SMHA players are or have played for Junior teams on the Island and elsewhere, with some advancing to NCAA and professional leagues.

Attend a local junior hockey game this season to catch some of the fast paced action and cheer on SMHA alumni. Prices are reasonable and seating is always good. SMHA players can also attend all Saanich Junior Braves **for free** when wearing a SMHA jersey. Note: Saanich will host [VIJHL's all-star games Jan 15](#).

Check out game schedules on-line