 McCreary

Minor Hockey

Parent Handbook

**Welcome to McCreary Minor Hockey!**

We look forward to a fun and exciting year.  This handbook is to provide parents with some frequently requested information to start the year off on the right

foot.

**1).  How does McCreary Minor Hockey operate?**

     MMH is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. The board is responsible for the financial operations as well as the implementation of policies and procedures of Hockey Manitoba and MMH. There are board meetings during the early winter months as necessary, with an annual general meeting (usually held in May/June). ALL parents are encouraged to attend as decisions regarding the constitution and bylaws are discussed at these meetings. The president of MMH also sits on the McCreary Arena board to help both associations work together. There are meetings every 2 months, with an annual general meeting in the spring.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please be sure to contact any of the board members listed below so that it can be discussed. As a board, we are unable to address situations if we are not aware of them, so please be sure to let someone know.

**Board Members**

**President** – Rick Scott

**Vice President** – Travis Ledoux

**Secretary** – Byron Billett

**Treasurer –** Nancy Buchanan Email: mccrec@gmail.com

***The major goals of the McCreary Minor Hockey Association are to:***

1) Provide an opportunity for all players to develop their hockey skills.

2) Provide a safe and enjoyable youth program.

3) Develop good sportsmanship in players and parents.

4) Develop the character of the participants.

5) Attempt to give every player equal opportunity to participate.

6) Ensure all coaches and referees are properly certified.

**2).  As a Parent, what are my responsibilities?**

**i)** Know all schedules for your child, including practices, games, and tournaments. Ask any member of your team staff if you are unsure of dates/times.  This

includes games and practices. It is also beneficial for you to supply a cell phone or urgent contact number in case of cancellations.

**ii)** Please check with your coaches to see if/when parents are allowed into the dressing room.  Many coaches use this time for team development and coaching

strategies.

**iii)** ***Issues and concerns happen!*** Please write it down on paper, sign it, and submit to a MMH board member so that it can be addressed. Speaking about it at the arena can make a delicate situation much worse, plus the children have a higher risk of hearing adult conversations. **These will remain confidential.**

\*\* Please be aware of the 24 hour rule used in many conflict resolutions. Discussing the issue with all parties involved is often the best way to resolve issues, provided everyone has a clear understanding of the events. Taking 24 hours to reflect and let emotions settle brings about a better perspective for everyone. \*\*

**iv)** Set a great sportsmanship example for everyone at the rink by cheering for

**both** sides and applauding good plays made by **both** teams.

**v)** NEW for the 2013‐14 season to help support point #4, one parent in each

household must read and sign the Parent Code of Conduct Form, or complete the Respect in Sport program online and present their certificate.

     ***If your child does not have a parent sign this form by Dec. 1st, they will NOT be allowed on the ice.***

Hockey Manitoba has put an emphasis on parent behavior and respect around the rink. Starting next year, every family will be required to complete the Respect In Sport program. This is a mandate from Hockey Manitoba, and as such all associations are required to comply.

**vi)** You are responsible for ensuring your child has complete and proper

equipment to wear for all practices and games (this includes mouth guards).

If there is a piece missing or broken, your child may not be able to play.

**vii)** Jerseys – Team jerseys are provided by McCreary Minor Hockey. Each team is given a set of jerseys at the beginning of the season, which will include a home and an away jersey for each player. A team staff member will be responsible for keeping and maintaining these, and each players’ jersey will be collected again at the *end of each game.*

Nameplates for each jersey are encouraged, but are not mandatory. It is a recommendation that name tags are in the same fashion as the jersey (white background with black letters on the white jersey, black background on the black jersey). Please be aware that nameplates will need to be removed at the end of the season. ***Nameplates are not to be glued, ironed on, or otherwise permanently fastened.***

**3).  Why are there additional fees above registration?**

     Beyond the registration fee, there are additional fees attached to playing

hockey.

 • Travel costs – Your child will be playing games and tournaments away from McCreary. You will be responsible for all travel/accommodation/meal costs.

 • Team Fees – each team may collect money to help pay for such things as tournament entry fees, clothing, or other gifts for the players at the end of the season. This cost is shared equally amongst all players on the team, and is usually only collected at the beginning of each season.

**4).  What are the kitchen shifts? Why do I have to work in the kitchen when I pay so much for registration already?**

McCreary Arena is ran as a volunteer community building, and as such its’ major priority is to provide recreational opportunities for all members of the region. To provide this service, the arena makes every attempt to keep all costs to an absolute minimum, regardless of the sport or activity. All teams using the facility are responsible for either helping to run the kitchen, or providing financial support to staff the kitchen. MMH has chosen to have its’ members commit to working **2 weeks** in the kitchen, one before Christmas and one after. Sign-up is a first-come first-serve basis, and begins the night of registration. You will be asked to work approximately 10 hours in each of the weeks, although this amount depends on the activities during that time.

A $300 deposit is required by Dec. 1st, and will be refunded to you after completion of your shifts, provided they have been worked. If you choose not to work your shifts, please let a board member know *at least one week in advance* as a replacement worker will need to be found.

**5).  How is player ice time distributed?**

 During league play, ice time is to be as equal as possible for all players on the team, regardless of skill or ability. This enables all players to be part of the team, and help them develop to their full potential.

 Starting at the atom level, ice time may be varied during non-league games according to coaching strategy. This is mostly in terms of power plays, penalty kills, or late in a game, and *shall only be done after consultation with players and parents at the beginning of the season*.

**6).  Who are the “team staff”?**

     Each team will have a Head Coach, at least one Assistant Coach, a Safety, and a Manager. The head coach is responsible for parent consultations, practice plans, strategy decisions, and other hockey related matters. Assistant coaches are responsible for helping to run practices and manage the team during games. The safety is required by Hockey Manitoba and is responsible for assessing injuries and administering first aid if necessary.

\*\*ALL COACHES AND SAFETIES MUST BE CERTIFIED BY HOCKEY MANITOBA\*\*

The manager is responsible for organizing all team functions, including game rescheduling, tournament bookings, and financial records. Managers will also be responsible for the planning a home tournament, but it is the expectation that the rest of the parents will volunteer as necessary.

**7).  How does our team make/spend money?  Where does it go?**

 In order to pay for any additional tournaments, the team must collect money from each player or make money by hosting a tournament or fundraising.

 During a home tournament, teams make money by charging entry fees, gate admission, setting up a raffle table, and running 50/50 draws. The manager will then meet with parents to decide what to do with any additional funds. This is often used to purchase gifts for the players, or divided up and returned to each family. Each team will use the funds differently, so be sure to check with your manager and ask questions!

**8).  Why do I have to register my child so early for a hockey season that doesn’t start until late fall?**

     The board has to make many decisions prior to the start of the fall season each year, and many of these are dependant on the number of registered players we have in each age category. Ice schedules are made, team staff are recruited and certified, and any transfer requests are reviewed.

Hockey Manitoba has mandated that ALL PLAYERS MUST REGISTER IN THEIR HOME ASSOCIATION BEFORE REQUESTING A TRANSFER. Players are not allowed to register with another association unless they have played with that association for 3 consecutive years. As a small community, we need to work cooperatively with our neighboring associations to try to create the best situations for our children. In previous years, we have had Ste. Rose players transfer here to us in McCreary, as well as McCreary players transfer to Ste. Rose. To ensure the best possible situation for your child, please make sure to register early with your home association, and make sure others do as well.

**9).**  **I want to acknowledge a coach, manager, or volunteer.  How do I that?**

     McCreary is home to possibly the biggest and best group of volunteers anywhere. There are a number of outstanding community members who go above and beyond expectations, and we would like to recognize them for their hard work. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the board members listed in this handbook, with a brief description of why they are an outstanding volunteer.

**10).**  **I have some suggestions/concerns/acknowledgements I want to bring** **forward.  How do I do that?**

 MMH board members are always available to receive information confidentially, whether it is a concern needing to be addressed or a strength that should be acknowledged. It is only possible to address this when the situation is known, so please feel free to contact board members. This can be done in two ways:

 1 – Contact a board member listed in this handbook directly, either in person at the rink, by phone, or by email.

 2 – Submit a suggestion to Minor Hockey in the suggestion box located in the arena by the canteen.

**11).  Does MMH have a website?  Where do I find additional information not**

**listed in this handbook?**

McCreary Minor Hockey has constructed a website to provide players and parents with more information not found in this handbook. This website will be a continual work in progress, and will allow everyone to submit things they wish to share. It will be a place to find rosters, schedules, spring registration, contacts, other useful links, and updates of how our McCreary Mustangs are doing.

The website can be found at

www.mccrearyminorhockey.weebly.com

***Please remember that officials are a vital part of the hockey game, and they deserve to be treated with the utmost respect. Many of them are players and children themselves, and are developing their craft just like the players are***

*Have a great season everyone…. Go Mustangs!*

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