

WHEATLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

HAND BOOK 2018-2019

DIRECTORY

Board of Directors:

President/SCAHL Rep/Coach Co-coordinator - Doug Thurston

Co-President - Natalie Haslund

Vice President/SCAHL/Equipment - Doug Raycroft

Treasurer - Mark Bishop

Secretary/Casino - Daun Brown

Bussing/Bantam Director - Kim Sandum

Midget Director/Coach Co-coordinator/Fall Camp - Kevin Muenchrath

3 on 3 Director - Slavo Halkovic

Midget Director/Ice Co-coordinator/3on3 - Murray Brown

Pee Wee Director/Coach Co-coordinator - Jason Skehar

Bantam Director/Equipment/3 on 3 - Ryan Kirkpatrick

Midget Director/Coach Co-coordinator - Devin Olson

Pee Wee Director/AAA Board Representative/3 on 3 - Bruce Clayton

Bantam Director/3 on 3 - Terry Desserre

Midget Director/Coach Co-coordinator/3 on 3 - Tyler Williams

Pee Wee Director/Fall Camp/3 on 3 - Chad Gosling

This booklet is published solely for the purpose of providing an overview of the Wheatland Athletic Association and its program for the benefit of the Athletes and their Parents. Readers are encouraged to refer to specific inquiries and/or concerns to a member of the Board of Directors listed above. Wheatland Athletic Association reserves the privilege to interpret and apply policy at its discretion upon the merits of individual situations which may arise from time to time.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wheatland Athletic Association holds its objective as providing an opportunity for area players of above average ability, attitude and commitment; and to assist these young athletes in preparing for and pursuing their dreams and goals in athletics and life. The focus of the program is to provide an environment which allows the player to develop in all aspects of the game.

WHO IS IT FOR/WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

These programs are for young athletes who have and exhibit the following qualities:

- Above average hockey ability; physically, emotionally and mentally.
- Willingness to adjust and accept new ideas and roles
- Willingness to make firm commitment to the time required to participate fully in all team functions at all times; practice (minimum 2 per week), team meetings, games and tournaments.
- Willingness to consistently work hard in pursuit of objectives
- Willingness to travel, possible for practices as well as games.
- Willingness to contribute to full share financially, either by direct payment or strong support for fundraising projects.

Most of the foregoing items may apply to the parents as well as the player.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The fact that our teams are drawing talented players from various communities, leads many to expect that the teams should automatically do well. In reality, this is more imagination than fact. The intensity of competition at "AA" hockey is significantly different from community hockey and the players usually require considerable time to adjust to this. Compounding this are factors such as unfamiliar roles and/or positions within the team structure.

Players for the most part are accustomed to "carrying the mail" in all game situations. Once they are included with a group of comparable talented peers, everyone would expect to share the load in all aspects of the game. The concepts of team play take on more significance and this can be a difficult adjustment.

BACKGROUND

It can be reasonably stated that every young hockey player, at some point in his development has the dream of pursuing the sport to an ultimate goal; be that Professional, Olympic, University, Junior or whatever. Obviously not every player will be capable of achieving all their dreams of willingness to pay the price of achievement and other factors beyond their control.

It is generally accepted that in order to develop, a player should be participating at a level of play that consistently challenges him/her to improve his/her game physically, emotionally and mentally. This environment should also provide coaching and leadership that will maximize the player's development.

From the first time he/she plays, the player is subjected to the processes of development both internally and externally. Instructional programs, learn to skate, hockey schools, power skating, shinny games and minor hockey programs all contribute to this development. In virtually all the aforementioned activities, the players are placed within groups of their peers in order to provide the best environment, under the circumstances, in which to participate and develop. Generally, the criterion used for grouping the participants is age and ability.

Over the years the game of hockey has established a usual and definite path for its high achievers to follow. This path generally progresses through recreational and/or community hockey, tiered leagues, 'AA', 'AAA', junior and beyond. Only exceptionally skilled players are able to leap-frog the development steps. Most players require the steadier, progressive route. A majority of the exceptional players will leave the home area early to pursue the next step for which they qualify.

In Alberta, the upper caliber opportunities have traditionally been available in larger urban centers. These centers have gradually restricted the acceptance of "non-residents" to the point where they may no longer accept any. This has made it necessary for rural communities to determine how to provide the opportunities for their own players.

Commencing with the 1989-1990 season, the W.A.A., with the cooperation from some minor hockey associations iced a 'AA' Pee Wee team as a pilot project to determine how well such a team could operate and compete. The plan was to compete at the 'AA' level as much as possible. The project progressed through two years of bantam competition and proved to be very successful. The only missing factor was a 'AA' league. That situation was corrected in 1992.

With the cooperation from the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association (now known as Hockey Alberta), the South Central Alberta Hockey League was formed beginning with the 1992-1993 season in the Pee Wee 'AA' and Bantam 'AA' divisions. Midget 'AA' was added for the 1993-1994 season. Wheatland Athletic Association was an inaugural member of the SCAHL.

SOUTH CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Wheatland Athletic Association teams compete in the South Central Alberta Hockey League which for the 2018-2019 season will provide competition from the following centers:

PEE WEE

North Conference

Airdrie Red
Airdrie White
Bow Valley
Okotoks Black
West Central
Olds
Central Alberta
Red Deer #1
Red Deer #2

BANTAM

North Conference

Airdrie
Bow Valley
Red Deer #1
Red Deer #2
Olds
West Central
Central Alberta

MIDGET

North Conference

Airdrie
Bow Valley
Red Deer #1
Red Deer #2
Olds
West Central
Central Alberta

SOUTH CONFERENCE

Lethbridge Red
Lethbridge White
Medicine Hat
Chestermere
Cranbrook
Foothills
Taber
Wheatland

SOUTH CONFERENCE

Lethbridge
Medicine Hat
Taber
Okotoks
Foothills
Wheatland

SOUTH CONFERENCE

Lethbridge
Medicine Hat
Taber
Okotoks
Foothills
Wheatland

Pee Wee and Bantam Conferences feature a split schedule of divisional and inter-divisional games.

There will be 8 inter-locking games with Calgary at the Midget level.

There will be no more than 36 games in any conference.

TRANSPORTATION

Wheatland Athletic teams utilize chartered busses to transport players and coaches for away games with possible exception in the cases of Airdrie, Okotoks, Bow Valley, Calgary and Foothills. The purpose of this policy is to provide maximum safety and promote team cohesiveness. The policy is not optional; if the team travels by bus, all players must be on the bus. Family members are invited to join the team on the bus subject to available seating.

Players are not permitted to drive themselves to away games, again for reasons of safety. Parents are expected and encouraged to drive their player or arrange for carpooling when necessary.

Wheatland Athletic Association has a strictly enforced policy of NO ALCOHOL consumption on the busses.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE-WHEATLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Wheatland Athletic Association was formally registered as an Alberta Society on April 8, 1993 and is administered by a Board of Directors named at the beginning of this publication. This Board communicate with representatives for the minor hockey associations within the Wheatland Athletic Association recruitment area, as defined by Hockey Alberta by-laws for the AA Hockey League known as SCAHL. Playing members (players and parents) are encouraged to communicate questions or concerns directly to the Board. Teams are registered through Strathmore Minor Hockey Association.

COACH SELECTION

The intent of the Wheatland Athletic Association is to provide a team environment led by the most capable coaching staff available and interested in making the commitment. During the summer prior to each season, applications are accepted and reviewed by the Coaching Coordinators of the Board of Directors. Close consideration is given to applicants with demonstrated ability and experience as well as National Coaching Certification Program qualifications, where required. Persons interested in participating as coaches are encouraged to make their interest known to the W.A.A. Board and to submit a written application as prescribed prior to next season.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY/PLAYER ACCELERATION

As a general policy, roster positions are available to players who reside within the league defined recruitment area and who meet the age of requirement as defined by Hockey Canada. Exceptions are limited and are dealt with by the Board on the individual merits of each situation. Provision is made for players to “accelerate” or play in the age category above the level at which they might ordinarily be expected to play. Inquiries in these areas should be directed to one of the Board members.

TEAM SELECTION

Players are selected for participation on the respective teams during tryout camp in August and September. A panel of evaluators assist the W.A.A. Directors and the team coaches in assessing the relative merits of the players in camp. All players are judged on their merits, new players and returning players alike. Returning players and players graduating from the younger level W.A.A. teams are given due consideration for past experience, however in order to be selected for the current season, they must continue to demonstrate that they are the more qualified.

Each season is a new season and there are no automatic roster picks or protected positions based on previous membership. In a true competitive environment, every player must submit to the annual changes in size, skills, new players coming in, judgement of coaches and evaluators. This is an important point for people to be aware of and to accept. To further enhance the objectivity of the selection process, the evaluation panel is solicited from the various participating communities (provided the panelist does not have a player at risk) to minimize the possible perception that players from a specific area may be receiving favorable consideration due to residency. Further, while the coach is involved in team selection, his selections will be challenged by the Board of Directors should there be significant inconsistency with the judgement of the evaluators.

It is the intent of the W.A.A. to have team selection substantially complete early enough so as not to adversely impact upon registration to community minor hockey programs and to permit players and parents to become comfortable with their upcoming commitments. In most instances, the selections made during tryout camps will be final; however the W.A.A. reserves the privilege of making further adjustments as events unfold, particularly at the Midget and Bantam level where late cuts from Junior or ‘AAA’ teams may have an impact.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no denying that participation in hockey can be expensive, however many have suggested that the money is well spent. W.A.A. teams operate on a budget of approximately \$52,000.00 each for a season, which includes ice rental for practices and games, officiating, league fees, team registration and insurance fees, tournament fees, required bussing, first aid supplies, team administration costs (phone/postage), coaches’ travel and miscellaneous costs. With 17-19 players to a team, this equates to approximately \$2750 per player in Pee Wee and

Bantam and \$3250 per player in Midget. **It is not required to be paid all at once. This can be paid in 3 installments as follows:**

Pee Wee & Bantam

Pee Wee and Bantam \$100 commitment fee due prior to the Inter squad Red & White game.

October 1 \$1000

November 1 \$1000

December 1 \$ 750

Midget

Midget \$500 commitment fee due prior to the Inter squad Red & White game.

October 1 \$1084

November 1 \$1083

December 1 \$1083

Full financial particulars are presented at a parents meeting once the team has been selected. NOTE: These may appear to be imposing figures to some, but before a decision is made not to participate for financial reasons, please be sure to discuss your situation with a W.A.A. Board member or team official.

The Association hosts an Annual Silent Auction to help offset the costs of the AA teams. All players' families are required to participate by collecting donations from various businesses and/or donating items to the amount of \$200 per player. If they do not want to collect donations it is mandatory that they provide items to the value of \$200 or a cash donation.

The Association also has the opportunity to run a casino every 3 years. At that time the parents involved with children playing in the association are required to volunteer for various positions.

VENUES

Teams are based out of the Strathmore Family Center. Home games are scheduled for Friday, Saturday or Sunday times at the Strathmore and Hussar arenas. At least one practice per week is conducted in Strathmore, additional practices are held in Hussar. As well, subject to ice availability and other scheduling considerations, home games may be moved to other arenas in the area. Due to the complexities of coordinating ice scheduling with the community minor hockey programs, practice scheduling is not finalized until sometime in October.