

# **WHEATLAND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

## **HAND BOOK 2017-2018**

### **DIRECTORY**

#### **Board of Directors:**

**President/SCAHL Rep/Coach Co-ordinator – Doug Thurston**

**Vice President/SCAHL/ Equipment – Doug Raycroft**

**Treasurer/AAA Board Representative – Mark Bishop**

**Secretary/Casino – Daun Brown**

**Bussing/Bantam Director – Kim Sandum**

**Bantam Director/ Coach Co-ordinator/Fall Camp – Kevin Muenchrath**

**Midget Director/Fall Camp – Darcy Busslinger**

**3 on 3 Director – Slavo Halkovic**

**Midget Director/Ice Co-ordinator/3 on 3 – Murray Brown**

**Pee Wee Director/3 on 3/ Coach Co-ordinator – Jason Skehar**

**Pee Wee Director/Equipment/Fall Camp/3 on 3 – Ryan Kirkpatrick**

**Midget Director/Coach Co-ordinator – Devin Olson**

**Pee Wee Director/AAA Board Representative/ 3 on 3 – Bruce Clayton**

**Bantam Director/3 on 3 – Terry Desserre**

This booklet is published solely for the purpose of providing an overview of the Wheatland Athletic Association and its programs for the benefit of the Athletes and their Parents. Readers are encouraged to refer 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; practices(minimum 2per week), team meetings, games, 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 forgoing items may apply to the parents as well as the player.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

The fact that our teams are drawing talented player from various communities leads many to expect that the teams should automatically do well (kick butt, as they say). 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 aspect 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 of whatever. Obviously not every player will be capable of achieving all their dreams or goals, being limited by their individual ability, commitment, degree 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 to improve his/her game physically, emotionally and mentally. This environment should also provide coaching 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 &/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 calibre opportunities have traditionally been available in larger urban centres. These centres 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 an '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 an '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 in 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 2017-2018 season will provide competition from the following centres:

### **PEE WEE**

#### **North Conference**

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

### **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  
Okotoks Black

#### **South Conference**

Lethbridge #1  
Lethbridge #2  
Medicine Hat #1  
Chestermere  
Cranbrook  
Okotoks #2  
Wheatland  
Foothills

#### **South Conference**

Cranbrook  
Lethbridge  
Medicine Hat  
Taber  
Okotoks  
Foothills  
Wheatland

#### **South Conference**

Lethbridge  
Medicine Hat  
Taber  
Foothills  
Okotoks Green  
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 league 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 encourage driving their player or arranging for carpooling when necessary.

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

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, W.A.A**

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 communicates with representatives of the minor hockey associations within the W.A.A. region as defined by Hockey Alberta by-laws for the AA Hockey League also 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 Coaches Committee 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 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 draw region and who meet the age 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. team 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 panellist does not have a player at risk) to minimize the possible perception that players from a specific area may

be receiving favourable consideration due to residency. Further, while the coach is very 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/player in Midget. **It is not required to be paid all at once. This can be paid in 3 installments as follows:**

<b>Pee Wee &amp; Bantam</b>	Pee Wee and Bantam \$100 commitment fee due at	
	Parent Meeting	
	October 1	\$1000
	November 1	\$ 875
	December 1	\$ 875

<b>Midget</b>	Midget \$500 commitment fee due at Parent meeting	
	October 1	\$1000
	November 1	\$ 875
	December 1	\$ 875

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 arena. 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.