



Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association

Box #170, 4438 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4R8

Administrator: **604-224-5891** Fax: 604-224-5892

Website: www.vancouverbirds.ca

ICEBREAKER NEWSLETTER

2007-2008

Mission Statement: Fun and Fair Play For All

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome everyone back for what is looking like it will be another very exciting minor hockey season. The board of directors has been working very hard to make this a great year for everyone involved. As I am writing this message we are currently dealing with the City of Vancouver strike and trying to find alternate ice to be able to run our camps, rep tryouts and house assessments.

As you are all probably aware there are a number of new board members this season. Norman Tsui is our new Treasurer, Kevin White is our new Coach Coordinator, and Karen Cooke has stepped up from being a Division Manager in the past, to take on the very difficult task of Vice President of Rep. I would like to welcome them and personally thank them for stepping up to help out our association. I would also like to thank the returning board members for continuing to volunteer countless hours to make this association function as smoothly as it does. I would like to spend a moment to identify these people as well. Debbie Campbell is back as our VP of House hockey, James Joyce is back as our VP Administration, Bill Juhasz is back as our VP of Initiation hockey and of course, Ian Hayward is back but is now our Past President.

I am also very pleased to have our Director of Hockey, Jim Strang back for another season. Jim was a great resource last season and improved the skill level of all our players. One example of the quality of his work was that many of the kids in our Intro to Hockey groups were playing with their assigned teams by Christmas time. It is amazing that in three months he was able to develop these players to that point. He also stepped in and helped many of the older teams (rep and house) and I know the boys on those teams also loved being on the ice with Jim. Jim focused much of his energy to help improve the coaching at all levels and was available as a resource to all of our coaches. I am hoping with the help of our new Coach Coordinator, Kevin White, he can continue with these efforts.

I would also like to thank Gaye Collins, Chantale Fournier and Sandra Mills for dealing with our ice schedule all summer long and also dealing with trying to acquire replacement ice due to the city strike. As you are all aware for the coming season we have lost a lot of city ice due to the closing of Killarney and Trout Lake Arenas. We did receive ice at UBC, however, a lot of that ice is either early weekday mornings (one slot is at 5:45 a.m.) or on the weekend. This has left us with many scheduling challenges. These three ladies have managed to come up with a schedule that works for all the teams. Just be prepared that all teams from Atom and above will have an early morning practice. There was a lot of concern last season as we had our rep B teams sharing ice. I am happy to announce that this season the B teams will no longer be sharing ice.

On another note, one of my last tasks as Treasurer was again applying for government gaming funds. I am pleased to announce that we just received \$100,000 again this season. That amount is the maximum available to minor sports. This leads me to our other fundraising activities. I would ask that all of you support us in our fundraising activities, which include the various Giants nights and meat/sweet sales. I know that we are planning to have a Giants night in early September again. This would be a great chance for teams to have a bonding session with all the players and parents coming together and going to a game. Last season our tireless fundraising ladies had to deal with the switch to online orders. This seemed to have an effect on our sales as we did not sell as much as usual. I would ask that you all help out as much as you can. These fundraising efforts help keep our registration fees lower.

Our Past President, Ian Hayward, eagerly supported a plan to have our midget aged and older players (alumni of the Tbirds) come back to serve as assistant coaches for Atom teams and lower. This has started to pay some dividends and we will continue to build on his efforts this season.

I look forward to seeing and talking with all of you at the rinks,

George Georgeopoulos
President

2007-2008 VTMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	George Georgeopoulos	778-861-8651	president@vancouverbirds.ca
Past President	Ian Hayward	604-731-5363	pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca
VP - Admin	James Joyce	604-264-7684	vpadmin@vancouverbirds.ca
VP - House	Debbie Campbell	604-327-1925	vpouse@vancouverbirds.ca
VP – Initiation (H1-H4)	Bill Juhasz	604-266-9005	vpinitiation@vancouverbirds.ca
VP – Rep	Karen Cooke	604-266-6368	vprep@vancouverbirds.ca
Secretary/Treas	Norman Tsui	604-836-4987	treasurer@vancouverbirds.ca
Coach Coordinator	Kevin White	604-408-7588	coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca

2006-2007 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Equipment Mgr.	Chris Eliopoulos	604-731-9158	equipment@vancouverbirds.ca
Fundraising	Hope Innes	604-732-1956	fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca
Ice Scheduler	tba		ice@vancouverbirds.ca
Referee in Chief	Jacob Hill	778-885-4152	RIC@vancouverbirds.ca
Registrar	Sandra Mills	604-224-5891	registrar@vancouverbirds.ca
Risk Manager	Trudy Hopman	604-731-5868	riskmanagement@vancouverbirds.ca
Sponsorship	Eddy Mascarenhas	604-689-5458	sponsorships@vancouverbirds.ca
Tournament Director	Shirley Campbell	604-327-1925	tournaments@vancouverbirds.ca

DIVISION MANAGERS

Hockey 1	Nandia Eliopoulos	604- 731-9158	h1@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 2	Julie Chapman	604-266-9224	h2@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 3	Adrienne Atherton/ Darren Horne	604-267-7447	h3@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 4	Victoria Chan	604-327-9386	h4@vancouverbirds.ca
Atom	Gord Maclean	604-736-6448	atom@vancouverbirds.ca
Peewee	Chris Redston	604-322-3463	peewee@vancouverbirds.ca
Bantam	Bill Veenstra	604-221-5321	bantam@vancouverbirds.ca
Midget	Mai Watson	604-266-6456	midget@vancouverbirds.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

Director of Hockey Operations	Jim Strang	604-463-8009	director@vancouverbirds.ca
Administrator	Sandra Mills	(p)604-224-5891 (f)604-224-5892	tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca
Goalie Development	Sean Murray	Website: www.progoal.com	goalie@progoal.com

VP-HOUSE MESSAGE

I hope that even with the problems that we are presently facing that everybody knows and understands that everyone involved is trying their very best to get the kids on the ice as soon as possible and we hope that you are all patient with us.

As for the 2007/2008 season we are looking forward to a very good year. In the house division we have very experienced Div managers that have been doing this for some time and I am sure that you will all be understanding and supportive in their efforts.

As we start to form the teams we ask that parents/guardians get involved and step up for Manager, Safety Person, Tournament co-ordinator or Giants night representative. This helps out so much from the very beginning.

Should there be any issues please contact your Division Manager or myself at any time throughout the year.

Hope that you all had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all at the rinks

Debbie Campbell
VP House
VTMHA

VP-INITIATION MESSAGE

We are looking forward to another exciting season in Initiation. Our Division Managers met recently and we are ready to go. To ensure that everyone is well informed and ready to support the kids for this up-coming season, we are hosting a "Parent Information Night" for Initiation parents on September 5th at 7:45pm at the Dunbar Community Centre. This presentation, geared to new parents to hockey, will also provide a social opportunity for us to break into our various divisions, and host a question and answer session. The other communication tool we have for parents is our Initiation webpage that tells parents most of what they need to know.

The link: <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~BJuhasz/VTMHAhockey1-4>

(If CUPE job action resumes, we will be in touch with an alternate plans.)

Beyond our Parent Information Night, there are a number of factors and highlights to the year that I think will make a difference in the hockey season for you and your children.

Coaches - The first thing I want to mention is how fortunate we are to have such an experienced group of hockey coaches. We will have 20 teams in Initiation this year. Of those 20 teams, all teams will have a core of coaches who have already been head coaches or assistant coaches before. We also look forward to welcoming new assistant coaches into the stream. Initiation Coaches will again be invited to participate in our bi-weekly Coaching Clinics, where Jim Strang, our Director of Hockey Operations leads us through new drills and coaching strategies.

Ice - In these pre-Olympic times, ice continues to be the main challenge for us. Although we have our UBC ice back, Killarney and Trout Lake are being renovated. This shortage of ice combined with player registration that is at a maximum, creates a situation where we need to use ice earlier in the morning than we'd like, and ice rinks further away than we'd like. Be that as it may, the scenarios will be very similar to previous years.

Intro Program - Our "Introduction to Hockey" program, geared towards Hockey 3 and 4 players who have not yet played the sport in an organized league, was a huge success last year. Word of this must have gotten out because there is a long waiting list. The objective of the program is to use the highest level, paid expert hockey instructors to guide these youngsters through quick development of their basic hockey skills, while having fun and boosting their confidence. This program is designed to be a one-year focus on skating and hockey skills enabling the player a jumpstart into full league play in his/her second year. The ever-popular Jim Strang, our Director of Hockey Operations is back. Jim will be in charge of overseeing this program for the Thunderbirds.

Division Managers- We have a fantastic group of Divisional Managers who will keep us all organized and informed: Victoria Chan is back to serve as the Hockey 4 Divisional Manager. Adrienne Atherton and Darren Horne will be with Hockey 3, Julie Chapman will oversee Hockey 2, and Nandia Eliopoulos is back to take care of Hockey 1.

Personally speaking, this will be my third year as a coach, and my second year in this role as the VP of Initiation. I, along with our trusty Division Managers are keen to do our best to ensure that all members of our organization are developing, while having a safe and fun experience. Please feel free to contact Victoria, Adrienne, Darren, Julie, Nandia or myself with any questions that you might have throughout the year.

There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to get the season ready for the players. Such things as registering the players (thanks Sandra), securing the ice, allocating the ice (thanks Chantale), recruiting coaches, assessing players in the pre-season and making balanced teams all takes time and care. A lot of this work is done by volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those folks who have worked so hard to make the best of our challenges, setting the stage so that we have a successful season that is "fair and fun for all."

See you at the rink,
Bill Juhasz
VP of Initiation

VP – ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

This was a very busy year for me. This year we had 4 Vancouver Giants Night with our last night the final Memorial Cup game which our portion of the 50/50 was over nine thousand dollars. I would like to thank all the people who took time out to help me sell tickets that night.

Due to the strike I have been unable to start the cleaning out of the equipment room and do a inventory. That will have to wait till next year. I have several projects on the go for this year and will be seeking volunteers as usual.

We have a new equipment manager, Chris Elioupoulos, and also a new sponsorship manager, Eddy Mascarenhas, that I will be working with closely this year. This is the last year for Hope Innes who is in charge of fundraising. I would like to welcome Sharon Wu who will be in charge next year. As you can see we will have a few new faces this year. Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Enjoy your hockey!
James Joyce, VP ADMIN.

VP – REP MESSAGE

I am a former hockey parent whose kids did not play rep but I am familiar with many sports at a competitive level and hope to bring balance between keen competition and sheer enjoyment of the game. Our association has brought in wonderfully qualified individuals to raise the skill level of our children and I think we will see this reflected in our rep program.

The civic strike will cause many challenges for the rep program this season. The executive worked hard to acquire ice for the tryouts so they will progress close to normally but I'm sure you can appreciate the season will not go ahead as usual. We have access to some UBC ice but even when the strike is settled we will not get city ice for another few weeks.

I sympathize with the families who are making the commitment to rep hockey without the assurance of adequate practice and game ice. We will do all we can to keep our association competitive with the others who don't have this problem.

The rep policy still requires strong commitment to play rep but consequences for missing games or practices will be left to the individual coaches. In cases where players have to miss, we are hoping that affiliate players will get more chances to play and develop. This will keep our rep program healthy. I am available to anyone who has concerns or questions.

Karen Cooke, VP Rep,
vprep@vancouverbirds.ca

Midget Division Manager

Hello and welcome to Midget. For some parents it will be a bittersweet experience as this may be the final association hockey year for their child. It will be for my oldest! It's hard to believe that he's been playing hockey of 10 years already! More than half of his life.

Due to lower numbers in Midget checking this year I strongly urge parents and players to make a commitment to attend as many games and practices as you can. It would be very difficult for your team to do well if they are missing more than 2 players at a time. It's also unfair to the rest of your team and coaches. It gives a message to your team and coaches that they're just not important enough to make an effort for. I know these are strong words, but we have been battling declining attendance numbers from players for years now and this year it'll be even more critical as we have fewer players. I'm sure that it will be difficult for some of the second and third year players as there will be grad activities and job commitments, but I'm hoping that they will learn to be good time managers out of this experience!

For first time midget parents please note that there will be games in North Vancouver, Port Moody in addition to the Vancouver Minor and Richmond Minor teams. The games are generally later so please be forewarned.

We will also be trying something a little differently this year in the assessment. Each player will be required to show up for their first session to pick up their assessment jerseys and do the initial skills assessment skate. They will then be split into different groups and all the rest of the assessments will be done in game format. We will have the coaches on the bench coaching and assessing the players.

There may be some players and goalies movement from checking to contact as we have more than enough goalies for checking. If you wish to move to contact prior to the assessments please let our registrar know.

I'm looking forward to another fun season!

Mai Watson
Midget Division Manager

PeeWee Division Manager

Welcome back to another hockey season! My name is Chris Redston and I will be the PeeWee Division Manager this year.

Preliminary numbers indicate there will likely be 3 Rep teams, 2 Body Checking teams and 4 Body Contact teams at the PeeWee level this year. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the VTMHA, and each team will require coaches, a manager, a trainer/safety person and a tournament rep. If you are interested in coaching or acting as an assistant coach, and you did not indicate your interest during registration, please send me an email as soon as possible.

Players trying out for PeeWee Rep must have completed the body checking clinic, or have previously played body checking with VTMHA. Players that have not played body checking with VTMHA or cannot provide proof that they have attended a body checking clinic, will not be allowed on the ice for the Rep tryouts. Please check the Rep tryout schedule on the VTMHA website under the Rep Division tab for more information.

Players intending to play Body Checking house can complete the body checking clinic during the house assessments.

Please check the VTMHA website regularly for locations, dates and times for assessments and tryouts. Due to the strike, times and locations may change. Here is a link to the PeeWee Division page on the VTMHA website:
<http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132184831812-4765/pC/1130959456546-1442/Divisions>

If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at peewee@vancouverbirds.ca.

See you at the rinks!

Chris Redston

Atom Division Manager

Hello everyone.....Welcome to Atom:

My name is Gord Maclean, most of you will already know me but for those that don't I have been a VTMHA Division Manager for the past 3 years and this year, I am moving up to Atom.

This year we have a full slate of kids, there are 130+ kids (4 female!) listed on the Atom roster and more than 50 will be trying out for Rep. This year we will have 2 rep teams and 6 house teams each consisting of 17 players.

As of now there has not been a permanent schedule released, only for the assessments. And DUE to the strike that schedule will be changing very soon(in part or all of it). Please stay tune to your email and the VTMHA web site for the new schedule. The NEW initial Rep schedule is already on the web site. This will be followed closely by the House schedule if the strike should drag on.

For those moving up to atom this year VTMHA schedules one practice time (shared with another team) and one game slot for a weekly home game. You will also have a weekly away game scheduled by the PCAHA. Times of these will be released (as per other years later!)

This year after the rep teams have been formed, the Atom house assessment take place and then, SKATING GROUPS will be formed following the PCAHA guidelines (a draft by head coaches). Unlike other years there will be no veto of time slots. You get what you get, and we all make the best of it.

Once the skating groups (or teams) have been formed a series of balancing games and player movement will occur. I realize that once your son/daughter is on a team they and you start to settle in and being moved to another team can be difficult. BUT, we are part of the PCAHA and we must do as they say and they are the people that tell us to shift kids around. No matter how good, or how average your son/daughter is they may get shifted during the process. So please be understanding when this happens.

Assessment Jerseys each player will be assigned a jersey at their FIRST scheduled time slot. Please ensure you get the jersey that is assigned to you, as this will make the assessing go easier AND This Jersey will be your responsibility and must be returned to either ME or my assistant (a volunteer would be nice, there were a few who offered to help, please contact me) at the last scheduled assessment. If you somehow manage to forget, it can be dropped off at my house.

Rep and House Assessment times... .. players are ONLY allowed to skate on their scheduled times no switching will be permitted , this is first and foremost an INSURANCE issue as well as a logistics problem.

NEW TEAM PARENT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

This year along with the coaching staff and manager each team should select:

Giants Night Coordinator

This year the VTMHA will again get 3-4 nights to sell both admission tickets and 50/50 tickets.

Each team will be required to supply 2 50/50 ticket selling teams for each giant game. This is where all those parents that selected 'VOLUNTEER-AT-LARGE' get to step up. There were 60 of you.

That works out to 8 per team , more than enough. Also, I have been told that if each and every VTMHA team sells 10 tickets to each Giant game , the VTMHA association will collect ... close to 3500\$ (that is a lot of ice). If our coordinators are organized 10 tickets per team should be EASY.

Tournament Organizer

Each team will also need a tournament organizer. This year there will be an VTMHA ATOM XMAS TOURNAMENT. Both Rep and house, all teams will be participating. Dates are DECEMBER 27th – 30th,2007. Please plan accordingly

I am looking forward to this year, It should be exciting! As soon as I know more about ice times I will forward you the information. Please get in contact with me if I can help.

Gord Maclean,
ATOM Division Manager VTMHA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Nikiforuk, a dear friend and long time volunteer for the Thunderbird community, passed away on July 29, 2007. We will miss him terribly. He spent many years with the Tbirds as a manager, a coach and a board member. He handled our equipment, he handled our members and he handled our children with great care and intelligence. In quoting his family, "Tom will be remembered...as a caring, intelligent, fun loving, active, down-to-earth, generous, irreverent individual who loved a heated discussion with friends. He left a legacy of people who loved him dearly, admired him, trusted him, and quite simply valued him highly for his no BS integrity.

We will miss you Tom.

Children's Fitness Tax Credit

In the recent Federal Budget the government proposed to allow parents to claim a non-refundable tax credit in respect of up to \$500 in eligible fees for the enrolment of a child under the age of 16 in an eligible program of physical activity. The measure will apply to the 2007 and subsequent taxation years. The credit will be calculated at the lowest personal income tax rate for the taxation year and can be claimed by either parent.

Your registration fees to the Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association will most definitely qualify as an eligible expenditure for this credit. Please note however, that this credit is for 2007 and subsequent tax years. So, that means you will not be able to claim this credit until you are filing your 2007 tax return (early 2008).

Official Tax receipts will be issued after December 31, 2007 by email.

URGENTLY NEEDED ICE SCHEDULER

Position Description:

- Work with web-based ice scheduling software
- Communicate with coaches, managers and division managers
- Prepare reports for monthly board meetings

We need your help, please contact: President@vancouverbirds.ca

JUVENILES: Due to the poor registration returns up to this point, if we get enough registrations, the Board has made the decision to have only 1 Juvenile team again this season. It will be a rep A team. Please encourage the Juvenile players to register immediately, otherwise if we do not have enough players signed up in time, we will miss the deadline to declare a team to PCAHA.

HOUSE ASSESSMENTS: Atom and above will be using the returnable numbered jerseys to readily identify players. Please be sure to hand your jersey in at the end of the last evaluation ice time. Note: Players will be billed if they fail to return their jersey.

'BODY CHECKING' AND 'BODY CONTACT' AT PEEWEE, BANTAM & MIDGET "C":

For the 2006-2007 season, VTMHA will offer both Body Checking (CHK) and Body contact (BCT) hockey at Peewee, Bantam and Midget "C" levels, providing there is sufficient competition available within the President's League. The difference between Body contact and Body Checking hockey is that, in the latter, players are allowed to body-check and are taught to do so. In Body contact hockey, what would otherwise be legal body-checking is prohibited and results in a minor or major penalty to the player. All other types of permissible contact occur, just as they do in Body Checking hockey. Players and parents must understand that by its very nature hockey is a physical sport, and that even in Body contact hockey there is a risk of injury.

Due to the ice shortage this season, your choice of body contact vs. checking may be subject to change to facilitate filling teams to capacity. Division managers will use their discretion in selecting appropriate candidates to move if necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise the Registrar *immediately* of any change of address, email address or phone numbers both for players and coaches. We will be communicating mostly through emails this season. *email or call Sandra at 604-224-5891 or registrar@vancouverTbirds.ca*

REGISTRATION REFUNDS: No refund can be issued without a request *IN WRITING* to: VTMHA, Box #170, 4438 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 4R8. If a refund is requested before August 15th a full refund minus a \$50.00 processing fee will be issued. Refunds requested after August 15th but by September 30th will be at 75% of the original registration fee, by October 31st at 50%, by November 30th at 25%. No refunds will be issued after November 30th except due to sickness or injury.

HOCKEY 1, 2, 3 & 4: Starting at 5 years old in Hockey 1, the player progresses through the divisions each year. There is some discretion for the VP Initiation to move a child either up or down, based on their skill level. In these divisions the emphasis is on skill development and fun, employing a newly revised program designed by the Hockey Canada. There are still spaces available in Hockey 1. Please see our website registration page for further information.

HOCKEY 3 & 4 INTRODUCTION TO HOCKEY PROGRAM:

Once again, this year the Thunderbirds are offering an exciting program for those players who are new to hockey. Our "Introduction to Hockey" curriculum is geared towards Hockey 3 and 4 players who have not yet played the sport in an organized league. The objective of the program is to use the highest level, paid expert hockey instructors to guide these youngsters through quick development of their basic hockey skills, while having fun and boosting their confidence. This program is designed to be a one year focus on skating and hockey skills enabling the player a jumpstart into full league play in his/her second year. Our Director of Hockey Operations, Jim Strang, has years of experience operating these types of hockey schools for young children and he has developed a strong reputation for using humour and fun to help beginners develop quickly. Jim will be in charge of overseeing this program for the Thunderbirds.

TEAM PHOTOS: The date has not been confirmed but mark your calendar for November. Email notification will be sent as well as posting of the date on our website.

MOUTH GUARDS: Hockey Canada (HC) recommends the use of mouth guards but does not mandate it. The VTMHA executive encourages the use of "*coloured*" mouth guards which attach to the "cage" of the helmet for all players to help reduce the risk of concussion and dental injuries. These are readily available at any hockey equipment store or from your dentist.

HELMETS: All parents are encouraged to check their child's helmet before he/ she starts participating in assessments. Older helmets often do not fit properly and may not have the concussion risk reduction capabilities of the newer helmets. Coaches or the risk manager will check and confirm if new helmets are advisable for your son/ daughter. Please consider the newer Nike air style and CCM helmets for your son/ daughters best protection

HOCKEY HELMET CAGE RECALL: Please check your player's helmet to see if it has been recalled recently: *Sport Maska Inc. And CSA International Announce the Voluntary Recall of Hockey Facemasks* check this website: www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/July2007/09/c4469.html

EQUIPMENT: A reminder that if you are purchasing NEW helmets, gloves and/or pants **BLACK** is our association colour for these items.

OUTSTANDING EQUIPMENT: Please return ASAP to our equipment manager.

JERSEYS: *Association jerseys are for games only!* Please help to prolong their life by refraining from wearing them to practices.

GOALTENDERS: If you have outgrown your equipment please contact our equipment manager, Chris Eliopoulos at equipment@vancouverbirds.ca to allow our association the opportunity to purchase it.

GOALTENDERS EQUIPMENT: VTMHA provides equipment to Hockey 1 - 4, Atom and PeeWee players, as we have enough equipment in these sizes to provide, what we believe to be, adequate protection for the caliber of shots they are facing. PeeWee and older goalies must equip themselves.

“C” (HOUSE) GOALIES: We regret that there can be no guarantee for “C” goalies to get their choice of checking. (CHK) or body contact (BCT). We have a maximum of two goalies for each team and the ratio of goalies to teams just doesn’t always allow us to meet everyone’s expectations. Please give your Division Manager your choice and she will do her best to have you placed accordingly, based on criteria such as player safety, participation in the assessments, and cooperation from the previous season

MEAT and GOURMET FOOD FUNDRAISER: Pickup date is Saturday, November 24, 2007. (Order deadline Nov. 05) We are pleased to once again provide online ordering. Similar to last year, order forms will be available for download and printing. Due to complaints last season, more effort will be made to notify all families when orders can be placed. Reminders will be sent by e-mail and through team managers during the month of October. Please check our website late September for updates, and make sure to remind family and friends.

VANCOUVER GIANTS MINOR HOCKEY NIGHTS:

The Vancouver Giants have partnered with various Minor Hockey Associations throughout the Lower Mainland to develop a comprehensive fundraising program that allows each participating Minor Hockey Association to host a Giants home game during the season. In hosting a game, the Association raises money by selling 50/50 tickets and game programs, as well as game tickets in advance of their night.

Over the past four seasons our association’s participation in this program has grown. During the last hockey season your Vancouver Thunderbirds were able to partner with the Vancouver Giants four times, including the Memorial Cup final game in May. The funds which were raised through ticket sales and 50/50 proceeds will go towards skill development programs and the overall costs to maintain programs for our players. These funds are extremely important to all our members in offsetting the rising costs of participation in minor hockey.

Thanks to everyone who participated last year selling tickets to the games and especially to those players and their parents who helped sell 50/50 tickets and programs on game nights. We could not have done it without you! This season each team will need to nominate a fundraising coordinator to help coordinate volunteers from your team to assist with 50/50 ticket sales at the giants night as well as other fundraising duties.

Our success last season has ensured that we will have at least one or two “Giants nights” this season. These events are a fun and easy way to raise funds for our programs and to help offset rising registration costs. Make it a team event! We hope that participation in this event will continue to grow. Thanks to the Vancouver Giants for their sponsorship of this event.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEXT VANCOUVER THUNDERBIRDS “GIANTS NIGHT” EARLY IN THE SEASON.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the organization of these events please call or email me.

James Joyce, vpadmin@vancouverbirds.ca

2006-2007 HOCKEY CANADA OFFICIATING AWARD- Most Deserving Congratulations to Ryan Curr our former Referee-In-Chief for the past two seasons on being awarded this prestigious award by BC Hockey. It was well-deserved. Thank you for your work with VTMHA as our Referee-In-Chief.

BRAD ADDISON COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD: Established a few years ago to commemorate the memory of Brad Addison, the Coach of the Year Award is awarded to a Hockey 1, 2,3 or 4 coach who best exemplifies the qualities that made Brad a great coach – teaching the skills of the game, love of hockey, patience with the players and FUN. The winner for the 2006-2007 season was Keith Turner head coach of a Hockey 4 team.

WILLIAM STAIGER VOLUNTEER PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Established last season in memory of William Staiger a dedicated VTMHA Alumni who returned to help coach other VTMHA players. The first recipient of this award was Ian Ross in 2006-2007.

HOCKEY CANADA SAFETY AWARD: Presented to Suzie Wai, Trainer for the Atom C4 team. Suzie has been a trainer since her son started playing hockey in Tyke and he is going into PeeWee this season. Suzie embodies the spirit of volunteering with VTMHA.

DALE CHENEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND: VTMHA set up this scholarship fund in the memory of Dale Cheney, a long time coach and Board member of our association. Each year the association awards up to four \$500 scholarships to qualified graduating players based upon above average scholastic ability and their leadership, sportsmanship and character during their hockey career with VTMHA. *Tax deductible donations can be made at any time to this fund simply by mailing your cheque to our association mailbox.* Box #170, 4438 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, V6R 4R8.

CLINICS/COURSES/MEETINGS

COACHES, stay informed! Come out to our VTMHA Coaches Meeting – open to all Head and Assistant coaches (House & Rep) Meet Jim Strang, our new Director of Hockey Operations, the VP's and Division Managers to plan for the upcoming assessments and keep up to date on PCAHA Policies and Procedures.

DATE & LOCATION TBA

watch our website Team Officials page for schedule to come:

www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials

MANAGERS: Brush up on Rules and regulations as well as procedures which must be followed for PCAHA. The division managers and our Referee-in-Chief, Jacbo Hill, are expected to be in attendance.

DATE & LOCATION TBA

watch our website Team Officials page for schedule to come:

www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials

COACHING CLINICS: Sign up for our coaching clinics on our website at www.vancouverbirds.ca – Team Officials page <http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials> or call or email Kevin White our coach coordinator at 604-408-7588 coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca for further information. *A reminder that all of our coaches (head and assistant) must be duly certified by Dec. 1, 2007.*

“Hybrid Coach stream” level certification course (October) – exact date and time TBA

**Please watch our website for the date and time:*

<http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials>

SPEAK OUT COURSE: BCAHA has mandated that **EVERY** coach (head and assistant), trainer & manager **must** attend a Speak Out Course dealing with issues relating to Harassment and Abuse (*one time only*). Go to our website to sign up www.vancouverbirds.ca – Team Officials <http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials> or call or email Kevin White our coach coordinator at 604-408-7588 coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca for further information or go online at www.bcaha.org to find clinics offered by other associations at other times and book your spot. (VTMHA will reimburse you the cost of the clinic with receipt). *Dec. 1, 2006 is certification deadline.*

“Speakout clinic” October 9, 2007 – location and time TBA

**Please watch our website for the date and time:*

<http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials>

TRAINERS/SAFETY PERSONS (HCSP): BCAHA has mandated that *every team has at least one certified person (HCSP)* in the rink for all games and practices *by Dec. 1, 2006.*. Some of our coaches have become certified, however we are looking for interested individuals at all divisions - both House and Rep. Please call or email the office at 604-224-5891 tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca for more information and to register for the course. Note: Certification is valid for 3 years. Additionally this year, there is level 2 certification available for doctors, nurses and First Aiders. If you apply before your certification expires, you need only take the half-day refresher.

September 2007 exact date and time TBA – watch our
9:00AM – 5:00PM (8 hours)
or 1 – 5 PM (1/2 day) for those already in the health profession
who apply before their certification expires.

**Please watch our website for the date and time:*

<http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1132171272062-0330/Team-Officials>

PROGRAMS

GOALTENDER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: VTMHA is once again pleased to be able to provide at no cost weekly clinics for **ALL** our association goalies. This season these clinics will be provided by Pro-formance Goalie Schools Inc. For information visit their website: www.progoal.com . Clinics will run once a week. Please watch our website for dates.

POWER SKATING: VTMHA provides a FREE program to **ALL** Hockey 1, 2, 3, 4 and Atom “C” players commencing in late September. Watch our website or your coach can give you a schedule.

ATOM: The focus remains on skill development and fun. This season there will be two rep teams consisting of 17 players.

MIDGET: As we have discovered, most associations that we compete against within the Presidents League are not large enough to field a team made up exclusively of 15 year olds and therefore there is no competition for such a team. For this reason, parents and 15-year-old “C” players are advised to participate in the **Body contact (BCT)** League to reduce the risk of injury from the hard hits.

TOURNAMENTS/ JAMBOREE: Please mark your calendars for VTMHA’s 2007/2008 tournaments.

HOCKEY 1, 2, 3 & 4	20 th annual	tba (approx. spring break)
ATOM	10 th annual	December 27 – 30, 2006 (House & Rep)
PEE WEE		December 27 – 30, 2006 (House & Rep)

VOLUNTEERS and TOURNAMENTS: PeeWee, Atom and Hockey 1 - 4 parents are strongly encouraged to contact their Division Managers or Vice Presidents as soon as possible in September to show their interest in being involved on a tournament committee. Each team will be asked to provide a tournament representative and as such, parents do not need to wait until teams are formed to indicate their willingness to help out. Only Hockey 1-4 and Atom had the tournament fee included in their registration fees.

Tournaments, especially at the younger ages, have proven to be successful team building events for our Association in the past, and it would be unfortunate to forego this opportunity due to a lack of interest. Last season our Atom tournament was lacking volunteers and all of the duties were a heavy burden on the tournament organizers. In any event, VTMHA teams (Bantam and above) are encouraged to look into other tournament opportunities outside of our Association.

POLICIES

REP SELF-RELEASE POLICY: A new policy was adopted last season regarding self-release from rep teams. The new policy states: Any player who self-releases and leaves the VTMHA prior to the start of the fifth rep assessment will not be entitled to tryout for rep the subsequent year.

PLAYER MOVEMENT COMMITTEE - REP: Application may be made to permit the movement of *an exceptional hockey player* to the next higher division *by applying IN WRITING* to the Player Movement Committee *before August 15th* c/o our VP-Rep (fax 604-222-9048). Two letters (one from last season's coach, previous season's Division Manager or another divisional coach that knows the player) must support this request by the parents. The Player Movement Committee in conjunction with the next higher division coach will decide if such a move is appropriate for this player. Unless the player can make the "A" team in the next higher division or in the case of Atom be among the top 5 players trying out, movement will not be permitted.

PLAYER MOVEMENT - HOUSE: Requests to play down or up a division can only be entertained by the player's current Division Manager in conjunction with the Player Movement Committee and approval from Presidents League *after the Preseason assessment sessions have occurred.* A player desiring such a move **MUST** attend at least 2 of their own division's scheduled assessment times. Permission can only be granted should space permit in the "desired" division.

HOUSE BALANCING: For the coming season Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association (PCAHA) has set *the deadline for team balancing to December 1st, 2007.* The cooperation of all players, parents and coaches is required to ensure that the task can be completed as quickly and fairly as possible. For this very reason the **VTMHA DRAFT policy for all divisions from Hockey 3 and above will be STRICTLY adhered to.**

Please Note: We do our best to accommodate soccer at the Hockey 1, 2, 3 & 4 divisions. However, because of the large number of House teams at each division and the ice constraints that we are faced with it is NOT possible to arrange our teams around soccer for the players.

EQUAL ICE TIME: PCAHA demands that all players regardless of playing ability receive equal ice time. *This rule is strictly adhered to at House.* The policy for Rep teams is applied more generally on a seasonal basis rather than game by game.

ZERO TOLERANCE: Our Association has a zero tolerance policy regarding Harassment and Abuse. Signed Codes of Conduct are required of **ALL** our coaches, players and parents. If you require more information please contact our Risk Manager/ Harassment & Abuse Officer, Trudy Hopman at riskmanagement@vancouverTbirds.ca.

EQUIPMENT: Any Association hockey equipment that is intentionally damaged in any way will be billed to that player. Name bars and letters that are not removed without damage to the jerseys will result in forfeiture of the jersey deposit.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

VTMHA "Dale Cheney Memorial Scholarships" (\$500)

Nicholas Liu, Zachary Maroglis, Alex Walford and Cameron Walker.

PCAHA Vancouver Canucks Scholarship Award:

Sean Addison - Vancouver Thunderbird MHA

PCAHA Scholarship Award:

Zachary Margolis – Vancouver Thunderbird MHA

PCAHA Midget Scholarship Tournament:

Vancouver Canucks Special Bursary Award – Jeff Gordon

MVPs – Brian Busenius, Jordan Ross and Jeff Gordon

PCAHA Midget "C" Scholarship Tournament

Special Bursary Award - Tristan Elliot

2006/2007 VTMHA SEASON STANDINGS

REP

Atom A1 – 3rd in President’s Series (President flight #1)
 Atom A2 – won the President’s Series (President’s flight #3)
 PeeWee AAA – 2nd in President’s Series (President’s flight #1)
 PeeWee B1 – won President’s Series (President’s flight #4)
 PeeWee B2 – 3rd in President’s Series (President’s flight #1)
 Bantam AAA – won in President’s Series (President’s flight #1)
 Bantam B1 – 2nd in President’s Series (President’s flight #3)
 Bantam B2 – 2nd in President’s Series (President’s flight #1)
 Midget AAA – won Final 4 and came 2nd in Provincials
 Midget B1 – 4th in Final 4 Blue Group
 Midget B2 – 5th in President’s Series (President’s flight #2)

HOUSE

VTMHA Atom C1 – runner up Atom “C” Blue Group Final League Standings
 VTMHA Atom C1 – runner up Atom C Blue Championship game
 VTMHA Atom C2 – runner up Atom C Gold Championship game
 VTMHA PeeWee Body contact C4 – runner up “C” BCT Championship game
 VTMHA PeeWee Body contact C5 – winner “C” BCT Final League Standings
 VTMHA PeeWee Body checking C1 – winner “C” Gold Group CHK Final League Standings
 VTMHA PeeWee Body checking C1 – winner “C” Gold Group CHK Championship game
 VTMHA PeeWee Body checking C2 – runner up “C” Blue Group CHK Final League Standings
 VTMHA PeeWee Body checking C2 – runner up “C” Blue Group CHK Championship game
 VTMHA Bantam Body contact C1 - winner “C” Blue Group BCT Championship game
 VTMHA Bantam Body contact C3 – runner up “C” Gold Group BCT Championship game
 VTMHA Midget Body contact C2 & C5 – tied for 1st “C” Gold Group BCT Final League Standings
 VTMHA Midget Body contact C2 & C5 – tied for 1st “C” Gold Group BCT Championship game
 VTMHA Midget Body contact C4 – winner “C” Blue Group BCT Final League Standings
 VTMHA Midget Body contact C4 – runner up “C” Gold Group BCT Championship game
 VTMHA Midget Body checking C7 – winner “C” Gold Group CHK Final League Standings
 VTMHA Midget Body checking C7 - winner “C” Blue Group CHK Championship game

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION FEES

DIVISION	SEASON				Actual # teams	Estimated# Teams
	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	06/07	07/08
HOCKEY 1	\$350	\$400	350	425*	2	4
HOCKEY 2	\$350	\$400	350	425*	4	4
HOCKEY 3	\$475	\$525	475	550*	4	5
HOCKEY 4	\$475	\$525	475	550*	4	5
H3/H4 INTRO			-	-	2	2
ATOM	\$525	\$575	525	600*	8	8
PEEWEE	\$550	\$600	550	675*	8	9
BANTAM	\$575	\$625	575	650	8	9
MIDGET	\$575	\$625	575	650	12	10
JUVENILE	\$600	\$650	600*	675**	1	1
Rep Fees	\$200	\$400/275	\$325	tba	53	57

* Includes VTMHA Tournament fee

**Juvenile includes rep fees

SPONSORSHIP

Once again on behalf of all the players, coaches, parents and VTMHA Board members I would sincerely like to thank all of our sponsors for their generosity and support for the 2006/2007 hockey season.

DUE TO THE CIVIC STRIKE, OUR ORIGINAL PRE-SEASON ICE SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU BY EMAIL WHEN ASSESSMENTS CAN BE RESCHEDULED.

PLEASE ALSO WATCH OUR WEBSITE UNDER THE DIVISION TAB FOR UPDATED INFORMATION.

THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!